

Chief Blair: Watch what he does

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Police Chief Bill Blair is saying the right things about tracking down officers who went rogue during Toronto's G20 protests. But the real test of his effectiveness rests on what he does, not what he says.

Progress is being made in tracking down the rogue police officers thanks, in large part, to a series of stories and photos in *The Star* — especially in the case of the apparent beating of protester Adam Nobody. Blair told reporters Wednesday that new images recently unearthed by this newspaper have been “exceptionally helpful.” Those photos were sent “right across our service” asking all members of the department to help identify officers in a crowd of police at the scene. “I am confident that, by the end of the day, we will have identified all of them,” Blair said.

Good. The province's Special Investigations Unit had found evidence that excessive force was used in Nobody's arrest but could not identify the officers involved. The names of those now identified are being passed to the SIU, and the Toronto police are also conducting their own professional standards investigation.

To his credit, Blair appears now to accept a leadership role in tracking down G20 abuses by his officers. “I am quite prepared, as chief of the Toronto Police Service, to hold people accountable for their conduct,” he said. But true accountability will ultimately depend on any officers caught breaking the law being brought promptly to justice.