

CLN4U- G-20 Assignment

You are expected to write a fully developed 5-8 sentence paragraph in response to each of these questions. In your responses you are expected to incorporate specific evidence from the information package and the YouTube Videos.

1. Before the G-20 conference potential protestors were told to “stay home” by the Police. Therefore, did the protestors who were arrested or physically hurt by the authorities get what they deserved. Should the protestors have expected the treatment they received? Explain your answer using examples.
2. What was the “Public Works Protection Act” and how was it used during the g-20 summit in Toronto.
3. In his interview with Steve Pakin what justifications did Police Chief Bill Blair for:
a) allowing the vandalism on Queen st. and Yonge st. b) arresting peaceful protestors on Saturday evening and and Sunday. Do you agree with his justifications?
4. Is there ever a time when the Police should be empowered with ability to overlook our Charter rights; why or why not? Do you believe that the violent protests at the G-20 justified the police response?
5. Were any of our Charter rights violated by police during the G-20? If so, give specific examples.

Explanation

In 2010 Canada hosted the annual G-20 Conference of Nations in the heart of Toronto's financial district. The meeting, which features the leaders from the world's 20 largest economies, has traditionally attracted a multitude of protesters- the vast majority of whom are peaceful. The protesters have a variety of grievances. Some criticize the anti-democratic nature of the G-20, others protest to excesses of global capitalism, while others protest the continued occupation of Tibet by the Chinese government. The protesters are a diverse group with very different political agendas and approaches to the act of protest.

The Toronto G-20 was particularly notable for two reasons. The first was the vandalism committed by a radical protest group known as the Black Bloc. The Black Bloc were responsible for the smashing of a number of businesses' windows and the burning of a few curiously abandoned police vehicles. The second was the response of the police forces present at the event. The police response led to the largest mass arrest in Canadian history. Over 1100 people were arrested and detained over the weekend the conference took place; the vast majority of whom were never charged with a crime.

In the aftermath of this event many Canadians were left with some very difficult questions about our civil liberties. How much should the authorities tolerate from political protesters? Was the police response justified? Should the police be able to make mass arrests in order to catch a few violent protesters? Were our charter rights respected, or can they be overruled without parliamentary debate?

You are going to figure out what you think of these issues in the following lesson. Over the next few pages you will be shown articles and YouTube videos about the G-20. You are expected to read/watch all the material and then complete the assignment at the end of the lesson.

Source #1: Canadian Civil Liberties Association

- **What Happened During the G20?**

The preparation for the G20 was accompanied by massive security investments under the direction of the ISU (Integrated Security Unit), which was led by the RCMP and involved the OPP, the Toronto Police Service and the Canadian Forces. Additional police forces from different cities around the country also participated in the policing of the event. At present, the Toronto Police Service refuses

to disclose which police forces were invited, their respective assignments and where they were deployed.

Several civil society groups were approached by representatives of the ISU prior to the Summit. Some groups were likely infiltrated as records of their private meetings are now being used in criminal proceedings against them. Little is known as to the scope and depth of the infiltration and the limits, if any, that were put on the police officers and/or CSIS agents that acted in this capacity.

Sometime prior to the G20 Summit, it appears that Chief of Police William Blair directly approached the government of Ontario to 'clarify' the powers of police officers during the Summit. A [regulation](#) designating an area within the G20 perimeter of the fence as a 'public work' pursuant to the [Public Works Protection Act](#) — legislation first enacted during the Second World War in 1939 — was passed by the Ontario cabinet on June 2. It was published on e-Laws on June 16 without any public announcement. On Thursday, June 24, a citizen was arrested in downtown Toronto pursuant to the *Public Works Protection Act*, eight days after the regulation came into effect. Countless other people were searched and asked for their identification while they were circulating outside of the perimeter of the fence and prior to leaders arriving in Toronto. Not knowing that the *Public Works Protection Act* required identification, many disputed the authority of police officers to stop them for no reason and ask for identification: police officers claimed authority under the *Public Works Protection Act*. In CCLA's view, Ontarians are entitled to have clear notice when police powers are expanded and should have been consulted on the appropriateness of such expansion.

The fence was erected. People living and working within the area inside the fence were subject to routine searches. Throughout the week prior to the summit, several peaceful demonstrations were held but an exceedingly large police presence was felt throughout the City.

