Toronto Police Make No Arrests, Allow Anti-Lockdown Protest to Proceed One Day After Doug Ford's Restrictive Lockdown Measures

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<u>PLOT TWIST: Toronto police make no arrests, allow anti-lockdown protest to proceed one day after Doug Ford's restrictive lockdown measures</u>

by <u>Beth Baisch</u>, <u>Post Millennial</u> April 17, 2021

Protestors once again gathered at Queen's Park in Toronto to speak out against the ongoing lockdowns, the <u>latest</u> <u>amendment</u> 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.

– Beth Baisch □ (@BethBaisch) 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

- 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."

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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.

https://twitter.com/mattgurney/status/1383251399144660995?ref_
src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1383251399144

660995%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fthepostmillennial.com%2Fplot-twist-toronto-police-make-no-arrests-allow-anti-lockdown-protest-to-proceed-one-day-after-dougfords-restrictive-lockdown-measures

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

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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.

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