


CTV TORONTO

Wed. Sep. 26 2007 5:16 PM ET

Advertisement


Council votes to reopen rec. centres full-time
toronto.ctv.ca

Toronto's 130 community centres will reopen full-time next month after city council reversed an earlier decision to keep them closed on Mondays.

Council voted unanimously on Wednesday afternoon to reopen the centres. Full service will resume Oct. 15.

A debate on the issue took place for most of Wednesday, though most politicians agreed the centres should reopen as soon as possible.

Mayor David Miller, who presented a motion to reopen the centres, came under fire for agreeing to shut down the centres in the first place. His peers grilled him on why he allowed that to happen without council's approval.

Miller said he's agreeing to reverse the decision because of the impact it has had on the public, but warned cuts would come and they would probably hurt.

"We are Canada's sixth largest government now -- we are not a small city, we are an enormous city," he said to council.

"We cannot manage public health, social services, public transit, recreation services -- all those things that need investment -- without sources of revenue that grow with economic growth."

Miller said the push to keep the centres open is proof council can do great things when they work together. He called on councillors to put their differences aside in



Toronto Mayor David Miller speaks in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2007.



A community centre sits empty Monday, Sept. 17, 2007.

PLAY THE TORONTO ZOO SILHOUETTE CHALLENGE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A TRIP FOR FOUR TO CHINA!

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT HOW TO PLAY](#)

toronto ZOO UP CLOSE. REAL. EYE TO AIR CANADA VACATIONS

VIDEO

CTV Toronto: Desmond Brown reports from council hall 1:21

RELATED STORIES

- Council to vote on community centre closure
- T.O. could face property tax hike: city council
- Miller wants to reopen community centres on Mondays
- Council meeting to discuss city cuts can be avoided
- Miller offers deal on community centre closures

USER TOOLS

- Print This Page
- E-Mail Story
- Feedback

Toronto's best interest.

Earlier this month, the doors at community centres were locked on Mondays as part of cost-cutting measures. Toronto is facing a \$575 million budget shortfall next year.

Toronto's fiscal crisis has forced staff to scale back municipal services. Nearly \$83 million in service cuts have already been identified this year in various city departments. Other measures include delaying the opening of outdoor ice rinks until January and reducing library services.

The cutbacks were announced in July after councillors voted to defer a vote on two controversial taxes until after next month's provincial election.

Miller maintains the proposed land transfer tax and vehicle registration fee are important revenue tools that will help alleviate Toronto's cash crunch.

A motion presented by Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong on Wednesday to scrap the Sunday library closings and have outdoor rinks open on Dec. 1 as normal was ruled out of order.

Miller has said the city should be able to open rinks on time this winter if the new taxes are approved.

The mayor's tax proposal goes back to council for another vote on Oct. 22.

The taxes could raise \$350 million for the cash-strapped city.

With a report from CTV's Desmond Brown

TOP STORIES

- [Council votes to reopen rec. centres full-time](#)
- [McGuinty confronted by angry cancer patient](#)
- [Anti-poverty, taxi protests jam Toronto streets](#)
- [Three ancient skeletons unearthed at old T.O. jail](#)
- [CTV Toronto 6 p.m. newscast](#)

[About CTV](#) | [Careers](#) | [CTV Announcements](#) | [Advertise on TV](#) | [CTV Media](#) | [Advertise on Web](#)

[Archive Sales](#) | [Tapes and Transcripts](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#)

