

## Toronto on strike: Advice for David Miller

Posted: July 20, 2009, 9:56 AM by Peter Kuitenbrouwer

[Kuitenbrouwer](#), [Toronto on strike](#)

I got a nice note today from Joanna Shore. She sent a letter to the mayor, which the city server apparently bounced back with the explanation: "content rejected". That, incidentally, is why I prefer Canada Post. But for the benefit of the mayor, and everyone else, here is some of the letter:

Dear Mayor Miller,

I live in Councillor Joe Mihevc's ward and I wish to let you know that I support a strong stance **against** the union's demands. Although I am inconvenienced by the strike, and have also been held up by picketers at Green P's and garbage sites, I am still VERY PASSIONATE about ensuring that this city has a strong financial future. Giving into the union's demands will negatively affect the financial sustainability of our city. Please do not give in.

I am currently 7 months pregnant and I have vomited on two occasions when unloading/transferring my own family's green bin garbage. However, that nausea is NOTHING compared to the nausea I feel when I think about the greediness of the CUPE leadership and their audacity to suggest that they aren't being treated fairly. In the private sector, I have worked with 0% increases for three years running, and then I got laid off during a massive corporate restructuring during September 2008. These things happen in order to ensure the financial viability of private enterprise. I don't take it personally, and life isn't fair. I learned that in kindergarten! Did the union leadership and membership miss that lesson? I hope that **you** haven't missed that lesson. The same economic and financial principles that apply in the private sector should apply to the city's finances. Please spend my tax dollars wisely.

There are a few things that you and your leadership team need to take charge of:

1. Allow workers who wish to return to work to do so. If they don't wish to return to work, I can count myself among the many laid off / unemployed Torontonians who would be happy to have a non-unionized job with the City. Hire us.
2. The city must clear out the garbage from the dump sites. The residents of Toronto are doing their part to ensure a clean city – please do the same. The smells and sights of the dumps situated in residential neighbourhoods are unconscionable. The garbage must be hauled away ASAP.
3. Striking workers must not be allowed to hold up residents at garbage dump sites, municipal Green P parking lots, and other areas.
4. Designate child care and children's services as essential. Get the daycares re-opened out of fairness to working parents and restore community programming to ensure that older youth have positive activities to keep them engaged and out of trouble.

Sincerely, Joanna Shore