



**Canadian Union of
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April 26, 2011

Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong, Chair
And Members, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Minnan-Wong and Members, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

**RE: Agenda Item PW3.1 – Solid Waste Management Services Garbage Collection
Request for Quotations (RFQs)**

Private contractors want to get control of Toronto's garbage collection and make bags of money. The argument about how much money will be saved by contracting out this service can easily be disputed by the experiences in other jurisdictions.

One of the most disturbing developments in this privatization controversy is the possible lack of transparency for the awarding of this \$250 million contract and no opportunity for open public discussion.

City Council has no say in this. The Councillors elected to represent the Toronto citizens in their Ward won't get a say in how this contract is awarded because it's not being debated at Council at all. Instead, on today's agenda of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee is the request for approval to delegate authority to the Bid Committee in order to expedite the award process for the RFQs. Any decisions and discussions on this important public service should be made at City Council, in open Council Chambers where the public can see and hear exactly what is going on.

The Cities of Ottawa and Peterborough found out the hard way of the costs of privatizing garbage collection and voted to keep garbage service public – because in the end it was cheaper.

Haste, a total lack of transparency of process and decision-making for Councillors or taxpayers, no debate or vote by Council and no guarantees on what this will eventually end up costing – that is what is on the agenda for the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.

Yours truly,

Ann Dembinski
President