

## McGuinty urges Torontonians to be patient

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Premier Dalton McGuinty has once again appealed to Torontonians to be patient during the municipal workers' strike.

"It calls for patience and goodwill on our part. We have decided as a society that when there are these kinds of disputes, that the single most important thing that we can do is to allow the parties to negotiate a settlement at the table," McGuinty said this morning at Markham Stouffville Hospital.

"It's hot outside, I can understand people's level of frustration - they're not going to pick up my garbage this week, it's starting to stink inside the garage, (I)understand that."

McGuinty, who was at the hospital to announce a \$35.5 million boost to its expansion project, said the city strike in Toronto is "not the end of the world."

"I think we just need to be as patient as we possible can to see if the folks involved in this directly can resolve it," he told reporters.

When asked about reports of maggots crawling on garbage in the summer heat, McGuinty said he is paying attention to what public health officials say.

So far health officials have not indicated there are any health problems resulting from the four-day walkout.

"It's important obviously that we continue to pay attention to the best medical advice that we might receive," he said.

McGuinty seemed to indicate he would not let the garbage strike in Toronto last as long as in Windsor, a city without garbage pickup for months.

"Each community has its own characteristics, and it's difficult to compare apples with oranges," he said in French after someone asked if Toronto would have to wait 10 weeks like Windsor.

"We are going to continue to observe the situation in Toronto and pay attention to the advice we may get from health experts."

In English, McGuinty said different cities have different personalities.

"There are different cities and different communities with different characteristics as well," he said.

"We'll keep a close eye."

He again implored people to allow collective bargaining to continue.

"We're strongly encouraging the sides to be at the table, to understand what's at stake here, to understand that people are becoming a little bit heated, they're growing a little bit frustrated and we are putting as much pressure on both sides as we possibly can to get the job done," he said.