



CORPORATIONS HAVE G20'S EAR

The B20 summit puts business leaders at the table with finance ministers

By TIM GROVES & CANDACE MOOERS

While almost everyone in Toronto has heard of the G20 Summit, few have heard of the connected B20 Summit. The G20 Business Summit or B20, set to take place in Toronto on June 25th and 26th, will be a meeting of the Canadian finance minister and two corporate leaders from each of the G20 Nations.

"The B20 is a meeting between some of the wealthiest citizens in the world with the most politically powerful people," said Marya Folinsbee, a spokesperson for the People's Summit, an alternative summit that is open to all people. "These CEO's represent corporations that get rich off the backs of the poor, cause obscene destruction to the environment and commit human rights abuses around the world."

"It is my hope that the business summit

will not only inform discussions by G20 leaders, but enable business to play an active role in finding practical solutions to the global challenges we all face," said Minister of Finance, Jim Flaherty announcing the B20 Summit on May 17th. "I look forward to hearing their advice on how to get the global economy firmly on the road to recovery."

The names of corporate leaders attending the B20 summit have not been announced. However, the B20 Summit is being organized by the Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE), a lobby group that brings together the heads of over 150 of the biggest businesses in Canada, including Barrick Gold, Sunco, SNC Lavelin, Irving, and the Royal Bank of Canada.

"They represent the elite of capital in this country, and effectively act as a shadow cabinet to Prime Ministers of either the Conservative or Liberal Parties," said a statement from the Toronto and York Region Labour Council. "The real people calling the shots in Canada are found around the boardroom table of the [CCCE]."

"We need to ensure that public policy in Canada and elsewhere enables that growth," said CCCE head John Manley, explaining that opposing plans for a new global tax on financial transactions would be of particular importance at the B20 summit.

"There is little doubt who the G8 and G20 Summits aim to benefit. It is not the people," said Folinsbee. "These Summits are undemocratic fronts that seek to legitimize a corporate vision for our world."



PHOTO: JOHN BONNAR

Over 1000 Rally in Response to Flotilla Raid

By ANTIA KRAJNC

More than 1,000 protesters rallied outside the Israeli Consulate in Toronto on May 31, 2010, to protest Israeli government raids and killings on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla, a group of 6 ships with activists and journalists from 52 nationalities. The flotilla was sailing for Gaza to bring humanitarian relief (concrete, toys, workbooks, chocolate, pasta and substantial medical supplies) to the Gaza Strip. The UN has labeled the 3 year blockade of Gaza as illegal.

After boarding the flotilla boats in international waters, the Israeli military killed 19 humanitarian aid workers and injured dozens, mostly Turks. Haneen Zuabi, a Palestinian member of the Israeli Knesset who was aboard the ship where the killings took place, stated that Israeli forces fired before soldiers came aboard.

Three Canadians were on board the flotilla in addition to Nobel laureates, Holocaust survivors and European government members of parliament.

Organizers of the emergency rally, including the Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid (CAIA), Toronto Coalition to Stop the War, and the Gaza Freedom March Committee stated that "the Israeli apartheid state is acting with full impunity outside the boundaries of international law while the Harper government welcomes Prime Minister Netanyahu with open arms."

Speakers at the rally included representatives of trade unions, church groups, the Canadian Arab Federation, Not in Our Name: Jews Opposed to Zionism, and journalist Naomi Klein. In their speeches they called for an end to

continued on following page...



He's one of the most 'successful' business leaders in Canada, and one of the most influential in the world.

Peter Munk has done it all, from high-end electronics to real estate to resource development. As the founder and chairman of Barrick Gold Corporation, he leads the world's largest gold mining company. How has he achieved all of this and made millions of dollars?

HUMAN RIGHTS & ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS

committed at the hands of Peter Munk and his company Barrick Gold Corporation

ANISHINABEK STAND STRONG AGAINST NEW HST TAX

First Nations step resistance up a notch

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee says he wants all First Nations to continue to support organized protests against the proposed Harmonized Sales Tax [HST].

"IF WE CONTINUE TO BE ILLEGALLY TAXED WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS DURING THE G8 AND G20 SUMMITS THAT CANADA HAS ONCE AGAIN THREATENED TO ERODE ITS TREATIES WITH FIRST NATIONS"

"We need to crank this up a notch," said Madahbee at a press conference at Queen's Park on Thursday, 22 April, 2010. "We need to make sure federal Finance Minister Flaherty knows how pissed off we are about this illegal tax."

The Canadian government announced its plans in March 2009 to merge the 8 per cent

Ontario Provincial Sales Tax with the 5 per cent federal Goods and Services Tax. The new HST, to be implemented July 1st, will be applied to a broader range of goods and services including gasoline, home heating costs, and haircuts.

"It is illegal for one nation to tax another nation," said Matt Stevens at Queen's Park later that day, where 400 people had gathered to protest the new tax. "And this HST is just the tip of the colonial iceberg."

On May 21st, First Nations along the Highway 69 corridor joined together to slow down traffic and hand out information on the financial impacts the proposed HST would have on their communities. Meanwhile, June 1st saw 300 people participate in a Lake Nipigon demonstration to support the Red Rock First Nation's demand to retain the point-of-sale tax exemption on July 1.

