

Information Package for Volunteers:

Week of Education:

April 13-17th there will be popup community info-booths in different neighborhoods across Toronto. We need as many people as possible to come out to these events and help us spread the word about Stephen Harper's dangerous proposed legislation.

Not sure where to go?

Here's a [map](#) of our actions across the city.

Week of Education Actions:

Monday 11:00-4:00PM

Second Cup, 324 Bloor St. W.

Thursday 12:00-4:00PM

Tim Hortons, 261 Yonge St.

Tuesday: 12:00-4:00PM

St. Clair/Dufferin McDonald's Restaurant

Friday 12:00-4:00PM

511 Lawrence Ave. W.

Wednesday 12:00-2:00PM

1450 Midland Ave, Scarborough

Information/Inquiries: **CALL** Kevin @ (647)656-8244

April 18th Day of Action:

Chrystia Freeland - Toronto Centre *Constituency Office Demonstration*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/754148061350868/>

Adam Vaughan - Trinity Spadina *Constituency Office Demonstration*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/917344068286905/>

Newmarket: <https://www.facebook.com/events/780719302024407/>

NDP Linda McQuaig *Community Canvass:*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/612608562207859/>

NDP Matthew Kellway *Community Canvass:*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1564949997125957/>

NDP Alex Wilson *Community Canvass:*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/425504400958187/>

Action After Party!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/381550135362583/>

Basic Script:

GREET THEM:

Hey! Do you have a quick second to talk about your fundamental rights?

INTRODUCE YOURSELF:

My name is _____, a volunteer with _____ (Your organization). Today we're out here helping with the Toronto Coalition to Stop Bill C-51! You've probably heard a lot in the media over the last few weeks about Stephen Harper's *latest* attack on our civil liberties.

IF ISSUE RECOGNITION: Great! You've heard all about our opposition to the bill! We're here trying to build awareness about this critical issue and inviting people to sign on to this petition which is being circulated by the local coalition.

ASK: (Start filling it out for them) So... how do you spell your first name?

IF NO ISSUE RECOGNITION: Stephen Harper is up to his dirty tricks again! I'm out here today because I'm concerned about a piece of legislation that the Harper Government has been ramming through parliament.

We're a non-partisan, multi-issue group made up of members from first nations, faith communities, civic groups, environmental organizations, ethnic communities and concerned people just like you.

We feel that the legislation we are opposing, "Bill C-51" is reckless, as it turns our national intelligence agency, CSIS into a 'secret police' force with little oversight and almost no accountability. This in the wake of intelligence gathering having been deliberately separated from police work decades ago, after repeated breaches of the law and civil rights.

The legislation is dangerous because it opens the door for violations of our Charter Rights and our internationally protected human rights, including censorship of free expression online. For example, the government is seeking to ban "terrorist propaganda" while leaving that definition open to interpretation. Sharing the wrong post on Facebook or Twitter could be enough to get you jail time.

Once our rights are taken away, it's really hard to win them back.

Ultimately we believe that the legislation will prove to be ineffective as it leads to dragnet information sharing and surveillance of innocent Canadians in the name of predictive law enforcement. It ignores collective advice from experts as well as recommendations from past inquiries into Canada's national security apparatus.

This is part of a pattern of irresponsibility by the Conservative Government who clearly want to use foreign wars and security scares as a way to distract the public from the dire straits of the economy. The Government has foisted this legislation on the public before a federal election, hoping to divide their opposition so they can conquer at the polls. I personally think Canadians are smarter than all that.

Really, what I think this legislation does is highlight divisions on the right. We've seen conservative members of parliament, conservative media, conservative civil society and a former conservative Prime Minister coming out quite strongly in opposition to the Bill. Even Rex Murphy thinks Harper is crossing a line!

CLOSE IF POLITICALLY LEFT: Stephen Harper once said "You won't recognize Canada when I'm done with it." and I think that holds true. He's a member of a cabal of shadowy far-right extremists; polls overwhelmingly show that people believe his foreign and domestic policies actually make Canada less secure.

But really this isn't about our security, it is about power and control: Harper tightening his grip on power through the use of fear, and strengthening his control over information, free expression and the boundaries of legitimate dissent. Really, when push comes to shove, how far do you think "Steve" is willing to go?

CLOSE IF POLITICALLY RIGHT: Regardless of how you fall personally on the political spectrum I'm sure you'd agree that passing blanket laws which allow for stealthy government intrusion into your personal, private and family life; which revoke multiple individual rights and freedoms; and which grant new and expensive policing powers to the state, should only be done with extensive review and be subject to comprehensive oversight.

ASK: Will you stand with us and sign this petition against the Bill?

WHILE THEY SIGN: Continue to explain your thoughts on the bill, offer to sell them a button (\$1) or ask them to **write neatly**.

Explain the form if they have any questions and walk them through filling it out (Or preferably, fill it out for them).

Tell them about **upcoming actions** and ask if they want to attend/come protest. Check with your outreach coordinator for the day to see what these actions may be.

If people are very interested or clearly strongly supportive but are also too busy to volunteer themselves or participate directly in the campaign, ask them for a **cash donation** and put it in the donations box on the table.

Do

Be polite, stay positive.
Make it personal, talk about why you care.
Play up work by the local group.
Collect full sets of details (*phone, postal etc.*)
Show up on time.
Ask for a cash donation.
Celebrate your success!