On Saturday afternoon, during the largest march of over 25,000 people, a group of protesters left the protest and proceeded in the opposite direction to inflict property damage: store windows were smashed and police cars were torched. For some reason, no police force came to stop the vandalism which continued on Queen, Yonge and College streets.

From that point on, our monitors observed a much more severe degree of *Charter* violations: at around 5 pm, police dispersed a crowd sitting at the designated 'free speech zone' (Queen's Park) using rubber bullets and tear gas and people were grabbed from the crowd. Several people were injured, among them, a disabled man with an artificial leg who was waiting for his daughter.

Later that night, peaceful protests were again violently dispersed, and there were two instances of mass arrests where people were boxed in by police and unable to leave. Two CCLA monitors were arrested on Saturday night. CCLA was unable to contact them for more than 16 hours. They witnessed the disorganization of the Detention Centre.

Early Sunday morning, a large group of people from Québec were woken up as they were sleeping in a dorm and were all arrested. One of our monitors observed police jumping on a cyclist who asked in French what was going on. He was released immediately as it became clear that he was a tourist visiting from France. Speaking French appeared to be a determining factor in his being forcefully taken off his bike.

Throughout Sunday, peaceful protests throughout the City were disrupted, many people were arrested for no reason. Many videos show abusive behaviors from police officers.

Finally, on Sunday night, again, the last mass arrest took place as people gathered at Spadina and Queen and passers-by were cornered. People were left in the torrential rain, surrounded by police officers, hands tied. Many incidents of abusive conduct were reported. People were put in paddy wagons and most would be released hours later, without any charges being laid, at distant corners of the city.

With over 1,100 arrests – the largest mass-arrest in Canadian history — policing at the G20 requires answers. Media, human rights monitors, protestors and passers-by were scooped up off the streets. Detained people were not allowed to speak to a lawyer or to their families. Arbitrary searches occurred in countless locations across the city, in many instances several kilometers from the G20 summit site. Peaceful protests were violently dispersed and force was used. In an effort to locate and disable the ‘Black Bloc’, the police disregarded the constitutional rights of thousands.

More about

Toronto G20 Summit»

A Toronto judge has ruled that “adrenalized” police officers acted as aggressors at a peaceful political rally that led to dozens of arrests during last year’s G20 summit.

“The only organized or collective physical aggression at that location that evening was perpetrated by police each time they advanced on demonstrators,” Justice Melvyn Green ruled on Thursday. He was referring to a demonstration at Queen St. and Spadina Ave. on Saturday, June 26, 2010.

Green stated police criminalized political demonstration, which is “vital” to maintain a “viable democracy.”

Green’s stern words echo widespread criticism of police during the G20, in which more than 1,100 people were detained in the largest mass arrest in Canadian history. A *Toronto Star*/Angus Reid Public Opinion poll conducted on the one-year anniversary of the G20 found a majority of Torontonians (54 per cent) now believe police response to demonstrations during the summit were unjustified.

“The zealous exercise of police arrest powers in the context of political demonstrations risks distorting the necessary if delicate balance between law enforcement concerns for public safety and order, on the one hand, and individual rights and freedoms, on the other,” Green wrote in a 29-page judgment.

The ruling was in response to charges against one protester, Michael Puddy.

The London, Ont. bricklayer was on his way to a concert downtown when he joined the front line of the late-night Saturday rally. Puddy was wearing a “Police Bastard” T-shirt named after a punk band, when he was pushed to the ground and cuffed.

Puddy was shuffled from officer to officer and eventually transported to the temporary Prisoner Processing Unit on Eastern Ave. He spent two days behind bars and was forced to sleep on a concrete floor and use a toilet without a door before he was released on \$25,000 bail.

Though four officers testified at his trial, none could say why he was detained — or who made the initial arrest.

Green found that Puddy was arrested “completely without justification,” strip-searched and detained for two further days for “a show cause hearing.”

Green acknowledged there were “episodes of wanton vandalism and occasional violent clashes between protestors and the police” that weekend, including rioters clad in black clothing.

However, the most egregious testimony of civilian misconduct at Queen St. and Spadina Ave. the night Puddy was arrested was a “single bottle being thrown,” Green wrote.

Green found that protesters were “harvested” by the police “punch out” tactic. Police would intermittently charge the crowd of about 300 people to force them west on Queen St. — and those who didn’t move back fast enough were seized, thrown to the ground and bound with plastic flex cuffs.

