

# Getting To The Roots

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DAY 13  
OF THE OCCUPATION

Anarchist Paper from  
the Southern Ontario  
#Occupy Movement

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Photo of the Occupation in St. Georges Square in the centre of Guelph, Ont. Occupiers have been maintaining an encampment in the city center as an act of solidarity with the global #Occupy movement against the rich and ruling elite which influence and control the state and capital.

## #Occupy Guelph

### Occupation Enters Second Week

On Saturday October 15th, about 40 people came out to join 1500 other cities by erecting tents and establishing an occupation in St. Georges Square. The occupation that has now entered its 13th day. Speeches were made on various topics, including the recognition of the history of Guelph as colonized land.

The motives behind Occupy Guelph are diverse, varying for each individual

“Decolonize Guelph Occupy Everything”

This wealthy minority is made of a class of people in society which are entangled in government and businesses worldwide. They are sometimes referred to as the ruling elite.

These occupations are creating an alternative to challenge that, coming from the grassroots, which encourages decision making without leaders, where every ones thoughts are welcome. The General Assemble held each day creates a space for residents

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participating in it, but the over arching reasons for these global protests are expressing frustration against a system that sees a small wealthy minority controlling the majority of the money, resources and land.

The Occupation Movement began in New York City on Sept. 17th after a call to Occupy Wall Street. This Movement has spread across the globe and on October 15th a call for solidarity was released.

## #Occupy Vancouver

### Run on the Banks in Vancouver

Transcribed from a video by Franklin Lopez for the Vancouver Media Co-op

On Saturday, October 24, the people at Occupy Vancouver moved from the eternal process of the general assemble to the exciting world of direct action.

The “Run on the Banks” action marks an escalation of an occupation that’s been busy building infrastructure. This was not an official Occupy Vancouver action but an off-shoot as stated on the Occupy Vancouver’s twitter account.

Now that it has become clear that the rain will not scare away the die hards. Autonomous groups can disperse their actions outside the camp and disrupt the corporate death machine.

About a thousand trouble-makers made their way throughout the streets of downtown Vancouver with the intention to occupy corporate banks and encourage folks to close their accounts.

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Participants dance on the teller desks during an occupation of the TD bank in Vancouver on Saturday. This was apart of a larger action shutting down banks in the downtown of vancouver. PHOTO: ISAAC OOMMEN

## Definition of Terms

### Capitalism cap•i•tal•ism n.

The economic system which dominates the world at present is called capitalism, a system based on the self-expansion of capital – commodities and money making more commodities and more money.

This doesn’t happen by magic, but by human labour. For the work we do,

we’re paid for only a fraction of what we produce. The difference between the value we produce and the amount we’re paid in wages is the “surplus value” we’ve produced. Our work is stored up in the things our bosses own and sell—capital.

In order for this to take place, a class of

people must be created who don’t own anything they can use to make money i.e. offices, factories, farmland or other means of production. This class must then sell their ability to work in order to purchase essential goods and services in order to survive. This class is the working class. ☹



# A few points for #OccupyToronto participants

By *Getting To The Roots*

The potential of the Occupy movement lies in its ability to inspire, engage and empower people to create ways of living and working together independent of the systems that oppress us. While the energy and momentum of Occupy is exciting and has great potential, we want to build on its analysis of capitalism by discussing phenomena at the root of capitalism that maybe overlooked in the Occupy movement.

## NATIONALISM

To be proud of being a Canadian is not to be proud of a lineage of freedom, equality or peace. We can't forget that indigenous peoples lived on this land long before Canada existed as a nation. From Wall Street to Bay Street, North America is indeed "occupied" territory.

Canada as we know it is a product of colonialism— the process by which the original residents of these lands were systematically murdered, divested of their homes and way of life, and violently assimilated for the purpose of accumulating wealth. As they were the first folks to come into conflict with the nation-state as it first developed here some 500 years ago, Indigenous struggle is a starting point for all resistance to the current system.

