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Garbage threat won't leave trash at curb

Toronto has already signed new deal

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer



ANDY CAMPBELL, York Region waste management director says there's no need to worry.

Don't worry about putting your garbage out at the curb if a truck hauler bails on its contract to deliver York's trash, the region's director of waste management said.

"It's not a crisis," said Andy Campbell, adding the region can rely on other haulers to get rid of its waste, if necessary.

Wilson Logistics Inc. told the region Wednesday it can no longer afford to deliver York's garbage to Michigan for the \$35 a tonne agreed to in its contract.

The company sent the same message to Toronto and Peel Region, telling officials there it will discontinue service March 31.

Toronto has already struck a deal to keep its trash moving to Michigan, deciding to dump Wilson from a 20-year contract.

Verspeeten Cartage Ltd. of Ingersoll secured the city's waste contract Thursday.

Meanwhile, Wilson has told York it is willing to continue hauling garbage beyond March 31, but it wants to re-negotiate the contract, Mr. Campbell said.

"They're looking to increase revenue in doing the work or they're threatening to stop doing the work," said Mr. Campbell, who would not disclose how much more money Wilson is seeking.

"They've given us a proposal and we're going to start negotiating and talking about it."

Negotiations will take place over the next week, he said.

Wilson argues delays at the Canada-U.S. border after the attacks in the United States Sept. 11, 2001 added to rising costs.

The company told Toronto officials costs have soared by more than \$4 million a year.

Regardless of the outcome, the dispute will not affect residents, Mr. Campbell said.

Under the contract, the Michigan landfill to which Wilson hauls York's trash would have to step in and pick up the waste, he said.

Also, York has contracts with two other haulers.

Only six of the 30 trucks of garbage York sends to three landfills daily is hauled by Wilson.

The company's dispute with Toronto is more critical because the city has all its eggs in one basket, Mr. Campbell said.

Toronto uses only Wilson to haul its trash to one landfill in Michigan, while York has three haulers taking 210,000 tonnes of garbage annually to three sites, two in Michigan and another in St. Thomas.

"When it's only six trucks (a day for York), it's not a crisis," Mr. Campbell noted.

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