

# Council pay sacrifice likely to fail

By BRYN WEESE, SUN MEDIA

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Don't expect City Hall to trim any fat tomorrow.

Toronto politicians are likely to procedurally kill a motion tomorrow at city council that would freeze their salaries for 2009 and reject an automatic 1-3% cost-of-living increase.

Councillor Case Ootes is spearheading the motion, supported by Councillor Karen Stintz, but it will require two-thirds of the city's 45 councillors and Mayor to support it or else it will be sent to the Executive Committee to be "received" — or killed.

Late last year, councillors Frances Nunziata, Cesar Palacio, David Shiner, Michael Walker, Mike Feldman, Karen Stintz, Cliff Jenkins, Doug Holyday, and Peter Milczyn said they would support the motion, with other councillors, including Gord Perks, pledging they would not accept their pay increases.

The motion reads: "In times of this fiscal uncertainty it is important that the City of Toronto demonstrate restraint and prudent financial management to ensure the taxpayers of Toronto are not further burdened with increased costs ..."

Toronto city council, it continues, must reduce discretionary spending wherever possible, "including putting a freeze on the salaries of the Mayor and City Councillors."

Ootes tried to introduce the motion without proper notice last December, but it was ruled out of order and not "time sensitive," and Councillor Michael Walker had tried to do the same back in March.

Earlier this year, Toronto Mayor David Miller said he would not accept his own automatic increase but would not support a motion to legislate it.

In 2006, city council passed a 8.9% pay hike for themselves, which raised their pay from \$87,214 to \$95,000. With last year's cost-of-living increase, councillors now make \$96,805.02 and Miller earns \$163,040 as mayor.

In February 2006, Walker also tried to introduce a motion in council that would roll back the 8.9% pay hike. He failed to keep the motion from being referred to the Executive Committee —where it died —28 votes to 14.

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