In terms of the global economy, the standard of wealth, privilege and access to food, shelter and medicine that most residents of Canada enjoy makes us part of a global minority. Just as Canada exists a product of colonialism, it could not exist without the exploitation of the land and labour of the billions of people manufacturing our technologies and growing our food.

In order to get to the roots of capitalism, we need to look critically at the injustice propping up our own nation and look beyond the borders drawn by empires in their own interest. Soli-

arity means coming together based on shared values, not shared borders.



## THE LAW AND THE POLICE:

Obedience to the law is not about community or respect for those around us. Most of us don't need laws in order to treat each other with decency. Laws are created by those in power for the purpose of managing and regulating the behaviours of those that they rule. The state has a vested interest in criminalizing the methods we use to resist their power, and indeed, protest tactics like peaceful assembly, marching, occupying public space, and have all been illegal at one time or another. There comes a point where groups of people have to do what is right for themselves, whether or not their actions are within the bounds of the law.

The police are indeed workers, but their job is to keep social order and "peace" intact and ensure our compliance with the capitalist system. Because police violence disproportionately affects marginalized groups like the poor, people of colour, and sexual and gender minorities, many of us have the privilege of having never experienced their brutality directly. When we take to the streets, the police's job is not to protect us, but to contain, subdue and or/disperse us when we become threatening to the power they protect.

The police are employed by the state to protect its interests. We can't afford to risk trusting those whose job it is to keep us compliant.

## TACTICS

Those in power won't give up their power and privilege and monopoly on resources without a fight, and if we are serious about challenging their power, we need to take that fact very seriously.

Civil disobedience (ie, law-breaking) vandalism and property destruction are tactics that were all put to good use by social justice struggles rights struggles like the Civil Rights Movement. Non-violence is simply one tool that is available to us. When we hold it up as the only paradigm for dissent we ignore a vibrant history of resistance

You may not like the way some people express their opposition to the systems that oppress them, but it makes no sense to silence or criminalize each other. Let's not do the police's job for them.

## RESISTANCE

Resistance can mean saying "NO" to forces of oppression. It can mean actively taking back power, being a voice of dissent, or putting our bodies on the line to protect what we love. When we get at the roots of capitalism, we start to see all the ways that our agency and autonomy are controlled or taken from us.

Resistance can mean not just modifying systems of domination, but disrupting and dismantling them. Let's work together to make Occupy Toronto a place where all forms of resistance are able to flourish. ☺

# General Assemblies Everyday Noon and 6PM Join the Struggle

# They are Few and We Are Many

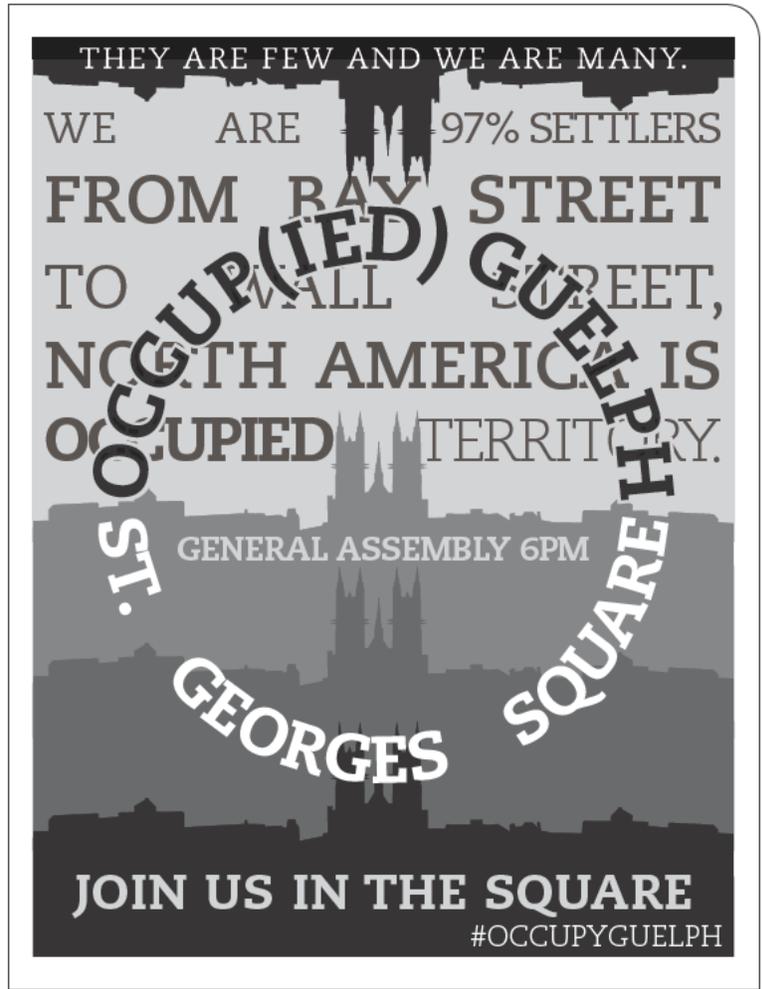
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of Guelph to talk about problems we face here, creating a collective power and autonomy.

