

## Make the TTC an *Essential Service!*

To: David Miller, Mayor, City of Toronto  
Toronto City Councillors  
CC: Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario

Dear Mayor Miller:

As a small business owner in Toronto, I was alarmed by the last TTC strike. It was an unexpected and irresponsible act that held a whole city hostage to the selfish demands of a labour union. Instead of wreaking havoc in the City, the TTC union leadership should have weighed their members' wages and benefits against those of private sector employees to find out how overly generous they already are.

Here is why I think the TTC should be made an essential service:

- There is no alternative to the TTC—every time when there is a transit strike my business, my employees and my community are negatively affected.
- The TTC serves a range of people and those of modest means who cannot afford other safe modes of transportation suffer the most during strikes.
- The resulting traffic gridlock further harms the air quality and impedes emergency vehicles.
- TTC union leadership should not be allowed to count on public fear as a bargaining chip.
- The effects of a public sector strike are felt primarily by the general public, who are deprived of services.

**It's unacceptable to hold the public to ransom during TTC strikes!**

**Mayor Miller, you have called the last strike "*unacceptable and unnecessary*". I call on you to make sure this does not happen again! Ask the Premier to declare the TTC an essential service!**

Optional: (please comment on the specific challenges you have experienced during TTC strikes)

Member Signature:

Member ID:

## History of TTC strikes:

- 1952—TTC service suspended during **19-day** strike.
- 1970—TTC service suspended during **12-day** strike.
- 1974—TTC service suspended during **23-day** strike.
- 1978—TTC service suspended during **eight-day** strike.
- 1989—TTC service disrupted during **41-day** labour dispute.
- 1991—TTC service suspended during **eight-day** strike.
- 1999—TTC service suspended during **two-day** strike.
- 2006—TTC service suspended during **one-day** strike.
- 2008—TTC service suspended during **two-day** strike

Source: “*TTC Milestones*”, Toronto Transit Commission website

**ENOUGH!!!**  
**Let's put an end to this!**

### **The offer, rejected by TTC workers, that caused the last strike:**

- Three percent pay increase each year, guaranteed over the next three years.
- Top-up of WSIB payments for injured workers to match 100 percent of their original pay level (equals to more than 100 percent as WSIB payments, unlike salaries and wages, are not subject to income tax).
- Long-term disability benefits of up to \$2,550/month.
- A “GTA clause” guaranteeing some TTC workers an increase in pay if transit service employees in neighbouring municipalities earn more.