

June 22, 2009

City workers represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 79 and the Toronto Civic Employees' Union Local 416 (TCEU), CUPE began legal strike action against the City at 12:20 a.m. Monday, June 22, 2009.

The City is following strict procedures with respect to access to City Hall, Metro Hall, the civic centres and other City work locations. There are major reductions in the services we provide. Please note:

- The East York Civic Centre and Etobicoke Civic Centre, including 2 Civic Centre Court, are closed
- Access to floors above the ground floors of City Hall, Metro Hall and the open civic centres will require a pre-arranged escort from the division
- You may be required to cross a picket line and may experience delays
- Our response to mail will be slow or temporarily unavailable
- Many management staff will not be readily accessible by phone

The City believes a strike is unnecessary and is ready to resume bargaining at any time. However, the City has implemented its contingency plan to continue essential services.

The City wants to reach a negotiated settlement with each local as this is the best way to maintain a positive workplace and provide the best service delivery for residents and businesses. The City continues to believe that the collective agreements being negotiated must be fair to employees, affordable to Torontonians and contain the flexibility required to continue to provide the vast number of services the City delivers within Toronto's many diverse communities.

In addition, Toronto Building will only be providing limited services. In the event of an emergency related to an unsafe building, building inspection staff can be contacted through Access Toronto at 416-338-0338.

Toronto Building will be unable to accept applications or issue building permits. In addition, no preliminary project applications, zoning reviews, or property information letters can be applied for, processed or issued.

No progress inspections will be undertaken during the labour disruption. Toronto Building will require and review documentation provided by the applicant after the labour disruption is over to determine whether work which progresses beyond the stage of a required inspection during the labour disruption period is in compliance with the issued permit. **Documentation provided must be verified by a qualified designer responsible for the design.** Where Toronto Building is not satisfied that compliance has been demonstrated, inspectors may issue orders, or take whatever action is necessary to achieve compliance with the Building Code Act or the Building Code.

We will make every effort to keep you informed of events that may affect your operations. General information is available on the City of Toronto's website at www.toronto.ca and from Access Toronto at 416-338-0338 or accesstoronto@toronto.ca.

We realize that our clients, customers, suppliers and service providers may be inconvenienced. Every effort has been made to reduce the anticipated disruption of the strike through advance planning and concentration of available resources into critical services. We strongly recommend that you consider contingency plans as appropriate for your situation.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours truly

V. Ann Borooah
Chief Building Official and Executive Director
Toronto Building

