

Memorandum

To: Members of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario (RPWCO) Waste Subcommittee, and Municipal Waste Association (MWA)

From: Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Vincent Sferrazza, Co-Chair, RPWCO Waste Subcommittee
Dave Gordon, Co-Chair, RPWCO Waste Subcommittee
Shirley McLean, Chair, Municipal Waste Association

Date: October 16, 2014

Re: Cancellation of Phase 2 MHSW Program – Municipal Agreements with Private Companies

Further to the cancellation of the Phase 2 Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) Program by the Province of Ontario as of October 1, 2014, we understand that your municipality may have been approached by some private sector companies or steward associations looking to establish voluntary collection programs for individual materials. Specifically, we are aware that Product Care is interested in managing tube and compact fluorescent light bulbs and Call2Recycle is interested in managing rechargeable batteries. Others may have come forward as well.

After discussing this matter at the AMO Waste Management Task Force meeting on September 30, 2014, it was recommended that municipalities not sign an agreement with any company or association on an individual basis. Rather, it was agreed that AMO, RPWCO, and MWA members work as a group to negotiate an agreement for all interested member municipalities. This is the best way to ensure all AMO, RPWCO, and MWA members' interests are protected and to ensure we mutually advance our financial and operational needs. If individual municipalities negotiate an agreement, one municipality may receive a superior agreement over another. Consequently, this erodes the ability for all to negotiate a fair agreement.

Ultimately, each municipality will of course have the autonomy to determine what the best agreement is for their respective community. However it was felt that negotiating as a group would provide the best results for the municipal sector as a whole.

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A similar process was undertaken when negotiating the annual agreement with Stewardship Ontario for the management of Phase 1 MHSW materials. In the end, we felt that negotiated agreement was in the best interest of all member municipalities.

A joint letter from AMO, RPWCO, and MWA will be sent to advise impacted private companies and associations that they must negotiate jointly with the 3 municipal associations, not with individual municipalities. A similar letter will be sent to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change advising them of this process.

We will be creating a team of management staff that are familiar with this matter to lead these negotiations on behalf of AMO, RPWCO, and MWA members. Additional technical support will be utilized from the MWA MHSW Committee.