

5 Answers to your strike questions

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Q. Will I get a refund on my garbage fees?

A. (Mayor David) Miller said a decision on whether to reimburse residents for other services lost during the strike, such as garbage collection, hasn't been made yet, and that a "number of alternatives" are being explored.

Q. Will I get a property tax refund?

A. No. The mayor says that because renters don't pay property tax, a large portion of the city wouldn't be able to benefit from such a refund.

Q. When will the garbage be picked up?

A. That's unclear right now. On Monday, the mayor said striking workers wouldn't be returning until after city council and CUPE locals 416 and 79 ratify a tentative agreement. But a back-to-work protocol being worked on by both sides could change that.

Q. How much did the city save during the strike?

A. Miller and City manager Joe Pennachetti have been asked this question repeatedly during the strike. They say it's not an easy question to answer, but after the strike, a review will be done with results in the coming weeks. During the last garbage strike in 2002, the city lost money. The last civic strike in Toronto, a 16-day work stoppage in 2002, cost the city \$3.3 million. A post-strike report found saved costs totalled \$15.3 million, while strike-related costs totalled \$9.9 million, for a savings of \$5.4 million. However, the city suffered a loss of \$8.7 million in revenues.

Q. How much was the overtime bill?

A. Again, unclear, but councillor Case Ootes, a Miller critic, said the city should be cleaned up quickly, but overtime needs to be managed in a "responsible manner."