

CUPE COMMUNIQUE

Canadian Union of Public Employees **CUPE.ca**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 2009

Toronto civic workers call on city to let farmers' markets go ahead

TORONTO – The unions representing striking City of Toronto workers are calling on city management to allow farmers' markets to continue to operate during the strike.

The Toronto Farmers' Market Network and Ontario Farm Fresh wrote today to both the unions and the city asking that farmers' markets be allowed to use municipal properties provided they do not cross picket lines or do the work of CUPE members.

"Our fight is not with Ontario farmers, who usually do their own clean-up when the markets close. We encourage the city to act quickly and open up civic spaces for the markets under the terms proposed by the Toronto Farmers' Market Network," said Mark Ferguson, president of TCEU Local 416 CUPE.

"It was not our decision to close these spaces to the farmers' markets," added Ann Dembinski, president of CUPE Local 79. "We know how much Torontonians value the opportunity to purchase fresh, local produce, meats, honey and other goods that they find at their weekly neighbourhood farmers' markets."

-30-

For more information, contact:

Pat Daley, CUPE Communications, 416-616-6142

COPE491/phw