

Holiday Shopping Subcommittee Consultations Summary

October 29, 2012



Retail Business Holidays

1. New Year's Day
2. Family Day
3. Good Friday
4. Easter Sunday
5. Victoria Day
6. Canada Day
7. Labour Day
8. Thanksgiving Day
9. Christmas Day

Current Situation

Authority for regulating retail business holidays shifted from the Province to the City through the City of Toronto Act in 2006.

As an interim measure, City Council adopted Municipal Code, Chapter 510, Holiday Shopping in 2006.

Ongoing issues with current policy:

- *Current situation considered unfair by some,*
- *Exemptions by size, type and area are confusing,*
- *Concern about maintaining common days of pause, and*
- *Increasing competition from other jurisdictions.*



City Council Request

- Second round of public consultations on this topic requested by City Council at its meeting on May 11 and 12, 2010.
- Council requested further consultation with all stakeholders including:
 - Business Improvement Areas (BIAs)
 - Community Groups
 - Members of Council
 - Workers Action Centre
 - Legal clinics and others who represent employees



Holiday Shopping Subcommittee

In September 14, 2011, Economic Development Committee established a Subcommittee to work with the General Manager of Economic Development and Culture to develop and undertake the consultations.

Holiday Shopping Subcommittee members:

- **Councillor Mary Fragedakis (Chair)**
 - **Councillor Sarah Doucette**
 - **Councillor Josh Colle**

Consultation Process

- Held 15 meetings (5 public meetings and 10 stakeholder meetings) across the city between November 2011 and June 2012.
- Conducted a telephone poll through Environics Research Group, of Toronto households over a two week period in October and November 2011.
- Conducted an online survey through the City of Toronto website between November 2011 and July 2012.
- Developed a website, email address and telephone line to provide information and receive additional feedback.

Consultation Summary

- Most comprehensive consultation of holiday shopping conducted by the City of Toronto to date.
- 226 people attended the public and stakeholder meetings.
- Telephone poll of 500 people through Environics Research Group.
- Responses from 7,846 people through the online survey.
- Received additional feedback by email and mail: including 1 petition with 108 signatures, 50 emails, and 9 letters.
- Public meetings identified 14 different “lenses” the city should consider when making a decision on this topic.

14 Different “Lenses”

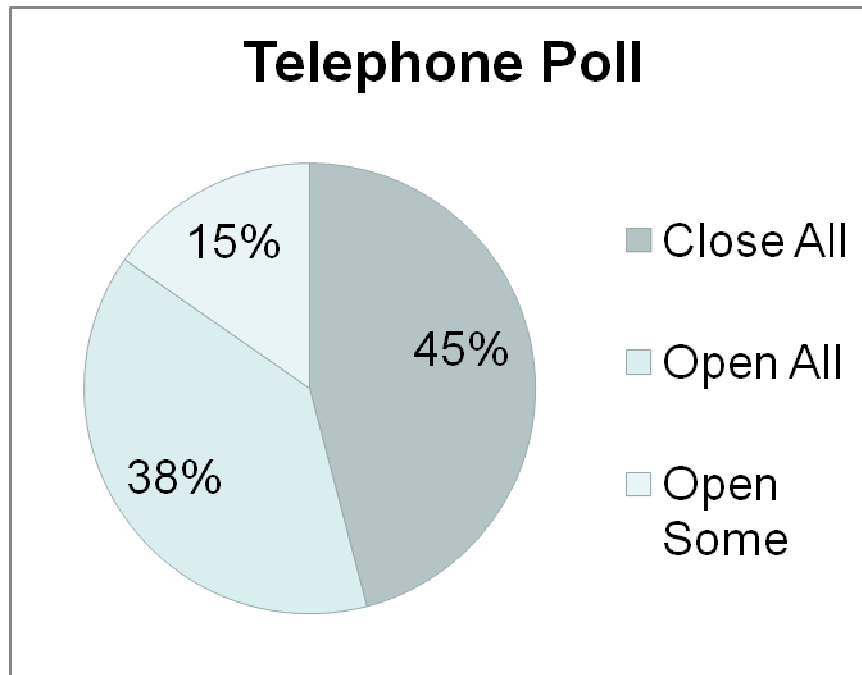


 = Additional ‘Lens’ added through public meetings

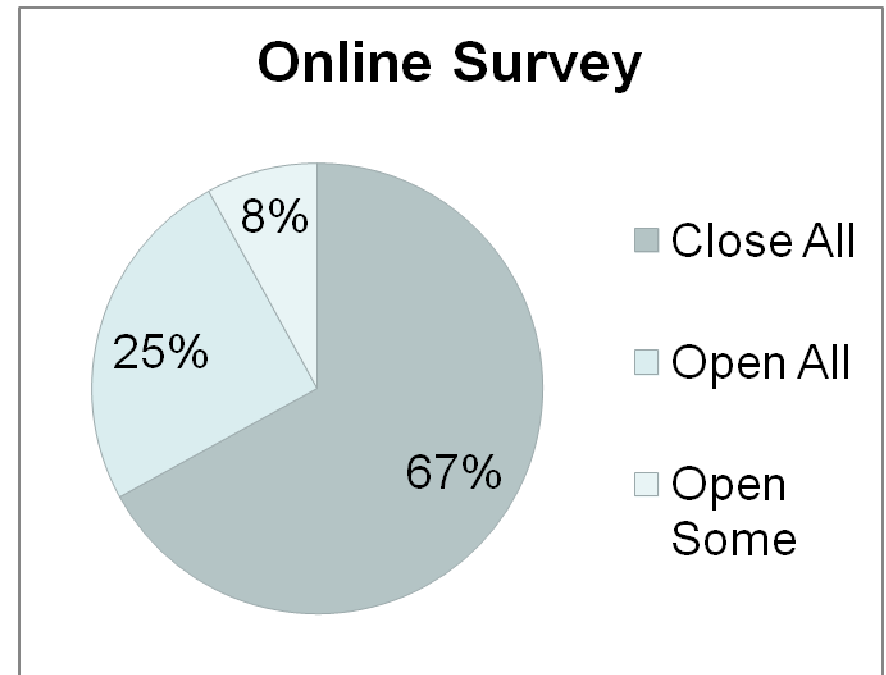
Holiday Shopping Meetings

- Representatives of BIAs, large retailers (with one notable exception), shopping centres, and the Retail Council of Canada are in favour of permitting shopping on holidays.
- Representatives from labour, one legal clinic and the Workers Action Centre are not in favour of permitting shopping on holidays.
- Representatives from several different faith-based organizations said the current religious holidays should be maintained, and the City should increase the number of religious holidays to reflect the diversity of the city.
- Participants at the public consultations raised concerns about access of municipal services such as public transit and childcare on holidays.
- Representatives of pharmacies raised concerns about access to prescription medication on holidays.

Telephone Poll and Online Survey



Conducted over a two week period from October and November 2011.



Conducted over an eight month period from November 2011 to July 2012.

Consultation Findings

- Complex issue with many stakeholders and many different points of view.
- Heard that the existing regime of regulations, exemptions and exceptions creates an unlevel and often confusing playing field.
- Consultations were successful in soliciting input and provided a forum for a frank and respectful exchange of views.
- Request for more information on how other jurisdictions regulate shopping on holidays.



Thank You.