

## Toronto working on plan to restore city services

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[Toronto on strike, resuming services](#)

*The city is working on plans to gradually ramp up suspended services as soon as striking workers and city council approve new contracts hammered out yesterday.*

Services are likely to resume on the weekend, pending votes by the union tomorrow and council on Friday. The city is currently hashing out its restoration of service plans and will brief the public on what to expect in the coming days.

Mayor David Miller said hopefully Toronto residents will enjoy curbside garbage collection next week for the first time in six weeks.

“That’s certainly our goal. In fact I’d like it picked up from my house,” Mr. Miller said. “My garage is a quite interesting place to be at the moment.”

But the Mayor warned not every service will resume the instant the strikers abandon their picket lines for logistical reasons.

“Some things will take a little bit longer than others,” he said. “If you’re using equipment, equipment has to be maintained before you can get it out. If you’re talking about a child care centre, you’re going to have to order food. I can’t give you details on that at this point, but we will do everything possible to restore services as quickly as possible, as normally as possible.”

But Mr. Miller said while the city would try to “minimize” the amount of overtime required of returning workers to conduct a full clean-up of Toronto, he stopped short of promising to cap it.

Windsor, Ont., where a 101-day strike by civic workers just ended, made no overtime one of the terms of its settlement.

In Toronto, such provisions haven’t been determined yet.

“Our goal is to minimize the amount of overtime, as much as possible, but there are certain things that need to be done,” Mr. Miller said today. “I think if you lived beside a temporary drop-off site next door you’d like it cleaned up as soon as possible. So we do want to minimize overtime, but I’m not going to stand here and say they’ll be none. I think that would be misleading to people and there are priorities that have to happen. If we have to bring a mechanic in to make sure that our trucks are functioning so we can have garbage pick-up, you have to do that. There are some things that have to be done and I know that Torontonians understand that.”

Councillor Doug Holyday (Etobicoke Centre) floated the idea of eliminating overtime during the clean up weeks ago in hopes of sending a clear message to striking workers they wouldn’t have a chance to make up the pay they were losing after.

He has resuscitated it again and said he will try to get support for such a motion at the council meeting on ratification Friday.

“It’s not going to be easy,” he said.

Mr. Holyday said he wouldn’t want to impede restoring the city to normal, but insisted striking workers shouldn’t get a reward.

“It will encourage them to go on strike again and stay out longer,” he said.