



Good Afternoon,

My name is Dr. Calvin Lakhan, Co-Investigator of the Waste Wiki project in the faculty of Environmental Studies at York University.

This letter is to request the City of London's participation in Diabetes Canada's used clothing bin program. Diabetes Canada is presently partnered with York University to conduct Canada's first national study on textile waste diversion, identifying the economic, environmental and social impacts of textile diversion for municipalities. Your municipalities' participation in this study is vital, as our findings are presently being used to inform new legislation regarding the management of used textiles in Ontario.

We firmly believe the City of London and Diabetes Canada can mutually benefit from a formal partnership, and Diabetes Canada is prepared to address any concerns regarding level of service to your community. At present, it is estimated that more than **30 million pounds of used textiles are being generated by households in the City of London**. This not only represents a significant amount of material being sent to landfills (**more than 85% of used textiles presently goes to landfills**), but it is a missed opportunity to generate revenue for critical, life-saving diabetes research.

Diabetes Canada and York University would like to work with the City of London in developing a comprehensive used clothing donation program in your region. We would like to identify means and methods to support textile diversion through the placement of donation bins at community centres, multi residential buildings and other public space. Working the City of London staff, Diabetes Canada and York University would like to explore how municipal by-laws can enable the recovery of used textiles, while addressing concerns surrounding contamination, cleanliness and accessibility. Diabetes Canada is uniquely positioned as a recognized charitable brand that has the requisite collection and processing infrastructure to ensure that used textiles are being managed effectively and responsibly.

Our own research has highlighted how imperative it is for households to recognize who the operator of the bin actually is. "Charity masqueraders" (for profit enterprises that resell textiles) actually discourage household participation, as households are unsure as to what actually happens to their donation. An

important element of this is to have clothing bins with municipal branding, indicating an approved charitable partner.

We welcome the opportunity to work the City of London in developing a sustainable textile diversion program and including your municipality as part of the university's national textile diversion study.

Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Lakhan'.

Dr. Calvin Lakhan

Co-Investigator "The Waste Wiki Project" @FES
<http://wastewiki.info.yorku.ca/>

Faculty of Environmental Studies
York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
416-736-2100 ext: 22612
HNES 263B

