
Sent via email to: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

July 22, 2019

The Honourable Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park,
777 Bay St, 5th Floor,
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Re: Appreciation for the Special Advisor's Table on Recycling and Plastic Waste

Dear Minister Yurek,

We are writing to thank your government for initiating the consultation on transitioning the Blue Box to full producer responsibility under the *Resource Productivity and Circular Economy Act, 2016* (RRCEA), as well as commending David Lindsay and Ministry staff for their hard work and leadership throughout the process.

This process, which directly engaged key participants, allowed for a mutual understanding of each other's perspectives and the establishment of a pathway forward. We appreciate the leadership of many of those around the Table to achieve this greater consensus and believe a great deal of good will has been built between the stakeholders.

Mr. Lindsay was effective at mediating the discussion and ensuring that all stakeholders were heard. The discussions he led remained respectful and solutions-focused. He also appears to have established a balance between the interests of municipal governments and producers while achieving the government's objectives of improved environmental performance and a seamless transition.

All stakeholders understand the compelling need for timely action on this file and appear increasingly aligned on the necessary next steps. We understand more heavy lifting is necessary in the development of a regulation; however, we are confident through continued collaboration reasonable solutions can be achieved.

We hope we can maintain the progress already achieved to date through:

- A letter to formally initiate the timeline to wind-down the current system under the *Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016* (e.g. wind-up Stewardship Ontario) and alter O. Reg 101/94 to allow for responsibility to be transitioned from municipalities to producers; and

- A response from the government to the recommendations in Mr. Lindsay's report to provide guidance on the principles on which a new regulation will be developed under the RRCEA.

With global momentum building to reduce waste, increase diversion and improving recycling, transitioning the Blue Box program is an opportunity for Ontario to show commitment and leadership.

We would be pleased to meet with you at an upcoming Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) meeting or at a time of your convenience to discuss further once you have considered the Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie McGarvey', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jamie McGarvey
AMO President
Mayor of Parry Sound

cc: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
David Lindsay, Special Advisor, Recycling and Plastic Waste
Serge Imbrogno, Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Alison Pilla, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Policy Division, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Charles O'Hara, A/ Director, Resource Recovery Policy Branch, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks