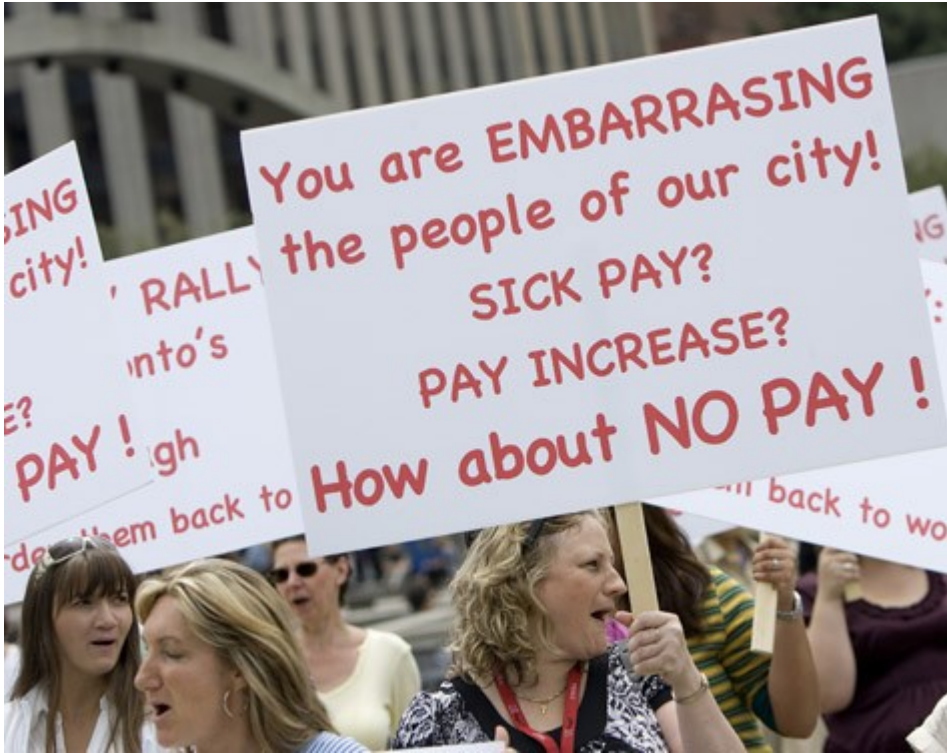


<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/toronto/archive/2009/07/15/toronto-on-strike-public-losing-patience.aspx>

## Toronto on strike: Public losing patience

Posted: July 15, 2009, 1:00 PM by Allison Hanes

[CUPE Locals 416 and 79, Toronto on strike](#)



HALL MONITOR



ALLISON HANES

Patience among the public is running out with the 24-day-old strike by 30,000 civic workers.

About three dozen office workers from the same company showed up at Nathan Phillips Square this afternoon to urge both Mayor David Miller and two city unions to forge a deal – fast.

Another anti-strike rally is planned for later today at the Opera House on Queen Street East, where Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 416, representing outdoor workers, are holding a solidarity party.

Toronto residents are beginning to show they've grown increasingly weary in their fourth week of no trash collection, daycare, recreation, camps and ferry service.

The City Hall event was organized by Kathy Gregory, CEO of Paradigm, a financial services company. Most of the protesters carrying professionally crafted placards with red lettering work for the company.

She said the group was not taking sides in the dispute, which has bogged down over the size of pay increases and reforms to an employee sick day bank.

"We're fed up and we're angry. And we want our city back," she said. "We want the union and our Mayor to stop holding the city hostage."

Ms. Gregory added that if the Mayor and the unions can't solve this, it's high time Premier Dalton

McGuinty steps in to order the workers back to their jobs.

The well-heeled protesters marched in a circle chanting “Toronto’s had enough,” “Give back our city” and “You’re embarrassing the people of Toronto. Members of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 79, representing indoor workers, picketed in a circle nearby, calling “Learn all the facts” and “Talk to the Mayor; We want a contract that’s fair.”

“We are embarrassed. In this economic crisis when so many of our friends and family don’t have a job, don’t have an opportunity for employment, and the demands that the union is making to the city and the taxpayers of Toronto is unreasonable in this tough economic time,” Ms. Gregory said. “We certainly don’t want the city to relent and give everything that the union wants, we just want our city back.”

The demonstrators at the lunch-time rally – Paradigm employees, their family and friends – mobilized through an email campaign, a ~~Facebook group has sprung up to spread the word about an “anti-strike” demo at Queen Street East and Broadview this afternoon where Local 416 members are gathering.~~

~~“CUPE wants to have a Solidarity party, lets bug them back!” says the invite. “So they want to have a party to get together with their brothers and sisters. Take your Family and Friends, write what you feel, slap it on a stick, and go to their party, and don’t let them in the opera house. Same way they don’t let you in the transfer stations and garbage sites, at least delay them 15 minutes per person. It is all legal!”~~

Scratch that. The National Post attended the Facebook protest and nothing materialized.

*Photo of today’s anti-CUPE protest at city hall by Aaron Lynett, National Post*



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25 Comments

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by Advokat  
Jul 15 2009  
3:10 PM

Brilliant!!! I have often wondered how the lazy greedy parasitic CUPE strikers would react to a dose of their own medicine. This is a great way in which to make clear to CUPE that they do NOT have the support of the people of Toronto.

I am definitely going to join the anti-CUPE protest at Opera House this afternoon, particularly if we get to delay the strikers from going to their party... However, my guess is that the cops - i.e., the thugs of the modern union movement - are going to give the anti-CUPE strikers a bit less help than they have been giving to the CUPE strikers...

by SanjayRaheem  
Jul 15 2009  
3:26 PM

Lemme see if I've got this straight: in the middle of an economic collapse, the CEO and staff of a financial services company have time to whine about their garbage not getting picked up? Lazy bankers.

by Loca75  
Jul 15 2009  
4:01 PM

These people GAVE UP their lunch break to stand up and say what the majority of this city has been thinking since the beginning of this strike - stop wasting our tax dollars and get back to work! Good on them!

by Advokat

Sanjay: At least they work for their money, which, incidentally, is paid to

Jul 15 2009  
4:24 PM

them willingly by people who voluntarily decide to do business with them...  
Better that, than extorting it from taxpayers. Besides, who the f&%k are you  
to question what someone does on their own time during their lunch hour?!?

by diatribe  
Jul 15 2009  
4:39 PM

Good for them. The true heroes of Toronto are the few citizens who see a  
problem and actually get off their butts and do something.....See trash.....pick  
it up. See a homeless cat and her kittens...ignore it and those kittens will have  
kittens. 'google' a toronto cat rescue and get those cats spayed and neutered.  
There are simple solutions to Toronto's problems - people have to be their  
own neighborhood heroes.

by Torontonian50  
Jul 15 2009  
4:44 PM

Sanjay, you're pathetic. These people are great people, family and friends.  
many who work in everyday jobs back office processing jobs... and simply  
care about thier city. dont think for one second they all havent been hurt by  
this economic downturn.

Can't u read? its about our city, our parks, our reputation as canada's biggest  
city...a city we care about and our mayor and city workers dont. Not about  
having just our garbage picked up. How dare you judge these people for their  
commitment to the make things better in toronto. what are you doing about it  
you skunk!

by Laurie^^  
Jul 15 2009  
4:56 PM

The anti-CUPE protest only went for an hour during lunch-time. From this, it  
sounds like the employees of this company gave up there own lunch-time to  
speck out. The comment about "Lazy bankers" I don't see how this is the  
case.

by Digger Don  
Jul 15 2009  
8:49 PM

"If the Toronto members of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 79,  
do not report for work within 48 hours, they have forfeited their jobs and will  
be terminated"

This needs to be announced by the mayor or premier or somebody with a  
backbone. Worked for Reagan and the public loved it.

by ReasonableOne  
Jul 15 2009  
9:17 PM

Alison, please show some journalistic integrity. This very brief, almost non-  
story describes an employee group organized by Ms. Gregory. You state they  
are taking no sides in the labour dispute, they just want their city back. Yet  
you then go on to further 'report' on this 'story' by quoting Ms. Gregory who  
thinks the union is making unreasonable demands on the city and taxpayers.

I am not taking sides at this point on the labour dispute, but I do expect to read  
articles that are accurate and have meaning. I find your article an insult to my  
intelligence.

by Darren in TO  
Jul 15 2009  
9:36 PM

I sent that as an email to the TTC chair. No response probably, but you never  
know. The guy actually resorted to using the race card while arguing with

residents, something I saw first hand;

I would like to know what the TTC's official policy is on its employees protesting in uniform alongside CUPE protestors at temporary garbage sites. I saw first hand a TTC employee, in his own time I assume, in uniform at the Ted Reeve site on its last evening before it closed. He not only was protesting alongside CUPE members, but he was more then vocal in his harassment to residents dropping off their garbage there. CP24 was there and they were recording, so this may end up on TV. In uniform he represents the TTC, and the TTC should explain their position on this.

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by Mambo Bananapatch > "If the Toronto members of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 79, Jul 15 2009 9:42 PM do not report for work within 48 hours, they have forfeited their jobs and will be terminated."

DD, not too many people would argue with that.

Sadly, the strikers are in a legal strike position whereas Reagan's air traffic controllers were not. I seriously doubt such a decision would survive the resulting lawsuit.

I would rather hear him say: "Our last offer stands, and is final. We have had enough of this union's irresponsibility and greed. I hope the strikers will face reality, come to their senses, and stop behaving like animals. If they do not, we will hire replacement workers, and keep them for the duration of the strike.

"In the meantime, any striker who interferes with city business and public access to garbage dumps will be arrested."

