

Hamilton Airport - May 26th

When one Ontario PC staffer assumed control of the Hamilton Airport

The Plan...

When the Hamilton and District Labour Council heard that Doug Ford was coming to Hamilton for a rally a week before the provincial election, we joined forces with Hamilton 350 to picket and protest the rally using common, acceptable protest tactics anywhere else in the city or province.

There were about 25 of us in attendance, ranging in age from their 20s to their 70s, and speaking about working class and environmental issues.

We brought signs to spread our messaging outside of CargoJet.

The inciting event...

The Ontario PCs rented the CargoJet facility for a campaign rally and their lead staff enforcer was out front determining who could enter the CargoJet property even if they had registered online. As we arrived, a Toronto lawyer/activist was arrested by Hamilton Police at the behest of the Ontario PCs even though she had registered for the event.



Change of tactics...

When we saw that the HPS was arresting people at the behest of Ontario PC staffers, we decided to step ten yards back and remove ourselves from CargoJet property and line the streets leading into the property. All the while, I was being personally threatened with arrest by the PC staffer, although I could plainly see that once we were off CargoJet property, the police were not concerned with us.



Traditional Protesting

Anyone in this chamber will know that a traditional, time-honoured, protest action in the labour movement is picketing. We proceeded to slowly walk back and forth across the intersections of East Cargo Drive and East Cargo road. By the time several of us crossed, a car would then go through. We did not ever block the intersection and were always acting as pedestrians.



Threats

The Ontario PC enforcer came out to the street and repeatedly threatened me for an hour, saying “You really want to spend the night in jail, don’t you!”

All this time the HPS stayed on the CargoJet grounds.

We slowed down the entryway to the event, but everyone got in.

Had we wanted to cause more serious trouble, we could’ve worn blue and walked in (disguised) before even starting to protest.

TRESPASS

After over an hour of peaceful, legal protest, a HPS officer came over and told us we had to stop crossing the street because we were trespassing on AIRPORT PROPERTY. While we did not agree that the road we were crossing was considered the airport, some of the HPS officers were now threatening our people with arrest for legally protesting. We asked to see the Trespass Order and were shown the paper.

OPP
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Digital Protection & Investigation Section
777 Memorial Avenue
Ottawa, ON L3V 7Y5

Protection de Données et d'Enquêtes
Section d'Enquêtes
777 avenue Memorial
Ottawa, ON L3V 7Y5

AUTHORIZATION TO ACT UNDER THE TRESPASS TO PROPERTY ACT

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, MARTINA MCLAREN, hereby authorize members of the ONTARIO
(NAME)

PROVINCIAL POLICE, and the Hamilton Police to act as agents for
(OTHER POLICE SERVICE)

HAMILTON INT'L AIRPORT at 9300 AIRPORT RD MOUNT HOPE
(PLACE) (ADDRESS)

for the purposes of enforcing provisions of the Trespass to Property Act, RSO 1990, for the
period of Thursday, May 26, 2022.
(DATE & DATE RANGE)

Dated this 26th day of MAY, 2022,
(MONTH) (YEAR)

Steve Lennon (SIGNATURE OF OWNER/OCCUPIER)
STEVE LENNON, Paramount Canada Square
(WITNESS NAME) BA01E #1253

[Signature] (WITNESS SIGNATURE)

1st of Mount Hope

The Order

OPP
Enquête
Investigation

Original Protection & Investigations Section
777 Memorial Avenue
Orillia, ON L3V 7Y5

Protection de Dignité et
Section d'Enquêtes
777 avenue Memorial
Orillia, ON L3V 7Y5

AUTHORIZATION TO ACT UNDER THE TRESPASS TO PROPERTY ACT

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, MARTINA MCLAREN (NAME), hereby authorize members of the ONTARIO
PROVINCIAL POLICE and the Hamilton Police (OTHER POLICE SERVICE) to act as agents for
HAMILTON INT'L AIRPORT at 4300 AIRPORT RD MOUNT HOPE (ADDRESS)
(PLACE)

for the purposes of enforcing provisions of the Trespass to Property Act, RSO 1990, for the
period of Thursday, May 26, 2022 (DATE or DATE RANGE)

Dated this 26th day of MAY, 2022 (MONTH) (YEAR)

(SIGNATURE OF OWNER/OCCUPIER)

STEVEN LEONARD (WITNESS NAME) 84016 #1253

(WITNESS SIGNATURE)

of Mount Hope

I would note that order was from the Ontario Provincial Police, **Dignitary Protection and Investigations Section** in Orillia, at an Ontario PC Rally directing the Hamilton Police Service to remove Hamilton citizens from Hamilton property. The arbiter of who got to stay or go was the PC Party staffer you saw earlier.

Not knowing senior staff at the Hamilton Airport, I'll assume Martina McLaren had the authority to attach her name to such an order, but what story was she given to prompt that consent? I doubt she was there.

We left as peacefully as we had protested.

Questions

- 1) What process happened behind closed doors, by the Ontario PC Party, to get the Ontario Provincial Police to mandate the Hamilton Police Service enforce a trespass order over the entire airport with the ONLY gatekeeper to that order being a party staffer who did or didn't like you?
- 2) Was the person who signed the trespass order on behalf of the Hamilton International Airport authorized to do so, and (if so) does the Hamilton Airport have any policies or procedures to dictate what steps need to be followed to effectively cede control of the airport to the Ontario PC Party?

Questions

3) Under the airport-wide trespass order, could the Ontario PC Party operative in front of CargoJet Airways have refused access to the flight terminal because they were critical of the party? The Hamilton Police Service were following the party operative's directives as to who was (and wasn't) desirable..

4) With the Hamilton Airport property ending at the intersection where protesters were picketing, why were the Hamilton Police Service and the Ontario PC Party allowed to threaten protestors with arrest on land that was off Airport property?

(The lands to the immediate east of East Cargo Drive and south of East Cargo Road are NOT Hamilton Airport property and yet we were still threatened with arrest.)

Questions

- 5) Does the City of Hamilton maintain East Cargo Road and East Cargo Drive? If they are under the purview of the Hamilton Airport, why is there City signage? Is roadwork for these roads paid by the City or the Airport? Ultimately can the Airport issue a trespass order on a City street?
- 6) Does the City of Hamilton, the Hamilton Airport, or the Hamilton Police Service consider it acceptable that the OPP and the Ontario PC Party effectively declared eminent domain over part of the city that night to protect feelings of Doug Ford and his supporters?

To conclude...

While this committee may not be able to answer these questions in total, I would hope the incident would spark a concern about the ongoing policies and processes at the Hamilton Airport should a future event like this one occur.

From what I read on that trespass order, the OPP directed the HPS to effectively remove ANYONE from the ENTIRE AIRPORT PROPERTY that was not to the liking of one Ontario PC staffer.

While I understand that this committee does not oversee the day to day operations of the airport, such an action was hardly “day to day” as the Ontario PCs and the OPP effectively removed Hamilton from the Hamilton Airport.