

Mayor's critics shut out from plum jobs

By **ANTONELLA ARTUSO**

Last Updated: 3rd December 2008, 4:31am

The unofficial opposition at City Hall was feeling left out -- or is that right out -- as the mayor-led majority grabbed all the best spots on city committees.

Councillor Michael Walker went so far as to draw an unflattering comparison between the mayor and another politician who stands accused of trying to undermine his opposition. "You know who (Prime Minister Stephen) Harper reminds me of -- he reminds me of David Miller," he said.

Miller retorted that unlike Harper, he was not proposing to prorogue. (Harper may try to adjourn Parliament to thwart the opposition coalition's bid for power.)

The resentment bubbled up yesterday as council was asked to OK the recommendations of the striking committee, which makes council member appointments to agencies, boards, commissions and committees.

Several councillors who routinely challenge the mayor's agenda complained that they were excluded from their first, second and even third choice of positions.

Councillor Adam Vaughan said councillors who object to the process can build a consensus among their colleagues for change. "If you don't like the rules, change them," "It's the duty of the mayor to lead, and I got elected on a clear mandate," Miller said.

Copyright © 2008 Toronto Sun All Rights Reserved