

## Toronto on strike: Union chief decries return-to-work timeline

Posted: July 28, 2009, 10:05 PM by Barry Hertz  
[CUPE Locals 416 and 79](#), [Toronto on strike](#)

*By Emily Senger, National Post*

Striking indoor union members want to get back to work on Thursday, and don't want to wait for a city council vote scheduled for Friday, Local 79 Union president Ann Dembinski told journalists at a late-evening press conference on Tuesday.

Workers at Local 79, which represents 24,000 indoor city workers and at Local 416, which represents 6,000 outdoor workers, will vote on Wednesday on a contract agreement reached on the weekend.

If passed, the agreement will resolve a six-week strike.

On Tuesday evening, Ms. Dembinski said she expected the indoor workers union would vote in favour of the agreement, but said that waiting for another vote by the city to ratify the agreement was unnecessary and out of character. During a Local 79 strike in 2000, workers were asked to return to work immediately after a tentative agreement was reached, she said.

"We're anxious to be back at work. We'd like to be back on the job Thursday morning," she said. "There is no reason for council to delay the resumption of these services."

If the unions vote in favour the agreement, and the city ratifies the agreement in a special meeting on Friday, some city workers could be back as early as the weekend, with full service after the long weekend.