The Occupation continues today, with more people joining each day. Tons of support has been provided by working folks, dropping off supplies, food and tarps for the rain drenched occupiers. The General Assemblies continue to grow as more people take part.

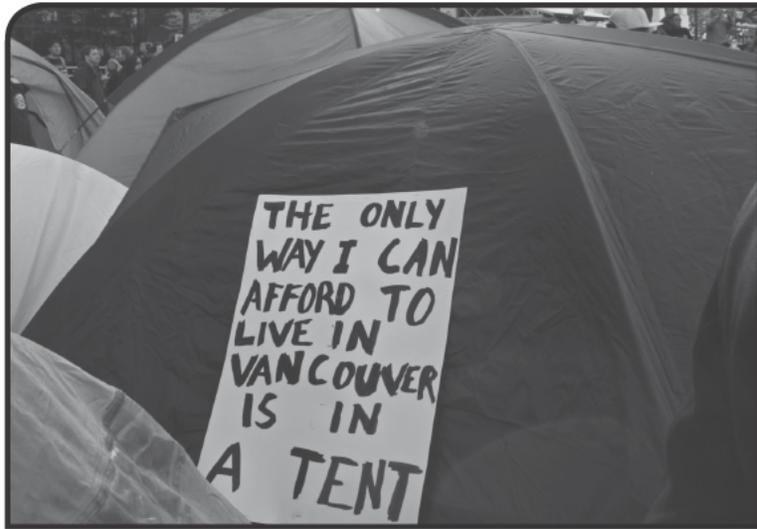
This past weekend saw many events at the occupation. On Friday, a projector was set up to screen movies of other occupations across the globe and a black flag was hung from the statue downtown. Saturday saw families and children come out for Occupy Guelph's family day event. On Sunday, a film was screened about the 2006 uprising in the state of Oaxaca, arising from an occupation in the town square.

General Assemblies are held everyday at noon and 6PM in the square. Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7PM a screening of Submedia, anarchist news shorts with hilarious truths, will take place. And on Sunday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> a zombie march will take place, originating in the square. **A**



# “Hey hey, ho ho, banks have got to go”

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A sign on a participants tent at the Occupation in Vancouver. Vancouver has the lowest minimum wage and the highest rent in all of Canada. PHOTO: OUNO DESIGN

“I’m generally protesting against the leaders, we don’t need leaders.”

-Action Participant

And that they did. A Royal Bank of Canada branch was the first target, with about fifty people jamming the lobby, well some withdrew their cash. One former RBC Customer said, “there was a time, maybe 15 years ago, when I was a bank teller for Royal Bank and today is the last day I walk into a branch.”

At the Bank of Montreal, more people shut down their accounts and moved to other options. When asked what they are going to do with their money now? They responded, “Probably put it in a credit union, or a co-op.”

But the cherry on top was the occupation of TD, or Toronto Dominion Bank, right next to the Vancouver Art Gallery Camp. TD is the second largest bank in Canada, and the 6th largest in North America. It’s Assets are over 620 Billion dollars, that is half the GDP of Canada.

