

the state is constantly spending inordinate amounts of money purchasing weapons to use against us. a booming industry that is fed millions to turn out fancy new gadgets meant to harm and oppress us with sound waves, lasers, tasers and chemicals.

it's important to remember that no matter how big or intimidating this list might look to you right now that **WE** can have the upper hand. it has been done before, and it sure the hell can be done again. while they will probably always out firepower us, remember that we have some serious strengths – like the infinite drive that comes with passion and the benefits of autonomous organizing.



Police Weapons



Batons

telescopic/tactical batons: collapse into themselves for a “community friendly” low profile. Designed to be light & portable but carry one hell of a punch. Designed to focus and transmit maximum force so it can easily break bones. Flinching comes easy when you're on the ground with police raising these over their heads around you.

side-handle baton: have a small side bar for additional grasping options.

Can be used offensively or defensively, for bludgeoning or jabs. Often the long side is braced against the forearm for more force when jabbing it into spines or ribs from behind.



straightsticks: straight baton made of wood, metal or a type of hard resin or plastic. The 3' version is usually carried by riot police. SPVM mounted police now have a longer version specifically for mounted patrols. both of these things look pretty intimidating and can be used for brute force or pushing/moving large groups of people.



Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD)

a sonic weapon that can be used for announcements, or to cause discomfort, pain or panic (depending on the announcement, one might equal another!) at up to 162 decibels. Toronto police have 3 of them. have ear plugs with you, but also know that the sound is sent out in a beam – if you can escape this by moving to the sides, you're good to go.

pepper spray (OC spray):

makes you cry. a lot. causes pain, inflammation & temporary blindness. excess tearing and mucous. affects respiratory tract, making it hard to breathe and sometimes causing panic. the panic is probably the worst part here - try to keep calm, keep telling yourself you *can* breathe, and after blowing your nose/spitting take slow, deep breaths.



compact canisters: usually carried by regular duty officers on their belts. Small but potent.

super-sized riot canisters: not so small, still super potent and has further reach that goes on forever. trust us.

the weapons we often forget about

their hands: that's right – their hands. training manuals and use-of-force guidelines list open (soft) and closed (hard) hands as things they can use against us – and it's probably more common than you think - so common most of us don't classify it as a weapon or even assault anymore; we're just that used to being pushed around.

bicycles: they'll ram them into your ankles and shins, over your feet or even raise them up on the back wheel to thrust at your face and body.

vehicles: a two tonne weapon more than a few of us have been surprised with.

horses: not weapons per se, but they can and have been used to charge the crowd which isn't pleasant – for us or the horses.

fear: probably their biggest weapon and the most often ignored – silly because this is one we can learn to overcome and control. they manufacture this weapon with their presence, armour and firepower. they use threats of violence and imprisonment and create a media presence. they chase and they hurt. they disrupt and split groups, violating our rights and safety while threatening our futures. they create (and we perpetuate) paranoia that can paralyze. it's okay to be afraid – totally normal. But until you dig deep for that courage and face down your fear, they'll keep winning.



ARWEN (anti-riot weapon), other guns & projectiles



A large beastly-looking rotary drum weapon that can shoot impact rounds, marking/irritant rounds, tear gas and flashbangs.

tear gas (CS Gas)

a fine mixed particulate that causes a burning sensation in eyes, throat, lungs and on skin. can be shot out of a specialized gun or thrown by hand. the canisters will be hot – wear gloves if you want to return them.



flashbangs (pyrotechnics)

these are supposed to be shot into the air, but either very stupid or very malicious police sometimes launch them into the middle of crowds at head or chest level. this is an explosive round that can result in shrapnel injuries, burns or damage hearing. It leaves a small plume of smoke and scares the crap out of you the first couple times, but it's definitely possible to get used to these. which is really kind of messed up, if you think about it.

pepper balls/paint balls

pepper spray packed into a small pellet that can be shot at protestors. sometimes mixed with paint or other markers for identifying certain individuals so they can be picked up by police afterwards. guns that launch these have plastic reservoirs for the pellets on top.



rubber/plastic bullets

hard composite projectiles that can hurt like hell and cause a lot of physical damage – particularly when shot near the head or neck. these projectiles are shot out of specialized guns that look like rifles.

