

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 24, 2017</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>JAY STANFORD, M.A., M.P.A. DIRECTOR - ENVIRONMENT, FLEET &amp; SOLID WASTE</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>UPDATES - PROPOSED BLUE BOX PROGRAM PLAN AMENDMENT AND WASTE FREE ONTARIO ACT</b>

**RECOMMENDATION**

That on the recommendation of the Director, Environment, Fleet & Solid Waste, the updates on the proposed Blue Box Program Plan Amendment and *Waste Free Ontario Act* **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER**

Relevant reports that can be found at [www.london.ca](http://www.london.ca) under City Hall (Meetings) include:

- Comments on Environmental Bill of Rights Registry – Discussion Paper: Addressing Food and Organic Waste in Ontario (July 17, 2017 Civic Works Committee (CWC), Item #12)
- Update and Next Steps – Resource Recovery Strategy and Residual Waste Disposal Strategy as part of the Environmental Assessment Process (February 7, 2017 meeting of the Civic Works Committee (CWC), Item #10)
- Updates: Garbage and Recycling Collection and Next Steps (January 10, 2017 meeting of the CWC, Item #13)
- Comments on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry - Proposed Waste Free Ontario Act and Draft – Strategy for Waste Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy (February 2, 2016 meeting of the CWC, Item #14)

**COUNCIL’S 2015-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN**

Municipal Council has recognized the importance of solid waste management in its 2015-2019 - Strategic Plan for the City of London ([2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan](#)) as follows:

**Building a Sustainable City**

- Strong and healthy environment
- Robust infrastructure

**Growing our Economy**

- Local, regional, and global innovation
- Strategic, collaborative partnerships

**Leading in Public Service**

- Proactive financial management
- Innovative & supportive organizational practices
- Collaborative, engaged leadership
- Excellent service delivery

**BACKGROUND**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Civic Works Committee (CWC) and Council with an update on potential changes to the Blue Box Program and other parts of the waste diversion program as a result the *Waste Free Ontario Act* including the Province’s Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy (February 2017).

## CONTEXT

In November 2015, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) introduced a new legislative framework for managing waste in Ontario under Bill 151, *Waste Free Ontario Act* (WFOA). The legislation is comprised of two Acts, the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act* (RRCEA), and the *Waste Diversion Transition Act* (WDTA). Bill 151 received Royal Assent in June 2016 and was proclaimed November 30, 2016.

The MOECC also published the final Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy in February 2017, a requirement of the *Waste Free Ontario Act, 2016*, (WFOA), which outlines a road map for resource recovery and waste reduction for Ontario. It also:

- sets a vision and goals including interim waste diversion goals for 2020 (30%), 2030 (50%) and 2050 (80%). These goals will be measured across three waste streams: residential waste; institutional, commercial & industrial (IC&I) waste; and construction, renovation & demolition (CR&D) waste;
- articulates key government actions to support implementation of the vision and goals; and
- identifies performance measures to measure progress towards achieving the vision and goals.

The new legislation has started the movement towards full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which will require companies that produce or import products to manage the end-of-life requirements for their products and packaging. Initially EPR will be applied to products and packages that have existing programs and are considered designated materials: tires, municipal hazardous and special waste, electronics and Blue Box materials. Other materials such as carpets, mattresses and furniture will be considered in the future.

The transition of the various designated materials to new regulations under the WFOA will be strongly influenced by how producers choose to meet their regulatory obligations that will be outlined in upcoming regulations. As reported several times over the last couple of years by City staff, these changes and transitions will result in changes to the City's role for managing the various diversion programs presently in place for designated materials.

In addition, the Strategy commits the MOECC to a Food and Organic Waste Action Plan that will contain numerous actions directed at reducing and diverting food and organic waste from disposal facilities. At its July 25, 2017 meeting, Municipal Council submitted comments to the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry posting entitled Discussion Paper: Addressing Food and Organic Waste in Ontario. A draft Food and Organic Waste Framework is expected to be released for consultation in late fall with implementation expected in spring 2018.

## DISCUSSION

### Blue Box Program Plan Amendment

The Strategy requires that there will be a transition from the current Blue Box program, which is municipally managed and co-funded by industry and municipalities, toward an EPR program (i.e., managed by industry that produces and/or manages the materials in the recycling program). The EPR program will require producers to take full financial and operational responsibility for all Ontario municipal Blue Box programs.

The City should benefit financially from full EPR since the current funding arrangement results in producers paying municipalities for less than 50 per cent of the costs of managing their Blue Box programs. This could amount to additional funding for London in the order of \$1.5 to \$3.5 million per year depending on a number of factors including what recyclable materials are ultimately designated (i.e., materials 'eligible' under the EPR program), how recycling assets such as materials recovery facilities are handled financially, etc.

The proposed timeline outlined in the Strategy to complete the transition of the Blue Box program from municipally managed to an EPR program was 2022. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario (RPWCO) and several others urged the Province to start the transition sooner than later due to the amount of money at stake for municipalities.

On August 14, 2017, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change requested development of an amended Blue Box Program Plan (BBPP) that would include the potential for municipalities to transition their programs to producers sooner than outlined in the Strategy. AMO's review of the letter and its implications to municipalities is provided in Appendix A. The amended BBPP is a necessary step to lay the ground work and changes required while the full EPR program is being developed technically, financially and legislatively by the Province and industry.