The following day, some 300 protesters and bystanders were boxed in at the same intersection when police used the controversial crowd control technique known as kettling. Toronto police have promised never to use that tactic again after widespread criticism.

Sgt. Ash Awad testified he “assumed” Puddy had been arrested for breaching the peace when he found him bound at his wrists on Queen St. W. Awad found that Puddy was carrying a 15-centimetre knife in a pouch on his belt.

Puddy was charged with obstructing police, concealing a weapon and possession of a prohibited weapon. The first two charges were dismissed during his trial in May. Green found Puddy not guilty of the final charge on Thursday.

“It’s vindication,” Puddy told the *Toronto Star*. “It shows that I never should have been arrested in the first place.”

Puddy said he went to the political protest — his first — to “see how democracy works.” He said he always carried the folding knife on his belt because it’s a useful tool on construction sites.

Police found that the blade could pop out with the flick of the wrist, possibly due to wear and tear, which makes it a prohibited weapon. However, Green accepted Puddy’s defence that he did not know the blade could be flicked open because it’s made and sold to open manually.

Green also ruled that since he was arrested without cause, the subsequent search that uncovered the knife was invalid.

Now 32, Puddy said he’s still disgusted at the behaviour of police that day in June.

"It seems like they may have singled me out of the crowd because of the way I was dressed. I remember being tackled from both sides," Puddy said. "It was disgusting. I never would have expected something like this to happen in Canada."

Toronto Star Article

What happened at G20 between police and the people? Discuss

Published On Mon Nov 8 2010

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORONTO STAR

Before he became a key figure in a photograph representing just about everything that went wrong at the G20 summit in Toronto this past June, Nick Kapetaneas considered police to be his protectors.

In the picture, the 24-year-old Riverdale resident is apparently getting his head kicked by an officer not wearing his required name badge. The woman next to him with her hair tied back by a scarf is his girlfriend, 27-year-old Humber College student Caitlin Morgan. According to Kapetaneas, the anonymous officer booted him in the head for no reason, then kicked Morgan in the side with such force that she was on painkillers for two weeks.

The incident occurred just south of Queen's Park on the first day of the June 26-27 summit, and the two say they and others who had done nothing wrong were also corralled and hit with billy clubs by police. Neither was detained, but the experience left its mark.

"Every time I'm around a police officer I feel tense and anxious," Kapetaneas said. "I assumed police officers were there to protect and serve and they were regular people doing the job for everybody. Now I don't know if I can trust them."

That's a feeling that may be shared by many who will appear at [special hearings](#) being held in Toronto this week on G20 policing and accountability. Kapetaneas hopes to attend the sessions being held jointly by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the National Union of Public and General Employees.

"Most people who will be there are people who had direct contact with the police and are coming to talk about what happened to them," said CCLA spokesperson Penelope Chester. Speakers will include people arrested, detained, and/or charged during the summit and others who were "manhandled" by police, she said, as well as lawyers and academics. The hearings are open to the public and will run from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday at the Westin Harbour Castle hotel.

A report on the hearings will be published in January. "The idea is to really put it on the record and have actual people's perspectives and stories written down, just to capture what happened during the G20," Chester said.

With all the reviews and reports now focusing attention on alleged police misconduct during the summit, Kapetaneas was angry to hear that officers who removed their name badges will probably be punished with nothing more than the loss of a day's pay. Police Chief Bill Blair revealed the disciplinary action in Ottawa last week when he appeared before the Commons public safety committee to answer questions on G20 security. Blair said investigators viewed thousands of hours of video to identify about 90 officers without name tags.

Kapetaneas would like to see the officers face serious disciplinary action, "so I can feel like some kind of justice has taken place." Morgan also wants to see the badgeless officers punished, particularly the one who applied his boots to her and Kapetaneas. "He was the one coming forward and hitting people and kicking people."

Though she would welcome it, Morgan said she doesn't think it likely the officer will be charged with assault. But she would like to see the incident documented on his record. "Something should at least be on his file to indicate he has a history of this. In my experience, people who abuse their power seldom do it just once."

Police provided no answer Monday when asked whether the officer in the photo was among the 90 facing disciplinary action.

Please watch these to videos for more info

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=pPwXKIs8w3o

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hcl6aBqZTZI>