

Strike talks moving slowly, Miller says

Jun 29, 2009 03:59 PM

[Comments on this story](#) (160)

Vanessa Lu

John Spears

City Hall Bureau

Negotiations to reach a deal with the city's inside union are moving so slowly that Mayor David Miller accused the union of failing to respond to a proposal on wages - eight days after workers walked off the job.

"I must say I am somewhat frustrated particularly with the inside workers, Local 79, who represent people like child care workers," he told reporters at an afternoon briefing. "The city tabled a monetary proposal before the strike which they have not formally responded to after a week of strike.

"And I think it's very important for Torontonians to get people back to work, to find a way to resolve this at the table and to provide the services that people need," Miller said.

While he thanked Torontonians for their patience, he emphasized that the strike is about much more than garbage.

"I think it's very important for Torontonians to get people back to work, to find a way to resolve this at the table and to provide the services that people need. It's about much more than garbage, it's about summer camps for kids and all of those services that families count on in the summer."

Local 79 local president Ann Dembinski shot back, saying the city has many proposals for which the union hasn't received a response.

"I'm quite surprised that the mayor would come out and attack Local 79 as opposed to telling his negotiators to settle this strike," she said. "The issue is about settling the strike, and as long as there are major concessions on the table there will be no settlement.

"So attacking the union will not get a settlement."

While Miller did not single out Local 416, which represents outside workers, he said negotiations were still proceeding.