

## Former Conservative Appointee to Observe Gaza Flotilla Inquiry

By ENID GODTREE AND KEVIN O'TOOLE

On June 13, the Israeli government announced the appointment of Canada's former chief military lawyer, Brigadier-General Ken Watkin, as an international observer to an "Independent Public Commission". The commission was set up in response to the killings of nine Turkish civilians in international waters on May 30th. The civilians were peace activists aboard an aid flotilla delivering medical and construction supplies and food to Gaza, which has been under blockade since 2007. Following widespread international condemnation, the UN Security Council called for an international independent inquiry into the incident – a move vetoed by the US. In its stead, Israel has appointed its own panel of three Israeli citizens and two international observers.

Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon welcomed the establishment of the commission and the appointment of Watkin in a statement: "Given his career in the Canadian Forces (CF), and his service as Judge Advocate General, Brigadier General Ken Watkin is well suited to participate in this commission." The Conservatives have been accused of showing a bias favoring Israel by various sources since taking power in 2006.

Watkin was appointed Judge Advocate General (JAG) in 2006, by former Conservative Defense Minister Gordon O'Conner. As JAG, Watkin

oversaw a staff of over 200 military lawyers who, according to the CF website, "provide legal advice at bases and wings", defend soldiers and others accused under court martial and advise commanding officers on legal and ethical issues in areas of armed conflict. He served as JAG until earlier this year.

Previously, Watkin sat on the Board of Inquiry for Canadian military controversies in Somalia in 1993 and Rwanda in 1994 and advised the Canadian Navy and Commanders in Bosnia. Most recently, he has been implicated in the "Afghan Detainee" issue.

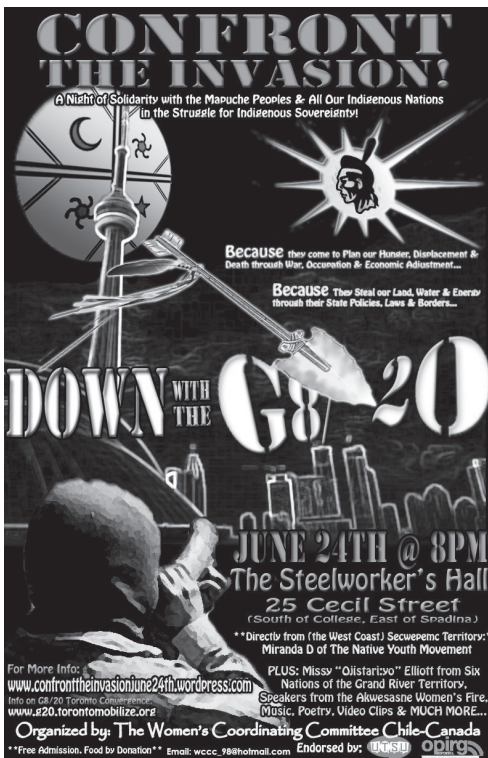


PHOTO: UNITE HERE

## Toronto Hotel Workers Plan Strike

### Work Action and Community Rally Planned for June 24th

By KEVIN O'TOOLE

The International Union of Food and Allied Workers (IUF) is planning a global day of action on June 24th in defense of workers' right to organize unions, the Toronto Media Co-op has learned.

The union is targeting Paris-based Accor, one of the largest hotel companies in the world. In Toronto, workers with UNITE HERE Local 75 (UH 75) are planning a one-day strike action at the Novotel Hotel at 45 The Esplanade, one of several brands of hotels owned and operated by Accor. IUF and UH 75 say that Accor is violating its commitment with IUF "not to oppose efforts to unionize its employees."

According to UH 75, workers organizing at Novotel hotels in Canada have faced "multifaceted" forms of management opposition. The union claims that in Mississauga, management has urged its employees verbally and in writing to "vote no" in a union election and have stopped providing shifts to server Rekha Sharma shortly after she spoke at a union rally outside her hotel over a year ago. In Ottawa, cook and union organizer Jeff Segat was fired prior to a union vote, despite having had a positive performance evaluation.

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## BRYANT'S CHARGES DROPPED BUT PR CONTINUES

By GWALGEN GEORDIE DENT

Outcries of public rage met the announcement that Michael Bryant would not be charged in the death of Darcy Allen Sheppard, a bike courier from Toronto.

Richard Peck, the special prosecutor assigned to the Bryant/Sheppard case, says that the public interest could not have been taken into account in his decision not to prosecute the former Provincial Minister.

