

Strike Q&A: Garbage pickup, dump sites and day camps

Workers could return as soon as Friday if city council approves deal

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What's the earliest workers could be back on the job?

The union vote is expected Wednesday, and then city council must meet to approve the deal. That meeting is expected Friday, the earliest union members could get back to work. The city has promised to release detailed timelines once both sides ratify the agreement.

When will garbage pickup resume?

The earliest workers can return to the job is Friday, when city council is scheduled to vote on the tentative deal. The city has not said precisely when curbside trash pickup will resume, but in 2002, it took four days (or two business days) from the time the city and the unions sent their dispute to binding arbitration to the first curbside-pickup day.

Right now, homeowners are limited to throwing out what they can fit in city-issued trash and recycling bins. Considering the city has asked residents to stockpile trash and recycling, will they be allowed to throw out more? How should it be packaged?

Even if the garbage trucks start rolling quickly, the city could ask Torontonians to ration the amount of garbage they leave on the curb, at least at first. In 2002, the municipal government asked residents to postpone putting out garden waste or oversized garbage to help ease the resumption of curbside service. Yard-waste pickup resumed a week later.

How will the temporary dumps be cleaned?

The Toronto Environmental Alliance, a lobby group that works on green issues, contacted the city with this question, executive director Franz Hartmann said. The city told the TEA that staff will clear most of the waste at dump sites using front-end loaders and trucks, and the rest – for example, leftover waste dumped in areas inaccessible to heavy equipment – will be removed by hand. Once the trash is gone, power-washing will remove debris from hard surfaces, and the water runoff from that washing will be contained. Vacuum trucks will suck out areas where water has pooled.

When will city-owned daycares reopen?

The city has not specified a day yet. In 2002, it took four days for child-care centres to get up and running again.

When will the ferry to the island start running again?

It took two days for ferry service to resume in 2002.

When will city-owned pools reopen?

Pools were splash-ready after two days in 2002.

What happens to city-run summer camps?

Last time around, the city restarted its day camps. However, the 2002 strike was shorter (16 days) and ended earlier in the summer (July 11), so it will be up to the city to decide whether it's worthwhile to salvage what's left of the warmer months for camps.