

City to detail refunds for parks programs

Trash Rebates Possible

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Toronto will release more details today of plans to reimburse city residents who paid for summer parks and recreation programs that were cancelled by the month-long strike by civic workers.

Mayor David Miller announced yesterday rebates are already in the works.

"Parks, forestry and recreation staff are now working on processing refunds to residents for day camp, swimming and leadership program and registration fees," he said.

Mr. Miller first raised the spectre of rebates for scuttled activities weeks ago, but yesterday he did not commit to any other refunds for services affected during the strike, such as curb-side garbage collection.

"We haven't made a determination about garbage because there are a number of alternatives we could pursue," the Mayor said.

Toronto handed out new rubbish bins last year and in December began charging for trash pick-up for the first time based on the size of the container. Blue bin recycling and green bin composting remain free of charge in an effort to divert more waste away from landfills.

The bulky new containers and the user fees were controversial enough before the strike, so Toronto should look at some kind of refund, councillors agreed yesterday.

"I think that people who have paid for 12 months garbage service and haven't received it should get a rebate," said Councillor Doug Holyday (Etobicoke Centre), although pick-up continues in his ward, where it was contracted out long ago.

"That's a lost revenue source here, but you can't charge people for what you haven't provided."

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