"It doesn't work that way," said Peck in response to claims that he should have proceeded with charges in the public interest of accountability. "The responsibility on Crown Council is to review the case and see if it meets the threshold for prosecution. The public interest cannot trump the fact that case does not meet the threshold for prosecution...it's in the Crown Council policy manual. If you don't have a provable case, you can't proceed."

Bryant's car can be seen on public surveillance video striking Sheppard and then driving off with Sheppard attached to his car, yet the defendant claims that Sheppard attempted to attack him before he drove off in his car, killing Sheppard.

Concerns about Bryant's PR firm, Navigator LTD. have also been raised. Their slogan is "When You

Can't Afford to Lose."

Navigator is headed by Jamie Watt, the mastermind behind the Mike Harris Conservative campaigns in the 90's. Watt plead guilty to 13 counts of fraud in 1984.

Joe Friesen writing in *The Globe and Mail* pointed out that Navigator, an extremely high-end and well-connected firm, was very openly working to spin Bryant's image through press releases, coordinated statements and the narrative of the events of night Sheppard was killed.

Navigator has been involved with a number of high-profile, right-wing political events recently.

Watt is one of the key campaign managers of the George Smitherman campaign for mayor. He or his firm has also been involved in 'crisis communications' work for Helena Guergis after she was removed from the Conservative Cabinet and Brian Mulroney during the Karlheinz Schreiber affair.

Less well known is that Navigator was also the firm that was conducting focus groups for Pride Toronto



Darcy Allen Sheppard

looking at whether the group Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QUAIA) could participate in the march. Speaking in XTRA, Cathy Gulkin, a member of one focus group, stated that the groups were stacked against QUAIA. She also stated that Navigator-rep Chad Rodgers was spreading the false claim that swastikas were being worn by QUAIA members at



# Alternative Summit Cost Equals Six Seconds of G8/20 Summit

By Tim Groves

Six seconds of the G8 and G20 summits would be enough money to cover the entire cost of the Peoples Summit, an alternative summit happening a week before the official summit.

“Our budget is \$30,000, which works out to six seconds worth of their cost,” said Mark Calzavara, an organizer of the People’s Summit. The G8 and G20 Summits are costing \$1.2 Billion dollars. Calzavara calculated the cost per hour as \$17 million then divided by the cost of the Peoples Summit to arrive at the figure of six seconds. “Whatever way you dice it, it shows the absurdity of it all,” he said.

The G8 and G20 Summits are being attended by a handful of elite politicians and business people while the public is being kept out by a large fence and a massive security operation. Calzavara believes these are not about finding real solutions for everyday people. “It’s really about making sure the rules favour their own nations above all others,” he said.

Meanwhile, the People’s Summit is open to everyone. Over 100 workshops are being held on a wide variety of topics, with several sessions dedicated to children. It launches on June 18th with an opening event at the Carlu Theatre and continues on Saturday and Sunday at Ryerson Campus.

For more information visit: [peoples-summit2010.ca](http://peoples-summit2010.ca)

the 2010

PEOPLE'S SUMMIT

BUILDING A MOVEMENT FOR A JUST WORLD

June 18th-20th • Ryerson University (& area), Toronto

a weekend of ideas and inspiration

a gathering of justice-seekers

a space to get educated and agitated before the G8/G20 Week of Action

workshops//skillshares

speakers//discussions

art//performance

[www.peoplesummit2010.ca](http://www.peoplesummit2010.ca)

G20 MADE THIS CHAOS

LOCAL IMPACTS

(in addition to the \$1.2 Billion price tag)

TORONTO HEAT ADVISORY OFFICE SHUT DOWN, UoT CAMPUS AND RESIDENCES SHUT DOWN FOR 3 DAYS;

UNION STATION CLOSED TO GO TRAIN AND VIA RAIL. SOME ISLAND FERRY DOCKS SHUT DOWN;

HOMELESS BEING SWEEPED OUT OF DOWNTOWN CORE, KITES BANNED, STREET-HAWAKERS FORCED OUT OF AREA

ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO CLOSED, MIRVISH THEATERS CLOSED THE WEEK OF THE 21ST, FACTORY THEATER CLOSED DOWN A WEEK EARLIER,

KENSINGTON MARKET 'PEDESTRIAN SUNDAYS' CANCELED, CN TOWER CLOSED;

WORKERS AT ROGERS CENTER AND UofT WORKERS LOSE 3 DAYS WORK, DAY CARE SHUT DOWN AT METRO HALL, METRO HALL EMPLOYMENT CENTER SHUT DOWN, FILM CREWS SHUT DOWN FOR THREE DAYS, BASEBALL GAMES CANCELED.

