



PHOTO: ACTIVESTILLS

## Taking the Streets to Defend the Land

BY MAXX LENNOX

TORONTO—First Nations groups marched through downtown Toronto on Thursday, to protest the Canadian government's treatment of indigenous peoples.

"We're not happy with the Harper government," said Harrison Friesen from Red Power United.

"Our goal right now is to let the international media and let the world know that everything is not okay in Canada for First Nations people."

Protesters, police and media gathered in front of the provincial legislature, while representatives from several First Nations communities spoke of the injustices being committed. A main issue was the continued expansion of the tar sands development in Alberta, and the impact the project has had on First Nations communities.

Lionel Lepine, from Fort Chipewyan, called it a slow form of assassination.

"I am not going to allow the system to rape and destroy our Mother Earth anymore," he said.

The march began at noon, featuring

the colourful banners and signs of many different groups, including Defenders of the Land, the Native Students Association and members from the Toronto Council Fire Cultural Centre. Marching in solidarity were the Education Workers for Native Rights, No One is Illegal and CUPE Ontario, among many others.

"Indigenous rights are something Canadians have to bring into recognition at a political, on-the-ground level so we can stop things like the Tar Sands."

Leading the peaceful march were red-shirted security guards holding the sacred eagle staff. They frequently reminded the crowd of activists and media representatives to respect the ancient symbol of authority. The smell of burning sage and sounds of traditional First Nations music filled the air, attracting a large crowd of onlookers.

After the march, around 100 people gathered at the Urban Native Centre, to discuss strengthening ties between Aboriginal nations and their allies.

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## People's Assembly Keeps Climate Justice Debate Public

BY MEGAN COTTON-KINCH

TORONTO—While the powerful elites gather behind security cordons, the Peoples Assembly for Climate Justice, which met on Wednesday night, offered another model of decision-making. Subtitled "Moving Forward for Cochabamba," the meeting sought to build on the success of a conference held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in April as a people's alternative to the failure of the climate summit in Copenhagen.

Peoples Assembly organizer Kimia Ghomeshi, recently returned from Cochabamba, says "Climate change is about justice. I think it's great that it became very clear that the global south, Indigenous communities and poor communities are disproportionately affected and I feel people really came away with that." Groups at the meeting spoke about corporate impunity, and how under current forms of capitalist government, climate justice is impossible.

The workshop was designed to mirror the participatory, Indigenous-led process in Cochabamba. Alaynah Smith, who travelled to Toronto from Michigan, was inspired by the format. "It was very participatory and very open, unlike the G8 /G20 where we can't see stuff as they decide it and its really kind of almost a mystery. But this was open to the public--anybody could come and we all had a voice equally."

## Rights revoked near fence

BY TIM GROVES

TORONTO—Anyone who comes within five meters of the G20 security perimeter will lose their normal rights because the area has been declared a "public work" under the Public Works Protection Act. According to the Act, police have the power to force people to identify themselves and be searched. The Act says police can arrest, without a warrant, "any person who neglects or refuses to comply with a request or direction of a guard or peace officer, or who is found upon or attempting to enter a public work without lawful authority."

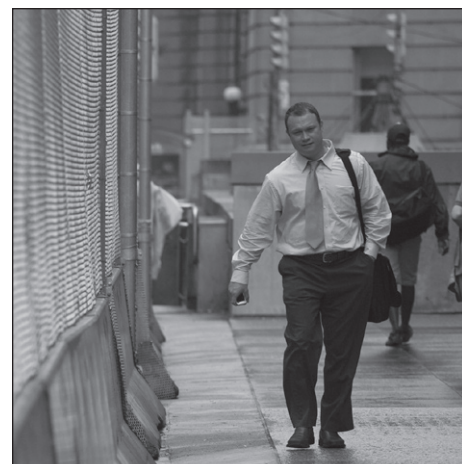
Police used this power on Thursday, June 24th when they arrested activist Dave Vasey. Police surrounded Vasey and Cam Fenton when they came close to the fence.

"We both refused to give our names, we said we do not consent to a search. They said that under the Public Works

Act they had the right to arrest us, search us and learn our names even without due cause, without charges," said Fenton.

Vasey was arrested immediately. Fenton was eventually allowed to leave the area after giving the police his ID.

Police say that under laws like the Public Works Protections Act, they



Wardrobe ideas for avoiding arrest near the fence. PHOTO: ACTIVESTILLS

are mandated to balance the "constitutional rights of every citizen" with "the need to protect life and property," according to a media relations officer.

"We're concerned that police are using this regulation, especially with the lack of notice," said the Movement Defence Committee, a group that is providing legal support to people during the G20 summit.

"What we are seeing in practice is heavy-handed detentions and suspensions of freedoms. It creates a chill effect on free speech."

