

G20 Legal Fund Donor FAQ

1. What is the purpose of the G20 Legal Defence Fund?

The Fund exists to hold and disburse funds raised to support legal costs, fees, and other associated costs of legal defense for defendants facing charges stemming from the June 2010 Toronto G20 Summit. Over 1,100 people were arrested on G20 related charges –the largest mass arrest in Canadian history – and nearly 100 are still facing charges. The existence and availability of this Fund is an essential component of a strong social movement that values mutual aid and support for activist's work

2. Who will receive support from the Fund?

Anyone arrested on G20 related charges may apply to the fund [footnote: Quebec has a separate fund for residents of Quebec who were arrested]. All accused are presumed innocent and are entitled to mount a strong legal defence. Since demand will likely be greater than the available funds, money will be disbursed based on detailed criteria used to assess need and risk with the recognition that some groups face oppression, prejudice, and disproportionate challenges when engaging with the criminal justice system. The application form is available at <http://g20legaldefencefund.wordpress.com/>

3. How is the fund managed?

Donated funds are held in trust by lawyer Paul Copeland, who will ensure that the funds are disbursed for their intended purpose. All major decisions of the fund are made by seven well respected trustees: Ed Broadbent, Winnie Ng, Shelley Gavigan, Deena Lad, Anna Willats, Lesley Wood, and Mark Cazavarrá. The trustees are assisted by a committee whose members are appointed by movement organizations who are involved in post-G20 work. All three parties have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish the foundational principles of the Fund and the roles, responsibilities, and limits of each of the three parties involved in the management and oversight of the Fund as well as to explain the decision-making process for all parties. The MOU is available on the website.

4. What other groups have contributed to the fund?

Hundreds of individuals and groups have contributed to the fund. They include OPSEU, NUPGE, CUPE Ontario, CAW, CAW retirees, OSSTF12, CUPE3902, Naomi Klein, and Hawksley Workman.

5. How much has been raised, and how much will be needed?

Approximately \$80,000 has been raised so far. Our current estimate, based on lawyers' predictions, is that we will need \$400,000 to fully support the defendants.

6. Where can I get more information?

There is more information including a copy of the MOU governing the fund, the application questionnaire, an FAQ for applicants, and a timeline, available on our website <http://g20legaldefencefund.wordpress.com/>

If you still have more questions, we would be happy to meet you by phone or in person. Please contact us at: g20legaldefencefund@gmail.com.

7. How can I donate to the Fund?

You can make a cheque out to "G20 Legal Defence Fund" and mail it to:
G20 Legal Defence Fund
c/o Paul Copeland
Copeland Duncan
31 Prince Arthur Avenue
Toronto, ON M5R 1B2

Thank you for supporting the G20 Legal Defence Fund. With your support we hope to build a stronger, more united movement for social and ecological justice.