# Defend Turtle Island



# ABOLISH THE G8/G20!

### THEMED DAYS OF RESISTANCE (BUILD UP)

- JUNE 21, 2pm, Allan Gardens: March, “All Out In Defense of the Rights of All”
- JUNE 22: Creative civic transformations and street theatre for Gender Justice.
- JUNE 22, evening, financial district: Queering the G20!
- JUNE 23, 11am, Alexandra Park (Dundas/Bathurst): March, “Call for Environmental Justice! A Toxic Tour of Toronto!”

JUNE 24, 11am, Queen’s Park: March, Canada Can’t Hide Genocide: Indigenous Day of Action.

### DAYS OF ACTION

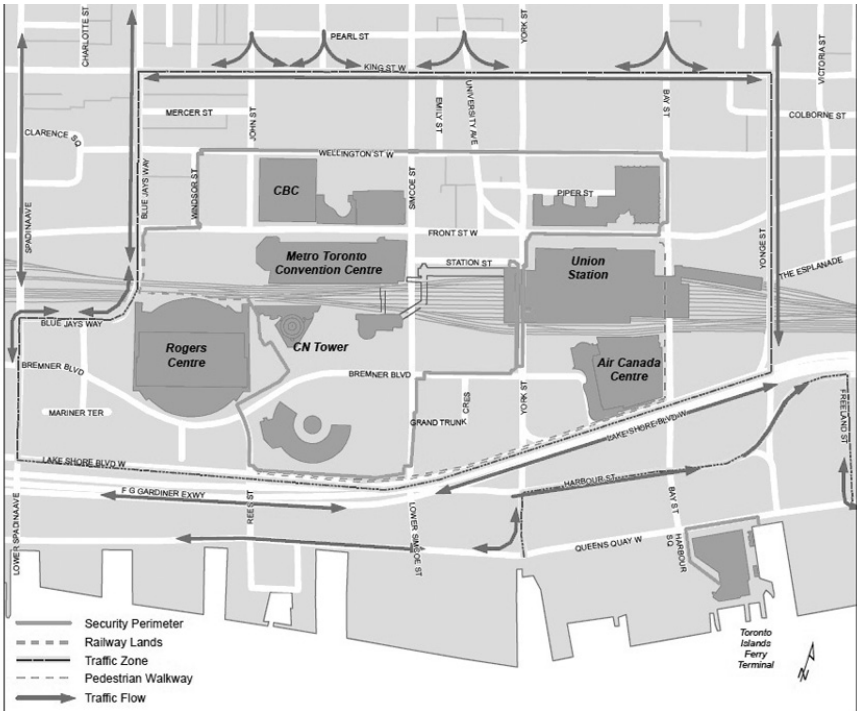
- JUNE 25, 2:30pm, Allan Gardens: March, Block Party, Tent City, “Justice for Our Communities”
- JUNE 26, 1:00pm, Queen’s Park: March, “People First”
- JUNE 26, 1:00pm, Queen’s Park: March, “Get Off the Fence”
- JUNE 26: Radical Street Party, “Saturday Night Fever.”

- JUNE 27: Autonomous Direct Actions, “Getting Down to Business”
- JUNE 27, 1pm: Bike Block Action
- JUNE 27, 2pm, St. James Park (King/Church): Funeral March
- JUNE 27, 3:33pm, Queen’s Park: Make Believe Tea Party
- JUNE 27, 5pm: Bruce Mackey Park (Dundas/Wardell): March, Fire Works For Prisons
- For more details & events, alternative media, convergence centre and more... visit:

[G20.torontomobilize.org](http://G20.torontomobilize.org)

Toronto Community Mobilization Network

### G20 Map for Downtown Toronto



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### UNITE HERE STRIKE

As a result, UH 75 is calling on Accor to: respect the Trade Union Rights agreement signed with IUF, “in particular the commitment not to oppose efforts by its workers to unionise,” to publicly affirm its neutrality and voluntarily grant union recognition where there is evidence of majority support and to reinstate organizers who have been terminated or lost shifts and hours since their campaign went public in November 2008.

The 100 workers at Novotel on the

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### BRYANT’S PR MANAGERS

the 2009 Pride Parade. The claim made by lawyer and Israeli-supporter Martin Gladstone was later debunked as being an anti-swastika symbol not even worn by a QUAIA member.

Esplanade will be joined by hotel and food service workers across the GTA. UH 75 is calling for allies to join them at the picket lines any time from 7am to 7pm and at 4:30pm in particular for a mass rally to show community solidarity and support.

Council recently calling for an independent investigation of the incident was blocked by the US who called on Israel to investigate themselves.

BikingToronto.com  
BikeMonth

