

Government Management Committee releases 'top debtors' list

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A new report released by the Government Management Committee at City Hall reveals Toronto's biggest debtors when it comes to paying property taxes.

The names of private land owners have been withheld on the report, but companies that owe are listed.

As of June 30th of this year, the City has 18 accounts on its books owing at least a half million dollars in tax receivables. Together they owe the City \$23 million in tax receivables.

Among the owners of some of that property are the CBC, Public Works Canada, and National Defence, though the debts actually belong to tenants who rented from them that didn't pay up. Some of them can't be found. Now there is a bit of a battle for that money between the the levels of government. That has some Councillors on the Government management Committee frustrated.

Some of those cases are currently going through various appeals, and in some cases, the City is trying to get the missing money back directly from the feds.

"Six million of the \$23 million is owed to us by the federal government," says Committee Chair Paul Ainslie.

In a typical case, after some time, the City could take over the property or auction it for a starting bid equivalent to the taxes owed. Ainslie says they can't do that with federally-owned property.

The good news is that there has been a steady drop over the years in the amount of accounts on this yearly list. At this time 11 years ago, 45 accounts owed almost \$70 million.

[Click here to view the full report by the Government Management Committee.](#)

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