

OPSEU at the G20

By Emily Visser

While Toronto hosted the G20 Economic Summit in June of 2010, the labour movement, community groups and spokespeople from around the world came together to have a summit of their own: the People's Summit.


Key messages highlighted by the labour movement and the People's Summit included funding for women's health, environmental concerns, and issues related to the global recession such as good jobs, funding for public services, and the call for a Robin Hood Tax.

The labour rally was one of the key events at the G20 Summit, bringing together over 25,000 union supporters from across the country.

OPSEU President, Smokey Thomas marched together with NUPGE President, James Clancy and hundreds of OPSEU members behind an enormous banner calling for 'good jobs — all around the world'.

Bringing the message of working people to visiting world leaders and media, the peaceful protest was not scared off by some of the most extreme security measures ever seen in Toronto.

Although the massive labour rally was peaceful, featuring families with young children, musicians and songs, acts of vandalism by a small minority unfortunately dominated media coverage of the event.

Many peaceful activists and innocent on-lookers were among those arrested and jailed during the G20 Summit. The struggle for justice and demand for a public inquiry is ongoing. 

PEOPLE NEED GOOD JOBS ...ALL AROUND THE WORLD



OPSEU Ontario Public Service
Employees Union
SEFPO Syndicat des employés de la
fonction publique de l'Ontario



Photo: Emily Visser

OPSEU's good jobs message was given city-wide exposure in a series of billboards and transit shelter ads strategically placed along routes to the downtown core and within the security zone.