

## Home construction in Peel "grinding to a halt" due to union strikes by frame, trim, drywall and tile workers



**Under construction** - File photo

*A strike by four unions representing thousands of workers in the home building industry has lasted about a week, which means new home construction in the GTA is slowing down. However, the workers will have to be back on the job by June 15 due to provincial legislation.*

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By [Chris Clay](#)

The busy summer construction season in Mississauga and the GTA is slowing down due to several ongoing strikes.

The Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON), an association that represents about 250 home and condominium builders in the central Ontario region, is letting its members know about strike action of four unionized trades – frame, trim, drywall and tile.

RESCON president Richard Lyall, whose organization represents builders working in Mississauga and Brampton, said the job action means a number of work sites are “grinding to a halt.” As the strikes go on, they will also start to affect other trades who won’t be able to do their work on the new homes.

“It would be (impossible) to put up drywall if there’s no framing done,” said Lyall. “It does have a domino effect.”

However, he said, while the strike is only in its first week, an end is in sight. According to Lyall, there is legislation in Ontario's Labour Relations Act that places a limit on how long the strikes can drag on.

All four of the striking unions would be required to be back on the job by June 15, he said. Any outstanding issues will be resolved through binding arbitration.

In a posting on its website earlier this week, the Laborers' International Union of North America Local 183 let its residential framing sector members know they are on strike. A strike message was also sent out to its members working in the marble and tile sector.

Jason Ottey, director of government relations and communications with Local 183, said the two striking sectors have nearly 6,000 members between them and that the biggest issue for the framers is wages.

Ottey said provincial legislation allows strikes or lockouts in their industry between May 1 and June 15. The longer the strike goes, the greater impact it will have on the industry's "prime production season" that's now underway.

"Inevitably there will be a delay (to new home construction) but the question is how much," said Ottey.

The Residential Low-Rise Trim Division of Carpenters and Allied Workers Local 27 also went on strike earlier this week. In a news release, the union – whose 700 members install trim, doors and other finishings in homes across the GTA – said the biggest issue is compensation for workers for their Workplace Safety and Insurance Board premiums.

"Low-rise trim workers should be treated no differently than framers, drywallers and other trades that currently have their WSIB premiums paid by the employer," said Mike Yorke, Local 27 president and president of the Carpenters' District Council of Ontario, in a release.

The residential division of Drywall Acoustic Lathing and Insulation Local 675 of the Carpenters' District Council of Ontario also issued a release this week about going on strike. Its 2,000 members install drywall and interior systems in homes across the GTA.

Local 675 president Tony Iannuzzi said in the release that the biggest issue for their members is also compensation.