



April 5, 1988.

Dear Friends:

By now you have heard that Toronto will be home to the annual Economic Summit of the leaders of the seven "most advanced" industrial nations from June 19th to 21st of this year. When Brian Mulroney, Ronald Regan, Margaret Thatcher and the others gather here they will discuss: stabilizing the U.S. dollar, trying to collect from the Third World "debtor" nations, taxation and tariffs, and arranging favourable trade deals between themselves.

They will not be discussing homelessness, hunger, solving the myriad of problems related to industrial pollution (eg. acid rain, ozone depletion, toxic and nuclear waste disposal), conversion of military industries to socially productive uses, or what to do about the social and economic injustices which are responsible for most of the civil strife and wars taking place on the planet at this time. These issues - and the many others which comprise the flip-side of the official economic coin - will be discussed at the Popular Summit.

The Popular Summit is a number of events, including a conference, an art exhibit, a mock war crimes tribunal, a rally and protest march (with the unifying theme People Before Profits), a cultural celebration, a tour of the Real Toronto (showing where homeless people have frozen to death, locations of bread/foodlines, etc.), and numerous other activities. As David Lewis Stein put it so eloquently in his Toronto Star column of March 14/88:

It is "possible that the popular summit will save the honour of this city...The Economic Summit is all about trying to preserve the old financial order...But the popular summit could show that some people in Toronto are at least aware that a new economic order is struggling to emerge."

As we all - especially you - know, Toronto excels at neighbourhood organization, and that is the core of what makes this City great...people working in their communities and neighbourhoods to create the kind of society we all need and want to live in.

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We are writing to ask you to get involved with the Popular Summit. You may choose to participate in one of the events already planned, or to create your own event, either in your community or with others on a city-wide basis.

However you apply your energy, it is an exciting opportunity to build links between issues in our diverse movement for social change. Two of the main goals of the Popular Summit are to build unity between people active on different issues here in Toronto, and to show the relationship, or integration, of Third World oppression and the problems faced by the majority of the Canadian people. You can help further these goals concretely in your community by developing a Popular Summit project which brings together local organizations focussed on housing, children, racism, peace, human rights, environmental and other issues. In local politics we know the importance of this kind of linking, and this is the ideal opportunity to strengthen these bonds.

We are enclosing material from the Popular Summit Facilitation Committee (PSFC) which is the networking body mandated to serve the entire Popular Summit as an information clearing-house and as a mobilizer. The PSFC is planning a number of community meetings over the next several weeks, and we hope you will find the time to attend one.

The first Community Outreach meeting will be held on:

* Date: Monday, April 18/88 *
* Time: 7:30 p.m. *
* Place: Cte. Rm. #4, 2nd Floor *
* New City Hall (Queen/Bay) *

Joanne
Young *

Details of other meetings are on the attached information sheet.
Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

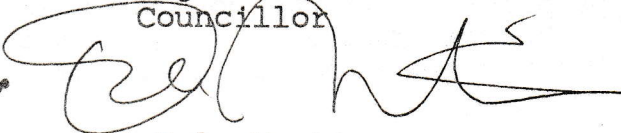
 

Jack Layton
Councillor

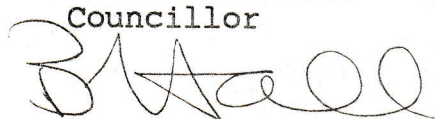
Roger Hollander
Councillor



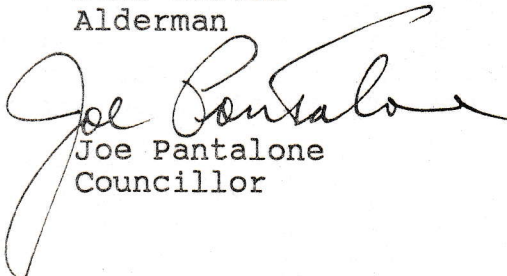
Richard Gilbert
Councillor



Dale Martin
Alderman



Barbara Hall
Alderman



Joe Pantalone
Councillor

(Attachments)
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