Don't

Apologize for asking them.
Touch people without invitation.
Forget to get supporter information.
Talk too much or go excessively off-topic.
Interrupt the person while they are speaking.
Take rejection or disagreement personally.
Make up an answer. (especially with the media)

MOST IMPORTANTLY: DON'T GIVE UP!

Bill C-51 Key Points:¹

1. Bill C-51 drastically expands the definition of 'security.'

- Bill C-51 defines security as not only safeguarding public safety, but also preventing interference with aspects of public life or "the economic or financial stability of Canada."
- A peaceful logging blockade by First Nations, or environmentalists obstructing a pipeline route could all be seen as threats to national security.

2. It gives the government too much discretion to pick and choose which individuals and groups to target for further scrutiny.

- The government claims it will use good judgment when deciding which individuals and groups constitute true threats.
- Whether or not a group is deemed a national security threat may hinge on whether their cause is politically popular or in line with the views of the elected government.

3. It will severely chill freedom of expression.

- If the bill passes; the average Canadian has little hope of feeling confident that their legitimate political activity hasn't inadvertently crossed the line.
- Bill C-51's expansive language means many Canadians will likely choose not to express themselves rather than risk prosecution.

4. It will allow government institutions like Health Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency to share information about you with the RCMP.

- The bill would allow government institutions to share information amongst themselves without a warrant if they believe the information may be relevant to national security.
- Not only does this jeopardize the privacy of the individuals whose information is being shared, but it may actually make it harder for investigators to detect real security threats.

5. Canada already has a troubling regime of preventative arrest and detention; Bill C-51 proposes to make it even worse.

- Bill C-51 would permit arrest in cases where the police believe that a terrorist activity *might* be carried out.
- It also doubles the amount of time an individual can be detained without charge. Innocent people could be arrested and detained on mere suspicion of *future* dangerousness.

6. It would give CSIS the power to act like a police force, while still allowing it to operate secretly as an intelligence gathering service.

- Bill C-51 would radically redefine the role of CSIS to include the ability to act secretly on security intelligence, without meaningful oversight.
- This secrecy means that rights violations by CSIS are more difficult to detect or address than if they were the result of actions undertaken by law enforcement agencies.

¹ <http://theyee.ca/Opinion/2015/03/11/C-51-Six-Things-To-Know/>

FAQ:

Who do you represent?

I am out here today representing (own group, if any) but we're currently supporting the Toronto Coalition to Stop Bill C-51. The coalition is made up of dozens of groups including human rights organizations, first nations, environmental organizations and other members of civil society concerned about the legislation.

Why do you want me to sign this petition?

While this petition isn't addressed to any politician in particular, there are core constituencies we are targeting where demonstrating that thousands of people have signed the petition will allow us to apply pressure to elected officials in different districts across the city. It also helps us prove the narrative that the vast majority of people will oppose this bill when it is adequately explained.

What else has your group done?

The Toronto Coalition to Stop Bill C-51 organized the local March 14th protest here in Toronto which brought thousands of people into the streets. Beyond that we've been doing research, holding community information sessions and brainstorming ways to protect our rights.

Aren't you happy now that the bill has been amended?

The Harper Government ignored opposition amendments and made only two small changes to the bill (changing definitions of lawful protest and CSIS powers of arrest). Those were two of the most egregious portions of the bill, but we are fully convinced that this legislation needs to be stopped, not amended. Anything it contains which may be of practical or legal merit is already covered by existing legislation within the CSIS act, Espionage Act, Criminal Code, War Measures Act etc.

Won't getting rid of Harper get rid of the bill?

Disturbingly, we think that when C-51 passes, whichever government assumes office in 2015 will inherit the bill. Few indeed are the cases where governments have reversed course on existing policy or returned rights to the public once they were taken away.

I'm not from Canada/I don't have citizenship status.

You can still sign our petition, but what we'd actually ask you to do (if you're comfortable) is to go on social media and let your friends/family back home know what is happening in Canada where you are.

Why do you need my postal code/phone number?

Postal Codes allow us to use software to map out the distribution of petition signatories, indicating which neighbourhoods have statistically the highest levels of opposition to the bill. This will also help us prove to politicians that people in their electoral districts are concerned about the legislation. Your phone number lets us get back in touch- later on in this campaign we will be planning big things around the election.

I don't like giving out my e-mail/personal information.

You don't have to put it down if you don't want to. Give us as much information as you're willing to. We won't share your information with anybody outside of the partner groups within our coalition.

[Leadnow.ca - À l'Action](http://Leadnow.ca)

OpenMedia.ca

Youth Vote Canada

Action for Civil Liberties - A4CL

Idle No More Toronto

COMER - Committee on Monetary and

Economic Reform

Toronto 350.org

Millions Against Monsanto Toronto

Greater Toronto Workers' Assembly

PipeLeaks

Toronto Coalition to Stop the War

[Ontario Federation of Labour \(OFL\)](http://Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL))

International Association of Machinists &

[Aerospace Workers \(IAMAW\)](http://Aerospace Workers (IAMAW))

Occupy Canada

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

[Greater Toronto Area Council \(PSAC\)](http://Greater Toronto Area Council (PSAC))

[LIFT \(Low Income Families Together\)](http://LIFT (Low Income Families Together))

www.lift.to

Centre for Social Justice

Network for the Elimination of Police Violence

Greenpeace Canada

Elementary Teachers of Toronto

Common Frontiers

Amnesty International Canada

The Zeitgeist Movement Toronto Chapter

The Council of Canadians