

## **`Enough is enough,' mayor tells unions**

Miller urges CUPE to find a way to end strike, but representatives say both sides are `miles apart'

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Mayor David Miller has urged striking union leaders to "find a way to say yes" and end the walkout by city workers.

But union leaders swiftly rejected his message and in turn blamed the city for the walkout.

Miller appealed to union leaders to let children enrolled in city camps and swimming programs enjoy their summer.

"I want to say to the unions, and to the people they represent: Enough is enough," the mayor told a news conference.

"There's been progress at the bargaining table this week and now is the time to end this strike, allow children in Toronto the opportunity to use their public services, and allow us to get back to normal."

But his plea was promptly thrown back by Ann Dembinski, who heads the local that represents inside workers. She said the two sides remain "miles apart" at the bargaining table.

"I think he's still hell-bent on extracting concessions from our members," she said in an interview. "And he's not getting them."

Meanwhile, Mark Ferguson, who heads the local representing outside workers, issued a statement saying: "Enough is enough, Mayor Miller? Tell it to your negotiators."

The two union locals, both part of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, point out that workers at city agencies such as the police and parking authority have been given wage increases of about 3 per cent. They say the city is offering them less, while also seeking concessions on sick pay and other issues.

Dembinski said Miller shouldn't be blaming workers for the walkout.

"The city is to blame for this strike," she said. "It's not the workers. It is the city. He should be appealing to himself and city councillors to give us a fair deal."

Dembinski said her local gave the city a comprehensive proposal covering all significant issues Thursday. The union was expecting a response from the city late last night or early today, she added.