



BEING THE CHANGE

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The CP Spirit Train is right now crossing Canada spreading Olympic Spirit with every carbon emitting chug of its engine. What would happen to your Olympic Spirit if you knew that the Canadian government has signed a deal that will allow American troops into Canada at the request of a premier?

Furthermore, this agreement will see these unaccountable troops in B.C. undertaking "crowd control" measures on the poor, the compassionate, the angry, and the dispossessed (I think that covers everyone) in Vancouver during the 2010 Olympics.

The victims have already been criminalized for not having the black heartedness of the oligarchic corporate elite — their homes and lands ripped away under the premise of an unending development paradigm that is proving unsustainable — as is witnessed by the financial meltdown now being experienced.

What will happen to your Olympic Spirit when you see the police use aggressive tactics against non-violent protestors on Thanksgiving Day when the train arrives at the Cooksville GO train station in Mississauga? The police response to Spirit Train protests in Vancouver and Edmonton is a great indicator of their willingness to protect their monetary overlords.

The point of commonality between the military agreement and the Olympic Spirit Train protests is the repressive actions of police which have been intensifying since the unfortunate events of September 2001. This is a Fascist-Soviet style crackdown being choreographed by the security working group of the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) and which is not being discussed in the legislatures in Mexico, Canada, or the United States.

The normalisation of military force and the militarization of the police force have been accepted by the North American masses as a natural and unthreatening response to terror and the fear of the unknown. The problem with this is that the security culture is allowed to permeate through society and we only trust the police to keep us safe. We passively suspect everyone in our community of some sort of treachery by allowing video cameras

TRAV MYERS

THE SPP WON'T LET ME BE

on every street corner. What percentage of your neighbours are you on a first name basis with? Cops never break the laws themselves, right? The government works for us, right?

Well, just in case they did not teach the following in your stagnant high school civics classes, or you did not hear about the following through our corporate and "free market" controlled media, check out the incidences at Oka and Ipperwash in the 1990s, the kidnappings and freezing murders of First Nations in Saskatchewan, or the repeated attacks by police on the critical mass bike ride in Winnipeg.

Alternatively, do a quick search on the crackdown on protestors at the WTO talks in Quebec City in 2001; the arrest of 18 men in Toronto who were held for years in confinement and denied proper legal process. You could also look into the illegal deportation of at least five Canadian citizens who were shipped overseas and tortured as terrorists. Or you could investigate the case of Omar Khadar, a Canadian, a child soldier, and the only Western national still being held in torturous conditions by the American military at Guantanamo Bay.

Finally, to bring this back to the SPP, look up the August 2007 SPP protests in Montebello, Quebec where over 3,000 police surrounded and attacked 1,500 protestors (unions, students, poverty and environmental activists, First Nations, and others) with rubber bullets, tasers, and chemical weapons. The crimes these concerned citizens had committed were arriving with a well-researched resistance to the anti-democratic tri-lateral agreement, and outing three agent provocateurs the police had sent undercover in to the crowds with masks and rocks, all in an effort to incite a riot. Perhaps if there was

violence to broadcast, the media would not have to report on the actual issues?

These examples and countless more show that police forces are not to be blindly trusted; they need to have oversight and be held accountable for their actions. The deep integration of security policies being accomplished through the SPP will only serve to increase this sort of police state. This harmonization will fortify the power of the few over the many as police are granted amnesty for their actions which protect the greedy elite.

What is happening now in Canada is eerily similar to the tactics used against Americans in Seattle at WTO talks, or more recently at the last few RNC and DNC conferences near election time. The merger is occurring right under our noses.

To be once again seen as a just and fair society our security agencies have to take responsibility for their role in torture. Our federal leaders who are misrepresenting their constituents and Canadian sovereignty must withdraw from the SPP and other privatization-based trade agreements. The corporatocracy who are choosing an anti-democratic profit model at the cost of human rights must be brought to justice.

Democracy is an active process; apathy and ignorance to binding agreements that work to undermine individual freedoms, such as the SPP, must be exposed and opposed. Next time you need your spirit lifted, think of the positive change that will occur in the world when the resistance to the hegemonic corporate oligarchy succeeds in the reorganization of equity and the redistribution of wealth.

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