



Above: Clayton Thomas-Muller, Vandana Shiva, Naomi Klein and Maude Barlow celebrate a successful “Shout Out for Global Justice!” that confronted the failed global and economic forum of the G20 at Massey Hall in Toronto, Ontario.

Left: Close to 3,000 people attended the “Shout Out for Global Justice!” at Toronto’s historic Massey Hall in June.

Shouting Out for Water, Trade and Climate Justice

On the eve of the G20 meeting, the Council of Canadians brought progressive leaders together in Toronto’s Massey Hall for a movement-building “Shout Out for Global Justice!” event. Originally slated for the University of Toronto’s Convocation Hall, the event’s mid-May move to the historic Massey Hall theatre allowed close to 3,000 people to attend when the university closed its doors during the G20 weekend.

The event was emceed by local film and stage actor R.H. Thompson and featured internationally renowned speakers including Council of Canadians Chairperson Maude Barlow, Bolivian Ambassador Pablo Solon, writer Naomi Klein, union leader Leo Gerard, physicist Vandana Shiva, *Democracy Now!* host Amy Goodman, War on Want Executive Director John Hilary, and Indigenous Environmental Network activist Clayton Thomas-Muller. All spoke about the profound impacts of the G8 and G20 and the urgent need for global trade, water and climate justice.

A fierce performance was also given by the Raging Asian Women, a group that uses the taiko drumming tradition to promote social justice. Communication, Energy and Paperworkers President Dave Coles closed the evening with an immediate call to action, encouraging the crowd to join a march to Allan Gardens to support a tent city, and to join the People First! march and rally the next day, which drew a crowd of more than 25,000.

During the evening audience members shouted “Shame!” in outrage as speakers pointed out that costs for the G8 and the G20 summits soared to more than \$1 billion, money that is desperately needed for the high-priority agenda items that were talked about at the summits, including maternal health, access to clean water and sanitation, and urgent action on climate change.

Bolivian UN Ambassador Pablo Solon spoke about his country’s experience with privatization and neo-liberalism and how the socialist government, led by President Evo Morales, is changing things. “You know they have the G8/G20 model, but we have another model,” said Ambassador Solon. “If we take control, as a society, of our companies, of our resources, we can have enough money, first, to create more employment. In Bolivia, employment hasn’t decreased – it has increased. We have raised salaries, we have increased social benefits. Why was it possible? Because we control, now,

the economic power of the country, not the corporations.”

The messages from the “Shout Out” resonated far and wide – from Duncan, British Columbia, to St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador – as the event was live video-streamed by rabble.ca and 16 Council of Canadians chapters organized showings in their communities.

The Council of Canadians is grateful to event sponsors including the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada; the Public Service Alliance of Canada; the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation; the Canadian Union of Postal Workers; the National Union of Public and General Employees; the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour; the National Automobile, Aerospace, Transportation and General Workers’ Union of Canada (CAW-Canada); the Canadian Union of Public Employees-Ontario; and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

The event also helped build Council of Canadians membership as ticket prices included a one-year membership to our organization. We welcomed close to 1,000 new members, who all joined in the “Shout Out.”