A home stereo was cranked to the max and the people rocked out on teller desks and furniture.

An idea was floating around to continue occupying through the night, but the group could not reach consensus, and

the process ultimately disrupted the party.

The police quietly move in and occupied the spots where the tellers once stood to protect their corporate masters. Finally, the group decided to move out *en masse* and avoid arrest.

This action is a much needed escalation for this movement and many of us who took part seemed to be stoked about the possibility of what comes next. Halloween anyone? **A**

Check out [submedia.tv](http://submedia.tv) for Videos from the coming revolution.

# Definition of Terms

## Class Struggle *Class Struggle n.*

When we are at work, our time and activity is not our own. Work takes up the majority of our lives and there is a constant struggle between bosses and workers at work, and in the rest of the society based on work. The more we pay in rent or bus fare, the more we have to work to pay our rent or bus fare.

Work being forced on us like this compels us to resist.

The conflict between those of us who have to work for a wage and our bosses and govern-

ments is sometimes known as class struggle.

Most of us spend our time working and are just getting by, while the owners, who are mostly rich, profit off our work. All the communities and institutions of society are built up around this basic division.

The fact that this society is divided into classes with opposing interests means there is always a risk of conflict. The government is there to make sure that doesn't happen.

Whether the government is a dictatorship or

a democracy, it holds all the power and will use it against its own population to make sure that we keep going to work.

By resisting the imposition of work, we say that our lives are more important than our boss's profits. This attacks the very nature of capitalism, where profit is the most important reason for doing anything, and points to the possibility of a world without classes.

We are the working class resisting our own existence, struggling against work and class. (A)

# Music Corner

## Know Yer Rights

(to the tune of "if your happy and you know it")

G if you're tryin' to smash the state clap yer hands  
D

D if you're tryin' to smash the state clap yer hands  
G

C we should all know our rights  
C

G so heres a song we tried to write  
G

G if you're tryin' to smash the state clap yer hands  
D

(repeat chord pattern)

if you're arrested by the cops shut your mouth (x2)

if you really love your friends then you gotta understand

if you're arrested by the cops shut your mouth

just your bearthday and your name and where you live (x2)

if you're arrested by the pigs its all you gotta give

just your bearthday and your name and where you live

call a lawyer once they got you in the shop (x2)

they say they can make it stop but never trust a cop

call a lawyer once they got you in the shop

you might have to spend the night but its ok (x2)

you don't have to sign conditions its your freedom you'll be missin'

you might have to spend the night but its ok

have a party with your friends when you get out (x2)

you can celebrate release with a joint or a feast

have a party with your friends when you get out

learn more about your rights when you can (x2)

in case you get arrested you should always have a plan

so learn more about your rights when you can (A)

# Why are anarchists involved in the Occupy Movement?

At the base of the Occupy Movement, is the fact that capitalism isn't working. This is a global movement against a system that sees a wealthy few controlling the majority of money, resources and land.

These same few people control politics on parliament hill, decisions made in our communities and have vested interests in continuing wars abroad and the war here against the poor.

The Occupy movements over arching goals of challenging the class divisions in this society can never be negotiated without a revolution.

In the streets and squares, the Occupations are organized horizontally so that everyone can speak for themselves, without appointing leaders.

The Occupations around the world have liberated space for us to organize autonomously against capitalism. They have created a space for us to help each other out for our mutual interests, sometimes known as "Mutual Aid".

With 1500 occupations across the world, each one expresses solidarity with those attempting to occupy the major financial districts where all the countries wealth is exchanged. These are also places for us to start conversations about addressing issues facing our own communities too.

The Occupy Movement is already ripe with anarchist ideas in action, and we want to do our part to see it through to it's inevitable conclusion...

Revolution (A)

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[GETTOTHEROOTS.WORDPRESS.COM](http://GETTOTHEROOTS.WORDPRESS.COM)

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## TWITTER

@AnarchyGuelph

