

Reopening centres likely on agenda

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A move to reopen community centres on Mondays will be the first order of business at city hall today, if Mayor David Miller can bring his fractured council on side.

"I would expect that council will allow it to be discussed, because everyone wants us to do it - left, right and centre," deputy mayor Joe Pantalone said yesterday, confirming Mr. Miller's plan for the council session that opens today.

Last week, under pressure from the public and council critics, the mayor announced he would ask council to reverse a cost-cutting measure to close community centres on Mondays, part of a larger \$34-million package announced in August by city manager Shirley Hoy, at the mayor's request.

If Mr. Miller's request succeeds, community centres would reopen Oct. 15, allowing time to hire back part-time staff for drop-in and leisure activities. No city programs offered, as registration for them closed weeks ago.

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Normally, the mayor can designate up to two key issues as priorities for debate without asking for council permission. But in this case, the mayor's notice of motion needs support of two-thirds of council, or 30 votes, to add the item to the agenda and to open a debate.

Yesterday, one of the mayor's main critics on council expressed support for the move.

"I am fine with that," said Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong, with the proviso that Mr. Miller does not use his motion to open a wider debate on two new city taxes slated for a council vote on Oct. 22.

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