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Dear Sisters and Brothers:

As you know, Canada is hosting the G8 and G20 this June in Huntsville and Toronto.

Every year, leaders of the world's eight most powerful economies (France, UK, USA, Russia, Japan, Germany, Italy & Canada) meet to discuss global economic policy. Because Canada holds the rotating G8 "Presidency," this year, we get to host the Summit and, for the first time ever, the G8 is being held in coordination with the G20, involving a broader group of leaders.

Since 1975, these Summit meetings have become a way for the most powerful people in the world to set a global economic, social and political agenda in consultation with organizations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Not surprisingly, their agenda generally does very little to advance the rights of working people. The G8 talks about protecting the environment and raising the global standard of living, but *does* little about such causes. Instead, they promote privatization, deregulation, and globalization.

Our own Stephen Harper's use of the G8 Summit, for example, as a backhanded way of attacking women's organizations in Canada for speaking out on reproductive health, is a perfect example of how G8 and G20 leaders tend to promote conservative ideas, both in their own countries and around the world.

Overall, the actions and policies of the G8 and G20 impact billions of people on a daily basis. That's why there is such fierce opposition to their agendas. In fact, every G8 Summit has been met with resistance and alternative Summits.

For all these reasons, we are writing today to tell you about CUPE Ontario's involvement in the civil society organizing around the G8 and G20, and to ask you to participate in the activities.

This year, CUPE Ontario members have a unique opportunity to be part of the popular movement against the G8 and G20.

You can participate in the week of education and activities leading up on the G8's meetings in Huntsville and the G20's meetings in Toronto.

You can learn about the agendas of the G8 and the G20 and about our alternative agenda at the People's Summit.

You can be part of the thousands of people who will be protesting the lack of democratic consultation at the G20 on Saturday, June 26, 2010.

And, we hope, you will write to your elected politicians and put them on notice that they will be held accountable in the next round of elections.

In particular, we ask you to take the opportunity to learn about the alternatives to the agenda set out by the G8 and the G20.

Here, in Canada, our federal and provincial governments are pushing internal and international free trade agreements once again. The Ontario Liberals pushed through a trade and labour mobility agreement with Quebec with no public consultation in December 2009. Canada and the European Union are negotiating a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement that Peter van Loan, Minister of International Trade, says is "deeper and broader" than NAFTA – again, with no public consultation.

These deals are bad for Canadians, for public services, and will encourage privatization and the commodification of our natural resources.

CUPE Ontario is committed to the protection and creation of good jobs that help Ontario recover from the recession brought on by following the policies of the G8 in previous years.

We are committed to protecting our collective natural resources – water, the environment, the commons – and we will work with our coalition partners in the community to do this.

We are proud to be part of the popular organizing around the People's Summit and the week of demonstrations and rallies. We want as many CUPE members as possible to “converge” in Toronto to showcase alternative approaches to sustainable economic development.

You can do that by attending two workshops that CUPE Ontario is offering during the People's Summit on Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June 20: **“Economics for People”** and **“The Critical Supermarket Tour.”** **Please mark your calendars!**

Need transportation? CUPE Ontario is organizing buses from communities around Ontario to bring members to Toronto to attend the Public Rally and March on Saturday, June 26, 2010.

In closing, let us say just once more that these events are so worthwhile and we both really hope to see you in Toronto during this important week!

In solidarity,



Fred Hahn, President
CUPE Ontario



Candace Rennick, Secretary-Treasurer
CUPE Ontario

P.S. For more information and regular updates, just go to: <http://cupe.on.ca>

Schedule of events:

Friday, June 18: Kick-off party for the Week of Actions: The Carlu, 444 Yonge Street, Toronto (http://cupe.on.ca/doc.php?subject_id=217&lang=en)

Saturday, June 19: People's Summit workshops and sessions at Ryerson University (detailed schedule to come: <http://peoplessummit2010.ca/section/2>)

Sunday, June 20: People's Summit workshops and sessions at Ryerson University (detailed schedule to come: <http://peoplessummit2010.ca/section/2>)

Sunday, June 20: Building Solidarity with the Independent Labour Movement in Mexico, Chestnut Hall, 89 Chestnut Road, Toronto (10-4:30 p.m.). (<http://www.commonfrontiers.ca/Calendar.html>)

Monday, June 21 – Thursday, June 24: Themed Days of Resistance (more details of events at <http://g20.torontomobilize.org/>)

Friday, June 25: Join the Council of Canadians to challenge the G20 and demand trade, water and climate justice, featuring: Maude Barlow, Leo Gerard, Amy Goodman, John Hilary, Naomi Klein, Vandana Shiva, Pablo Solon, Clayton Thomas-Mueller, and others! Convocation Hall, University of Toronto, 31 King's College Circle, Toronto (7:00 p.m.; Doors open at 6:00 p.m.). (www.canadians.org)

Saturday, June 26: G8 & G20 Public Rally and March. March starts at Queen's Park, Toronto, and ends at Trinity Bellwoods Park at Queen Street West and Trinity Drive. (1:00 p.m. start). (http://www.ofl.ca/index.php/news/index_in/people_first_we_deserve_better/)