

To: The Right Honourable Stephen Harper

Office of the Prime Minister
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CC: Canadian Journalists for Free Expression

555 Richmond Street West
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Dear Prime Minister Stephen Harper,

On the one-year anniversary of the G20 Summit held in Toronto on June 25-27, Canadian citizens are still waiting for the Government of Canada to conduct a comprehensive public inquiry. While many limited inquiries have taken place, they have not been satisfactory in providing an explanation as to why mass violations of free expression and other human rights were allowed to take place. These reviews and inquiries, conducted by various organizations, are not comprehensive and have differing terms of reference. Until authorities undertake a thorough, top to bottom inquiry that looks into how and why decisions were made at every level, we will never have a complete understanding of what happened.

The Public Safety and National Security Committee prepared a report in March 2011 to parliament entitled "Issues Surrounding Security at the G8 and G20 Summits." The Committee recommended "a full, judicial, independent public inquiry to investigate the security at the G8/G20 Summits," which would include investigation into all levels of government and all decision making processes. In the same report, the Conservative Party of Canada gave its dissenting opinion that "Conservative Members of this Committee believe that this summit was an unmitigated success." As a Canadian citizen, I do not agree that the largest mass arrest in Canadian history and rampant violations of free expression can be considered an "unmitigated success."

I believe that the unreasonable treatment of citizens at the G20 Summit reflects poorly on our country. I urge the Government of Canada reconsider its stance against a comprehensive public inquiry, and I call upon Canadian authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into police conduct at the G20 Summit. I hold this government accountable for the violations of free expression and other human rights that are guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

I thank you for your attention, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

To: The Honourable Dalton McGuinty

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Dear Premier Dalton McGuinty,

On the one-year anniversary of the G20 Summit held in Toronto on June 25-27, Canadian citizens are still waiting for the Government of Ontario to support a comprehensive public inquiry. While many limited inquiries have taken place, they have not been satisfactory in providing an explanation as to why mass violations of free expression and other human rights were allowed to take place. These reviews and inquiries, conducted by various organizations, are not comprehensive and have differing terms of reference. Until authorities undertake a thorough, top to bottom inquiry that looks into how and why decisions were made at every level, we will never have a complete understanding of what happened.

Journalists, protesters and passers-by were subject to search, intimidation, detention and assault as police referenced their authority under the Public Works Protection Act (the Act). The Act, which was originally passed in 1939, provided authorization for officers to request identification, search without warrant and refuse entry "using such force as is necessary" to anyone within the established perimeter of the G20 Summit.

The Act was updated and implemented in relative secrecy and insufficient information was provided to the public about its existence. There were miscommunications within the Toronto Police Services that led to the Act being used across the city, instead of only certain areas within the security fence. Still, the Liberal Government of Ontario has said that it will not apologize for the implementation of the Act, nor will it call for a comprehensive public inquiry into police actions. Canadians deserve answers, and elected government officials have a responsibility to be accountable for their actions.

I believe that the unreasonable treatment of citizens at the G20 Summit reflects poorly on our city and province. I urge the Government of Ontario reconsider its stance against a comprehensive public inquiry, and I call upon Ontario authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into police conduct at the G20 Summit. I hold this government accountable for the violations of free expression and other human rights that are guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

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