

OC Transpo buses back on road

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Councillors miffed by OC Transpo maintenance backlog

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Ottawa Sun

OC Transpo says problems affecting service Monday and Tuesday were corrected in time for yesterday morning's commute and that all buses took the road and completed their runs.

"All service went out. There are no problems that I'm aware of that have been reported," a spokesman said yesterday.

Fifty-two buses required additional maintenance Monday, causing widespread disruption of service. It's believed about 94 runs were cancelled.

After OC Transpo general manager Alain Mercier told city councillors in a memo that all would be well Tuesday, at least 27 buses didn't make it out of the starting blocks, forcing the cancellation of 55 runs.

In the memo, Mercier said there wasn't enough space in maintenance facilities to service all the buses that required work after sitting idle for extended periods of time over the holidays.

Noting that "it's not rocket science," River Coun. Maria McRae said it's unacceptable that the buses weren't ready for the first full work day of the new year.

Orleans Coun. Bob Monette called for a review of bus maintenance issues.

Transit committee chairman Alex Cullen said the glitch was "a very disappointing way to start the year and unexpected as well."

Cullen said he will pursue the matter when the committee next meets Jan. 20.

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