

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ontario Ombudsman's Report Indictment of 'Secret' G20 Law Only a Full Public Inquiry will Ensure Justice—STATEMENT FROM CUPE ONTARIO

The report by provincial Ombudsman, Andre Marin, calling secret G20 regulations passed by the Provincial Government "illegal", "likely unconstitutional" and a "trap" for citizens exercising their democratic rights, is just another indictment of measures taken by all three levels of government, and the police, during the G20 Summit in June.

In plain language, Mr. Marin has underscored what civil society groups, unions like CUPE and thousands of citizens have said since June—passing secret laws under the guise of 'public safety' has absolutely no place in a free and democratic society. It is another vindication for those who have demanded a full, public inquiry into the G20.

The hundreds of arbitrary arrests that took place that weekend in June represented an appalling trampling of our civil liberties. In the last 6 months, the vast majority of those charges have been dropped, proving that hundreds of our fellow citizens were arrested and detained without cause. The provincial and federal governments need to do the right thing and admit only a full public inquiry can address this historic miscarriage of justice.

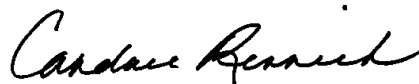
On the same day Mr. Morin's Report, "Caught in the Act", was released, more video, clearly showing at least one of those involved in the brutal attack on Adam Nobody, was posted by the Toronto Star. Mr. Nobody has been repeatedly told the police officers who beat him on the lawn of Queen's Park could not be identified. This is just one of unfortunately countless stories of police brutality before that can only be examined by a full public inquiry.

CUPE Ontario, working with our coalition partners in the labour, civil society and non-governmental organizations, continues our call for a robust public inquiry. Such an inquiry—with a broad enough scope to examine actions taken by all three levels of government in the run-up to the Summit and the authority to issue meaningful recommendations—is the only way to ensure that such a gross violation of Ontarians' civil liberties never happens again.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Hahn".

Fred Hahn
President, CUPE Ontario

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Candace Rennick".

Candace Rennick
Secretary Treasurer, CUPE Ontario

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