

Toronto on strike: City silent on pickets' blockade

Posted: July 16, 2009, 10:04 AM by Peter Kuitenbrouwer

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

Interesting how the City of Toronto's crack team of spokespeople clam up when they're faced with a tough question. Yesterday at 3 p.m. I asked them [why in God's name the city is allowing pickets at its Social Services office](#), 1225 Kennedy Road, to keep out 17 CUPE members who want to cross the picket line and return to work. The press office, which has holed up in Metro Hall for the duration of the strike, has still not gotten back to me. (I tried them again this morning and got an answering machine.)

[City of Windsor, strikers clash over back-to-work protocol](#)

Readers, however, are weighing in. Anita Kern writes, "It amazes me how unlawful behaviour is so accepted. When I was a translator years ago and the translators went on strike, the police were strict about telling us that pickets were strictly "for information purposes" and we were not allowed to block anyone from entering the building. I believe nothing in the law governing pickets has changed. Picketers are not supposed to block or delay anyone."

Robert Savage, who describes himself as "a Toronto taxpayer," writes, "It is so sad that a lot of good people have to be placed between two egotistical, self serving groups, the ... CUPE leadership on one side and Miller's band of high paid political flunkies on the other side."