

Toronto on strike: City to reimburse residents who paid for cancelled parks, recreation programs

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[Toronto on strike](#)

By Allison Hanes, National Post

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 he did not commit yesterday to any other refunds for services affected during the strike, such as curbside 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 effect 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 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.”

Peter Milczyn (Etobicoke Lakeshore) said residents having to drop off their trash at temporary dumps in parks shouldn’t count as service.

“Some will argue we’re still taking their garbage but it’s not what was promised,” he said. “But in my mind there should be some rebate in terms of the garbage collection fees.”

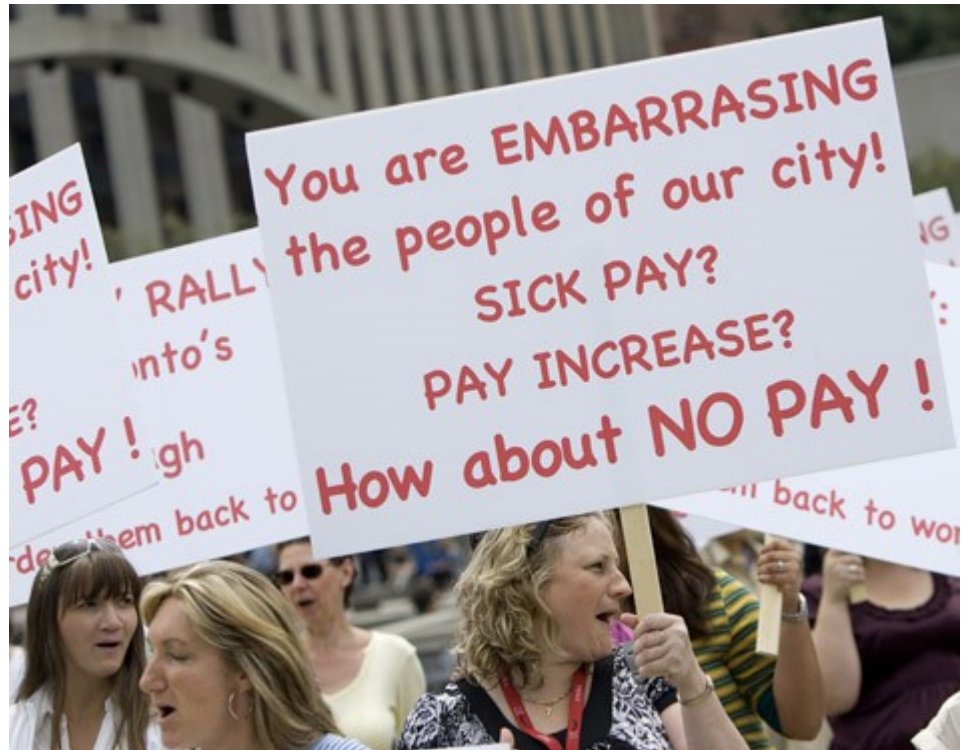


Photo of an anti-CUPE protest at City Hall by Aaron Lynett, National Post