



Canadian Union of Public Employees

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MEMBERS
SINCE
1942

CUPE 79

URGENT

MM10.9.1

DELIVERED BY FAX AND REGULAR MAIL

June 23, 2011

Mayor Rob Ford (Chair)
And Members, Executive Committee
c/o Clerks Office
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

2011 JUN 23 A 11:01
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SECRETARIAT SECTION

Dear Mayor Ford and Members, Executive Committee:

On behalf of Local 79, I am writing to express our disbelief that the Executive Committee rejected funding from the Province of Ontario which would have allowed the City of Toronto to hire additional nurses in Toronto Public Health.

Your action is questionable: City staff recommended to the Executive Committee that they raise Toronto Public Health's gross budget by \$170,000 to hire two additional full-time public health nurses; Toronto Public Health's net budget would have stayed the same because the nurses would be 100% funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health; and, public health staff stressed that it was part of the Province's initiative to hire 9,000 nurses across Ontario and that there would be ongoing funding.

Local 79 is not alone in questioning the Committee's decision. Ontario's Minister of Health, as well as several City Councillors, have been very public about their disagreement with the Committee on this issue.

Unfortunately, the communities that will suffer the most from your current ill-advised position are those very communities that need additional help in health promotion and disease prevention, namely modest income and immigrant groups.

Toronto Public Health has a proud history of providing services that improve the overall health of Toronto's residents and overcome health inequalities. **The new Provincially funded nurses would be performing crucial, preventive health functions which are cost effective and efficient due to the pro active nature of the work. Preventive health measures help save our health care system significant amounts of money on an on going basis.**

The actions of the Executive Committee of Canada's largest City are ensuring that, to date, Toronto Public Health is the only one of the Province's 36 health

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units to reject the nurses that the Province is willing to fund. Every other public health unit recognizes that this provincial funding can only help improve care for all Ontarians!

Local 79 commends all the City Councillors, including those on the Executive Committee, who voted against, or questioned, the decision to defer this item indefinitely. It is our hope that City Council will reconsider this issue at their next meeting and reverse the position taken by the Executive Committee.

Yours truly,



Ann Dembinski
President

c.c. All Toronto City Councillors
John Fillion, Chair, and Members, Toronto Board of Health
Deb Mathews, Ontario Minister of Health