

September 20, 2007

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister – Administration
Langevin Block
80 Wellington St.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

BY FAX: 613-941-6900

RE: Montebello summit — Request for a Public Inquiry

Dear Prime Minister,

The *Ligue des droits et libertés* and the *British Columbia Civil Liberties Association* have come together to request that a judicial inquiry be established under the federal *Inquiries Act* to investigate the conduct of police and security forces assembled for the *Security and Prosperity Partnership* (SPP) summit that was held in Montebello, Québec August 20-21, 2007, including the conduct of the police in the days leading up to the summit.

Actions taken by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) disrupted the peaceful protests and restricted demonstrators' ability to express their political views. Numerous individuals and civil society organizations have called upon their political leaders, the RCMP and the SQ to clarify and justify the police actions that were taken at Montebello, however, satisfactory answers have not been forthcoming.

The *Ligue des droits et libertés* and the *British Columbia Civil Liberties Association* have information that the RCMP, the OPP and the SQ engaged in potentially wrongful or illegal conduct.

The crucial question is the following: "Did the conduct of police and security forces assembled for the SPP summit, including the inquiries before the summit, the filming and identification of the demonstrators, as well as the use of undercover agents, have a chilling effect on citizens' ability to exercise their right to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression?"

The fundamental issue at stake is Canadians' right to speak, to disagree, and to protest government policies without the chilling effect of police abuse. Such actions are a discredit to Canada as a whole. The public needs assurance that those responsible for the actions before and during the Montebello summit will be held accountable and that, in the future, state agents will not infringe the rights and liberties of citizens.

For these reasons we are joining our voice to The *Ligue des droits et libertés* and the *British Columbia Civil Liberties Association* to ask for a public inquiry on the matter.

Yours truly,

Faye Trecartin,
President,
John Abbott College Faculty Association

cc Stockwell Day, Ministre de la Sécurité publique
Stéphane Dion, PLC
Gilles Duceppe, BQ
Jack Layton, NPD
Jean Charest, Premier ministre du Québec
Jacques Dupuis, ministre de la Sécurité publique du Québec
Dalton McGuinty, Premier ministre de l'Ontario
Michael Bryant, Procureur général de l'Ontario