

No interest* until 2012
with equal payments and minimum purchase of \$999 on TVs and home theatre



Freeze councillors' pay

January 27, 2009

In what some say is the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, and with contract talks scheduled this year for the City of Toronto's employees, city councillors could deliver a welcome message of restraint today by freezing their own salaries.

Every city department has been asked to put forward a zero budget increase for the coming year. And Mayor David Miller, to his credit, has already frozen his own pay at last year's level – \$163,040.

Now councillors are being asked to do the same by forgoing an automatic cost of living increase (about 2 per cent) to their current \$96,805 salary. It would serve the city well if they followed Miller's example and kept to their existing pay level.

There is murmuring against the freeze from some councillors, especially those without alternative careers or outside sources of income. But this argument misses the point: most municipal workers – the people who pick up garbage, answer the phones at city hall, issue permits, and keep the water flowing – have no outside income. And they are being asked to forgo significant wage increases.

No one expects money saved through a freeze of councillors' pay to make a big dent in the budget. But it would have a positive impact on staff morale and employees' willingness to limit their own wage demands.