

Hudak urges local solution to Toronto strike

New Ontario Conservative leader says it's too early for back-to-work legislation

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Even though a strike by Toronto workers is in its 11th day, newly crowned Opposition Leader Tim Hudak says it isn't time yet to force them back to work.

Mr. Hudak chided the unions shortly after being elected leader last weekend, saying the notion of a strike didn't sit well with taxpayers whose families may be struggling to make ends meet.

But he now says that while taxpayers' finances must be taken into account in any agreement, it's too early for back-to-work legislation.

Mr. Hudak says the best solution is always a local one, and he's encouraging Toronto Mayor David Miller and union leaders to work around the clock to hash out a deal.

Premier Dalton McGuinty has also said it's too early to bring in back-to-work legislation for the striking city employees.

About 24,000 inside and outside municipal workers in Toronto walked off the job June 22, bringing garbage pickup to a halt and closing many city-run programs and services.