

# Plot Twist: Toronto Police Make No Arrests, Allow Anti-lockdown Protest to Proceed One Day after Doug Ford's Restrictive Lockdown Measures

"I understand you have an opinion that you'd like to express," one officer said to some protestors, adding that "free expression is everything in this country."

By [Beth Baisch](#)

Global Research, April 19, 2021

[The Post Millennial](#) 18 April 2021

Region: [Canada](#)

Theme: [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

All Global Research articles **can be read in 51 languages by activating the "Translate Website"** drop down menu on the top banner of our home page (Desktop version).

\*\*\*

*Protestors once again gathered at Queen's Park in Toronto to speak out against the ongoing lockdowns, the [latest amendment](#) of which gives police increased authority to enforce the provincial stay-at-home order.*

I'm at Queen's Park in Toronto for the anti-lockdown protest. Follow [@TPostMillennial](#) for more. [pic.twitter.com/ExxZNPFacI](https://pic.twitter.com/ExxZNPFacI)

— Beth Baisch  (@tuftedpuffin) [April 17, 2021](#)

In sharp contrast to previous weeks where protestors were arrested and ticketed in accordance with the order, the police were far more relaxed during Saturday's events.

LIVE in Toronto: A day after Doug Ford announced increased police authority to enforce the provincial stay-at-home order, Toronto police are not ticketing or arresting anti-lockdown protestors. [pic.twitter.com/CmkaRljr4N](https://pic.twitter.com/CmkaRljr4N)

— The Post Millennial (@TPostMillennial) [April 17, 2021](#)

Officers stood in groups around the event itself, while others walked among the protestors in conversation.

"I understand you have an opinion that you'd like to express," one officer said to some protestors, adding that "free expression is everything in this country."

Another officer said

"There are at least two sides to everything," one said, "and we're always in the middle. We're just trying to make it a safe place for everybody."

LIVE in Toronto: A day after Doug Ford announced increased police authority to enforce the provincial stay-at-home order, Toronto police are not ticketing or arresting anti-lockdown protestors. [pic.twitter.com/CmkaRljr4N](https://pic.twitter.com/CmkaRljr4N)

— The Post Millennial (@TPostMillennial) [April 17, 2021](#)

Since Doug Ford's announcement that police would now be stopping vehicles in order, several police districts have said they do not intend to enforce the orders.

I'm starting a thread of Ontario police services that have said they will not make use of the new powers authorized by the panicking Ontario government today. Will update as warranted. Please @ me if your local force has made an announcement I'm not aware of.

Thread begins.

— Matt Gurney (@mattgurney) [April 17, 2021](#)

Protestors then embarked on their "Essential Exercise March," referencing the fact that exercise is deemed an acceptable reason to be outside.

LIVE in Toronto: Anti-lockdown protestors embark on their "Essential Exercise March." No tickets or arrests were issued at Queen's Park despite increased police authority to enforce the provincial stay-at-home order. [pic.twitter.com/jYDokTwdnQ](https://pic.twitter.com/jYDokTwdnQ)

— The Post Millennial (@TPostMillennial) [April 17, 2021](#)

Travis Dhanraj, Queen's Park Bureau Chief for Global News, reported that as a result of the police's refusal to enforce Ford's harsh measures, Ontario is currently "reconsidering" the playground closures and police stops.

**#NEW:** Sources tell [@globalnewsto](#) the government is now rethinking both of these— playground restrictions and police stops. Discussions currently happening. [#Onpoli](#) <https://t.co/tjhFMXHQZr>

— Travis Dhanraj (@Travisdhanraj) [April 17, 2021](#)

Protestors passed through Trinity Bellwoods Park where they declared "cherry blossoms are essential" and called to "free the cherry blossoms" after the city blocked off access to the trees.

LIVE in Toronto: Anti-lockdown protestors call to "free the cherry blossoms" at Trinity Bellwoods Park after the city barricaded off access to the trees. [pic.twitter.com/jDOAFkRhSn](https://pic.twitter.com/jDOAFkRhSn)

— The Post Millennial (@TPostMillennial) [April 17, 2021](#)

As the group made its way through the city, several passerby expressed their disapproval with the protestors. One threw at least two bottles of water from off a roof.

LIVE in Toronto: Someone threw at least 2 water bottles at anti-lockdown protestors. Police are investigating.

Full coverage here: <https://t.co/FKEA2ZuT8J> [pic.twitter.com/ncuL46ktDh](https://pic.twitter.com/ncuL46ktDh)

— The Post Millennial (@TPostMillennial) [April 17, 2021](#)

The march wrapped at Queen's Park, with one participant shouting "Two weeks to flatten the curve became over 1 year!" at the Ontario Legislative Building.

\*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above or below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

*Featured image is from The Post Millennial*

The original source of this article is [The Post Millennial](#)  
Copyright © [Beth Baisch](#), [The Post Millennial](#), 2021

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Beth Baisch](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)