

City granted injunction to spray Christie Pits

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*City lawyers are in court trying to get an injunction to allow exterminators to spray the Christie Pits park dump site.
(MICHAEL PEAKE/SUN MEDIA)*

A Toronto judge has ordered CUPE strikers not to block the city from spraying pesticide on the Christie Pits garbage pile.

After hearing several hours of legal arguments by lawyers from the city and the union, Madame Justice Harvison-Young granted an injunction against the picketers blocking access to the site for the city's contract pest control

company.

The four-day order expires Wednesday and was described as an "extraordinary measure" during a labour dispute.

City lawyers went to court today to get the injunction to allow exterminators to spray the Christie Pits park dump site after strikers continued to block access.

Several times this week strikers have blocked the pest control company contracted by the city to spray the trash stockpiles.

Yesterday, Toronto's chief medical officer of health Dr. David McKeown issued an order under the province's Health Protection and Promotion Act demanding the city take action to spray the site.

That order came after Toronto Public Health inspectors spotted an insect infestation in the piles of garbage inside the park's outdoor hockey rink.

CUPE officials said they would comment after seeing a copy of the injunction.

Christie Pits has been a flashpoint of controversy since the city began dumping garbage in the park and 18 other temporary trash sites.

Protesting residents have also helped stop exterminators from spraying the site on occasion.

Many residents were protesting outside the courthouse today.

On Friday city officials announced the pits dumpsite would be closed Sunday night because it was nearing capacity, not due to protests.

The 80 tonnes of trash in the site will stay there until the end of the strike.

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