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## **CUPE Local 416 committed to protecting services as City of Toronto pushes toward labour disruption**

TORONTO, ON – Toronto’s outside city workers remain committed to negotiating a fair contract that protects city services as the City of Toronto tries to pave the way for privatization and contracting out of services.

Earlier today the City of Toronto requested a no-board report from the Ministry of Labour in their negotiations with Local 416 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 416) which represents the City’s outside workers and paramedics. This decision from the City will put the two parties in a strike or lockout position by February 27.

“The City wants a contract that creates two-tiered job security provisions, and paves the way for privatization and contracting out of services that the people of Toronto rely on. They need to answer for their positions more than we do. We’re the one’s trying to get a deal here.” Eddie Mariconda, President of CUPE 416 said of the negotiations. “All along we have been reasonable in trying a deal that protects services and respects the work our members do. Our proposals are affordable and sustainable, which is what the city claims they want.”

With news of the countdown toward a potential labour disruption, initiated by the City, the union has begun its preparations for a strike or lockout, while believing that a deal is still possible. “We’re not the ones who walked away from the table,” Mariconda said. “We are available to negotiate 24/7.”

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