

Garbage strike ends after one day

Waste collection is to resume in Peel Region after Emterra Environmental and the Labourers' International Union of North America Local 183 reached an agreement with its employees.

The new contract was ratified by nearly 95 per cent of the voting employees early Friday morning, ending the one-day labour disruption. By working together, Emterra and the union said waste collection was to resume Friday and carry on into the weekend to ensure there is no backlog for the start of a new collection week.

The contract affects all residents living in Caledon, as well as parts of Brampton and Mississauga.

"This agreement provides long-term service stability for the residents of Peel Region," Director of Waste Management Norm Lee said. "If your waste was not collected yesterday, please leave it on the curb and it will be picked up today or over the weekend. We are aware of missed areas and will collect from those households as quickly as possible."

Residents can get the latest information on the status of collections by visiting Peel Region's website at www.peelregion.ca or on Twitter @regionofpeel. They can also drop off waste at one of the Region's Community Recycling Centres - extended hours will remain in effect and fees will continue to be waived over the weekend for residential waste. Normal operations will resume Monday. LiUNA Local 183 spokesperson Jason Ottey said employees are happy to be back to work and providing dependable service to Peel residents.

"We wanted a fair deal and we believe that this agreement provides that to our members," Ottey said.

Emterra's Vice-President Paulina Leung said the priority was to get the trucks moving and provide the same level of safe, reliable service that residents have come to expect. She said the company is committed to completing all pickups over the next three days and to start next week fully caught up.

"Our commitment to the residents in Peel Region is to return to the same level of sustainable dependable service that you have come to expect from us," she said. "Together we have reached an agreement that will make our community a better place to live today and into the future."