"If we continue to be illegally taxed we will make sure that the whole world knows during the G8 and

G20 Summits that Canada has once again threatened to erode its treaties with First Nations," Madahbee added.

According to a June 2nd press release issued by the Union of Ontario Indians, several First Nations have served notice that they will be setting up toll booths to slow traffic on the TransCanada Highway and to block rail traffic through their territories this summer.



First Nations-led HST protest

... continued from page 1

PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY

the siege of Gaza and for support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign for Palestine (<http://bdsmovement.net/>) from Canadian unions, churches, schools and other civil society organizations.

The group marched from the Israeli Consulate to Queens Park while several other protesters remained behind as part of a hunger strike.

A motion by Turkey and the UN Security Council recently calling for an independent investigation of the incident was blocked by the US who called on Israel to investigate themselves.



Toronto Hotel Workers Authorize Strike Ahead of G20 BY KEVIN O'TOOLE, PHOTO: UNITE HERE

On June 3, over 5,500 workers at 32 Toronto hotels announced the results of a strike vote. 94% voted in favour of authorizing strike action.

The workers, who have been without a contract since February, say they are trying to reverse the trends of precarious working conditions and declining quality of guest services, which began in the 2008 recession.

"These global giants are reporting profitable years in 2010 and into the future. As the people who make these hotels work, we want to share in that economic recovery. We refuse to have the hotels 'lock in the recession' for workers" says Cicely Phillips, a room attendant at the Fairmont

Royal York and Vice President of UNITE HERE Local 75, which represents the hotel workers.

According to union President Paul Clifford, strike action is only planned at one hotel, the Novotel on the Esplanade with a date of June 24, two days before it is expected to host French trade delegates and international media for the G20 summit. Clifford insists that, although they do not want to disrupt the events, workers are prepared to take action if an agreement is not reached. The 100 Novotel workers would be joined at the picket lines by Local 75 workers from across Toronto. The union has not ruled out strike action at other hotels if negotiations do not move forward.

G20 Police Won't Rule Out Breaking The Law Police Silent on Tactics BY GWALGEN GEORDIE DENT

The RCMP-led Integrated Security Unit (ISU) of the G20 is refusing to rule out the use of Agent Provocateurs to get protesters to commit illegal acts.

During a phone interview, Constable Meghan Gray with the Toronto Police G20 Planning Team refused to rule out their use saying she could not respond to 'operational issues'.

Gary Davidson, a retired RCMP officer, says they are illegal, although he does not think the RCMP uses them: "I cannot speak for other police forces [such as Toronto Police Services, the Ontario Provincial Police, etc.] but I can say that although the RCMP probably would have plain clothed police mixed in with the crowd, the RCMP has never used provocateurs. Basically, they hope all the protesters just go away. To the best of my knowledge, the use of Agent Provocateurs is illegal in Canada and that the RCMP would not and has not engaged in such practice," he explained in an e-mail.

Though Gray stated that "all police efforts will be lawful", this is not the first time that an ISU for a summit has been asked about Agent Provocateurs. Nor is it the first time they have refused to respond.

In 2007, well-documented actions by police at the North American Leaders' Summit in Montebello, Quebec spawned numerous claims that undercover officers tried to incite violence. YouTube videos posted after the summit clearly show three protesters with bandanas covering their faces being confronted by protesters for being Agent Provocateurs and then retreating behind police lines.

Quebec provincial police later admitted the three were undercover officers but denied they were trying to incite violence.

In light of the actions in Montebello, a number of inquiries were made about the possible use of Agent Provocateurs by the ISU during the Vancouver Olympic Games.

When the Vancouver-weekly Georgia Straight asked about the use of Agent Provocateurs, Corporal Jen Allen of the ISU responded: "We are not in a position to detail a specific operational plan as to how we are going to fulfill that obligation."

Robert Holmes of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association also asked the ISU in Vancouver about the use of Agents Provocateurs during the Olympic Games. Speaking in the Straight, Holmes says he was told by the ISU that "all plans were confidential."



JUSTICE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES!
NO TO THE G8/G20! YES TO TAKING BACK OUR CITY!

June 25, 2010
2:30 PM
Allan Gardens
 (corner of Carleton St. & Sherbourne St.)

Rally/March-Block Party and Tent City
 Wheelchair access van:
 SE corner Dundas & Yonge
 2:00 PM

Our demands:
25june.wordpress.com
 or call 416.925.6939

Toronto Community Day of ACTION G8/G20 Convergence

For other events and actions opposing the G8/G20 Summits, visit <http://g20.torontomobilize.org>

G8/20 EVENTS

PEOPLE'S SUMMIT JUNE 18-20

THEMED DAYS OF RESISTANCE JUNE 21-24

June 21-22: Undeclared themed days of protest

June 23: Climate and Environmental Justice (day time)

June 23: Economic Justice (night time)

June 24: Indigenous Sovereignty and Self-Determination

June 25: Free the Streets! Community Day of Action.
 2:30pm: Meet at Allan Gardens

June 25-26: G8 Summit, in Hunstville Ontatrio

June 26: Family friendly march and rally

June 26-27: G20 Summit in Toronto

June 27: Day of direct action