If you are arrested or witness an arrest you can contact the Movement Defense Committee at 416 273 6761. Friends and family of those arrested can call 416 273 6781

To read about the new regulation visit: [toronto.mediacoop.ca/newsrelease/3765](http://toronto.mediacoop.ca/newsrelease/3765)  
To read about the arrest visit: [toronto.mediacoop.ca/node/3767](http://toronto.mediacoop.ca/node/3767)

### Got a couch?

*Billets are needed for activists coming in from out of town this weekend.*

*Contact the TCMN Housing Committee at:*

[toronto.g20.housing@gmail.com](mailto:toronto.g20.housing@gmail.com)



# “A Culture of Fear”

## City and police warn Toronto’s homeless to stay out of parks

BY TIM MCSORLEY

TORONTO—Leading up to the G20 summit, Toronto police and city officials are increasing intimidation and harassment of homeless people, Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) organizers are warning. A particular concern is the massive increase of policing in parks, resulting in more ticketing and harassment.

Friday will see a large anti-poverty demonstration take place in Allan Gardens. A perfect opportunity, said OCAP’s Gaetan Heroux and Beric German, for those struggling with poverty to have their voices heard. Instead they are being warned to stay away. Community “ambassadors” hired by the city and members of some street outreach groups have been warning homeless people to avoid parks on Friday and Saturday for their own safety, creating, said Heroux, a culture of fear. The real danger



PHOTO: ACTIVESTILLS

comes from the police themselves, he said.

“They [homeless people] are told not to be there. For someone who’s on the streets on a regular basis, who’s in the park and might have a

beer, it’s really dangerous. To be seen at that demonstration could be dangerous for those people because they are very vulnerable. Those cops see them on daily basis, they have a daily interaction with these police officers and they have no protection.”

Despite the intimidation, OCAP continues to encourage Torontonians to join in the march on Friday.

“This park has a very rich history of resistance,” said Heroux, pointing to anti-poverty and anti-racist movements that have taken place in Allan Gardens.

“It’s very significant for us to have one of the largest anti-poverty demonstrations to leave from Allan Gardens, a protest that might resemble something as big as during the Depression. For me I’m proud of that.”

## Today’s Events: Friday, June 25

12:30 G20 Feminist Picnic and Politics. Meet others and form a Gender Justice contingent for ensuing march. Allan Gardens.

2:30pm Justice for our Communities. Rally. March. Block party. Tent city. Allan Gardens. (Wheelchair accessible bus departs 2pm from Yonge and Dundas)

7pm Shout Out for Global Justice. Featuring Naomi Klein, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Amy Goodman, Maude Barlow, Clayton Thomas-Mueller and others. \$20. Massey Hall.

### Defenders, cont’d from page 1:

Speakers from across Turtle Island focused on the need to build on the growing unity demonstrated at the march.

“People at the community level need to take action to make the Canadian people aware that indigenous rights are something they have to bring into recognition at a political, on-the-ground level so we can stop things like the Tar Sands, so that when there is development in our areas, we’re the ones who decide that,” said Art Manuel, a member of Defenders of the Land.

# Novatel Workers Strike

## G20 delegates awake to striking service staff with vuvuzelas

BY PETER ALEKSA

TORONTO—G20 delegates from France and Indonesia and reporters from the Agence France Presse staying at the Hotel Novotel Toronto Centre had a rude wake up call yesterday morning when 80 workers from Unite Here! Local 75 walked out at 06:30 blowing vuvuzelas, the African horns recently thrust into the popular consciousness by World Cup fans.

Workers from non-union Novatel hotels in North York, Mississauga, and Ottawa came out to support the strikers—all too familiar with Novatel’s “disgusting union-busting techniques” after having faced intimidation, interrogations, and firings in response to attempts to unionize, according to Daniel Bastien, a worker at Novatel North York. They were joined by members of the Steel Workers Union, the CEP, CUPE, the samba squad Rhythms of Resistance, and various G20 Resistance groups out to show their solidarity.

The strike was triggered after Accord, the French company that owns Novatel, walked away from nego-



PHOTO: ACTIVESTILLS

“We’re a small group of workers who are just trying to maintain decent jobs with this global giant.”

tiations without addressing an offer put on the table by the union, which included basic demands for a pension plan and guaranteeing workers enough hours to make a living.

“We’re a small group of workers who

are just trying to maintain decent jobs with this global giant,” said Rik Hockley, a Banquet Server and member of the bargaining committee.

Workers and supporters will be back on the picket line today from 06:00 to 18:00.

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[toronto.mediacoop.ca](http://toronto.mediacoop.ca)

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- 60,000 PLASTIC BOTTLES THROWN AWAY EACH DAY
- 450,000 LITRES FOR THE WEEK
- 900,000 BOTTLES WASTED FOR THE WEEK

\*MINIMUM DAILY WATER CONSUMPTION CONSIDERED HEALTHY BY THE AMERICA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE