Canada has always presented itself as a safe haven, a bastion of freedom, peace and dignity in which diversity is held as a value, basic things like health care are made available for everybody, and nobody will be unduly targeted or discriminated against.

This Canada, however beautiful, has never existed. The conditions at the detention centre, more than 1000 unnecessary arrests, the use of snatch vans, the disgusting crowd control tactics and the utter lack of accountability surrounding the whole affair are not an exception, but have exposed the darker picture behind the scenes. Discovering this has not swayed my belief in Canadian values. However, it has shifted me from a place of comfort and security, into the awareness that Canada will not be something I will inherit, but something I can help to create.

The events of the Toronto G20 proved that this is not Canada... yet.