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by curls4 Jul 15 2009 10:54 PM Miller gives the b.s. story about enuf is enuf, then he does nothing about getting an injunction to limit the picketers.

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by Ryan\_ Jul 15 2009 10:57 PM I'm loving this story. The union is going to be forced to have a conscience. Let's see how liberals enjoy being bossed around. The taxpayers have had it and I'll definitely be looking into joining the protest against the workers even though I don't live in Toronto.

Toronto needs all the help it can get and us 905ers do better when Toronto does better.

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by Ascalepius Jul 15 2009 11:05 PM "A servant with two masters has to lie to one"...guess who Miller intends to lie to?

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by Advokat Jul 15 2009 11:32 PM Ryan: This isn't a "liberal vs. conservative" thing. There are a whole lot of liberals (myself included) who are positively sickened by these lazy greedy parasitic CUPE thugs and their extortionist strategies.

Rather, this is a fight between good and evil.

Sid Ryan is the devil, and CUPE is an evil parasite on the taxpayers of Toronto.

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by latinoboy65  
Jul 16 2009  
12:44 AM

Let's remember History a bit:

In 1998 I saw a bunch of CIBC ( corner of bay and king ) at LUNCH TIME employees wearing white shirts with a red maple leaf and some slogan.. My Canada includes a merge bank.. this was tied to the illusion and hope of the big six banks to merge, The regular over taxed and "bank over charged "people did not agree with this type of "canadian support" only the rich and powerful supported the absurd idea of the big six banks, employees were cohersed by the managers to request all employees to come out and make some noise. fail to comply was a reason for discipline?

I wonder it the employees at Paradigm Quest Inc. were threaten to loose their jobs if they did not went out to protest.

Miguel Avila

Proud CUPE Member

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by Bethw  
Jul 16 2009  
2:26 AM

You know, I'm not sure if the CEO Kathy Gregory who organized the picket against CUPE workers can completely relate to working people:

[www.canadianbusiness.com/.../article.jsp](http://www.canadianbusiness.com/.../article.jsp) (don't miss page 2...so you too can learn where to store your crystal)

...and I'm definitely getting the \$10,000 one ;)

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by ZeeBC  
Jul 16 2009  
2:54 AM

The brunette on the left is cute. Can she golf?

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by Ryan\_  
Jul 16 2009  
8:24 AM

How is it not a liberal vs conservative thing? Any conservative mayor of this city would have fired them on Day 1. And now here we are a Day 20- whatever, and still no action has been done.

I'm not sure how a more moderate mayor would have performed but the citizens shouldn't have to speak instead of the mayor; the mayor is supposed to represent Torontonians and he's clearly not if they have to resort to counter-protests.

Make no mistake about it, Miller has his hands tied because of his leanings.

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by vcap  
Jul 16 2009  
8:45 AM

This is great. Finally people who are fed up with these union thugs are fighting back. But we should take it farther than just picket signs. Go to the transfer stations, such as the Ingram station, where the people of Toronto are

forced to wait hour to legally dump their garbage and fight back there. As the useless CUPE members waste the public's time, slash the tires of the CUPE members' cars. Treat them with the respect they traet you. Scratch their cars. Dump garnbage on their cars. After all, fair is fair.

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by vcap  
Jul 16 2009  
8:48 AM

The anti-CUPE protest was great. Now we should go to the tyransfer staions with the long line ups and do the same. A slashing of CUPE member's car tire at a transfer station every now and then won't hurt either

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by Ryan\_  
Jul 16 2009  
9:08 AM

Nah, don't do that vcap. The taxpayers clearly have the moral high ground here, and it's by a longshot. No point in ceding that, whatsoever.

Let the strikers strike for as long as they want, that'll harm them enough. The taxpayer is not going to cave.

If you find you've got some insatiable desire to see them suffer more, well, I'll just say to you to simply sit back and enjoy the strike. These union guys, in their complete and utter blindness, have no idea how against them the public truly is.

It's truly a sight to enjoy.

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by Rachelle82  
Jul 16 2009  
9:36 AM

I think you're missing the point here. This isn't about Kathy Gregory. This isn't about Paradigm Quest. This is about Torontonians banding together to demand a solution. People are loosing jobs here. People already HAVE lost jobs in this recession and these people think its ok to strike for more money, comparing to contracts that were made in a "boom" time.

I bet one of you know someone who's hours have been cut back, dont you? I bet they'd take a full time job in a second if it was offered to them.

Those of you who are sick of this strike, come and join us at 130 pm in front of City Hall where we will again fight to get our city clean again.

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by Digger Don  
Jul 16 2009  
9:49 AM

Mambo...Your suggestion is very good

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by DriftingIntoLogic  
Jul 16 2009  
2:09 PM

Mambo.. no no.... do not let the last offer stand. It was rejected by the oinkers... Withdraw it and offer something less.... keep offering less until the union quits.