



TORONTO POLICE ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE

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POLICE CREDITED FOR DOING A "MAGNIFICENT JOB" AT G20

The Toronto Police Association is proud of the job done by the police services during this past weekend's G20 summit that was marred by the criminal antics of a select few whose only goal was not legitimate protest but to cause disruption and havoc. The highest compliment to the work of the police came from Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office who said: "Our police services did a magnificent job" in keeping the peace during what turned out to be a very difficult and, at times, frustrating weekend for police officers.

"I'm proud of our officers for their show of professionalism that resulted in the summit being successfully held without loss of life or serious injury to anyone: all this in the face of the lunacy of the few," said Mike McCormack, head of the association. "At the same time I feel regret for the legitimate protesters whose genuine social concerns were marred by the cowardly acts of criminals, specifically those using Black Bloc tactics, who committed senseless acts of vandalism, such as wrecking businesses and burning police cars. They weren't marching for social justice. They were just out to commit cowardly criminal acts, and then run and hide."

"These cowards, these gutless criminals, hid among the genuine protesters, taking off their black paramilitary outfits so they couldn't be identified, and then they ran off like chickens to commit yet another senseless act of destruction. I urge police services everywhere to hunt down these criminals, arrest them and then have the justice system deal with them."

McCormack also renewed his demands that Sid Ryan, president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, apologize to the various police services for suggesting that the police might blend in with the protesters and commit acts of violence to justify the money that was spent policing the summit. "It's pretty clear that a small band of thugs – words used by our prime minister – were to blame for this weekend's troubles," said McCormack. "Mr. Ryan made a mistake in his comments and he should apologize. He should also join me in condemning the actions of that small band of criminals who are to blame for the rioting that went on this weekend."

"Our officers showed incredible restraint as rocks were thrown at them and police cars were burned by these thugs," said McCormack. "No doubt there will be those who will criticize the tactics of the police, and perhaps some things might have been done differently with the benefit of hindsight. But the bottom line is quite clear. Our police services showed incredible restraint in keeping the lid on the violent acts committed by a few. Toronto should be proud of the work done by the Toronto police and all the other police services at the summit."

TPA Board of Directors

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