The amended BBPP is being developed by Stewardship Ontario. Appendix B outlines the steps that are being proposed for the transition. The transition process and associated rules are designed to take municipalities from where they are now to the full EPR program. Municipalities will be able to transition quickly or over a period of time.

Transitioned municipalities will have the option to:

- act as a service provider to the producers who are required to pay for the programs;
- work with private companies that may use existing municipal infrastructure; or,
- opt out from providing Blue Box program service altogether, which would require producers to provide for this service.

There is also what is called a non-transitioned municipality. It is not clear at this time how a non-transitioned municipality will be funded by industry.

Because the rules and obligations for each of these options and the requirements of transitioned versus non-transitioned municipalities are not known at this time, it is not possible to assess which option may be best for London. For example, the role of the City's Regional Material Recovery Facility (MRF) will change with the move to an EPR system; however there are no details on what options are being considered for recycling program assets at this time.

Based on best available information in Ontario and a review of jurisdictions with EPR programs suggest that the following are likely items being considered as part of future Blue Box Programs in Ontario under EPR:

- Standardized mix of recyclable materials collected in all curbside and multi-residential programs across Ontario. This could mean more materials being recycled or less materials being recycled in this method;
- The shift to other types of collection systems (e.g., drop-off depots, return to retail, etc.) for some recyclable materials including the addition of new materials;
- A standardized base of promotion, education and awareness materials to be used province-wide including media advertising;
- Collection frequencies that may differ from existing programs in place in Ontario;
- Standardization in collection methods (i.e., all programs must separate into two streams, or possibly all must implement single stream collection);
- Standardization in collection containers such as Blue Box sizes, use of roll-out Blue Carts for curbside collection; and
- Unit rate payments to municipalities allocated to specific services (e.g., collection local promotion materials, administration, etc.) to cover recycling programs costs.

Preliminary consultation on the development of the amendments to the BBPP is underway and it is expected that formal municipal feedback on the amendments will occur in December and January. On October 2, 2017 Stewardship Ontario and the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) released their Communications Plan for the BBPP (Appendix C).

An amended BBPP will be presented to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change by February 15, 2018.

## **Food and Organic Waste Action Plan**

The Strategy commits the MOECC to the development and implementation of a Food and Organic Waste Action Plan. The Strategy also proposes that the first policy statement under the RRCEA, 2016 will focus on food and organic waste. According to the MOECC, the Action Plan and resulting framework aims to:

- *“Reduce the amount of food that becomes waste*
- *Remove food and organic waste from the disposal stream*
- *Reduce greenhouse gas emissions that result from food and organic waste*
- *Support and stimulate end markets that recover the value from food and organic wastes*
- *Increase accountability of responsible parties*
- *Improve data on food and organic waste*
- *Enhance promotion and education regarding food and organic waste”*  
(MOECC; Addressing Food and Organic Waste in Ontario, 2017)

Based on the details released by MOECC to date as well as a review of the Strategy document suggests the draft Action Plan may include these items:

- Definitions for food and organics waste including estimated numbers on generation rates for different sectors;
- Targets for food and organic waste reduction and diversion from landfill;
- Possible mandatory food and organic waste programs for municipalities over 50,000 population (as is currently in place for leaf and yard waste) and above a specific population density; and
- Ban on disposal of food and organic waste at transfer stations and disposal facilities.

It is anticipated that operational elements (i.e., how to do it) will be left entirely up to the municipality. In addition, there is no current consideration for any funding for food and organic waste management. It has been noted that when industry starts paying 100% for recycling services, municipalities will have program savings that Municipal Councils can determine how this can be re-allocated within the municipality and/or used to reduce waste diversion program costs.

Current information suggests that the next posting from MOECC will be on the EBR in November and December, 2017 for a 60 day period. City staff will update CWC at that time.

## **Used Tires Stewardship**

Used tires have been in a full EPR program for several years. The current EPR program is being wound down to be replaced with a new program. Most used tires in London are handled by automotive garages; however residents can bring them to the City's EnviroDepots.

On February 17, 2017 the Ontario Minister of the Environment and Climate Change issued direction to Ontario Tire Stewardship (OTS) to develop a wind up plan for the Used Tires Program (UTP). This plan is to be submitted to RPRA by October 31, 2017. The RPRA is expected to approve the plan no later than March 31, 2018, with the UTP to be fully wound-up on December 31, 2018.

Assuming the transition runs smoothly to the new EPR Program, this transition will have little impact on the City of London and/or automotive garages.

## **Electronics and Municipal Hazardous & Special Waste (MHSW) Stewardship**

Electronics have been under an EPR program for several years (Ontario Electronics Stewardship - OES). Current information suggests that it will begin a wind down and transition process in mid to late 2018. Similar to used tires, the transition process will take over a year and should have minimal impact in London.

MHSW, under a partial EPR program, will be a more challenging program to transition as it involves many different materials that if not handled properly, may pose risks to

human health or the environment. Currently, the Product Care Association (PCA), a federally incorporated, not-for-profit, product stewardship company coordinates activities in Ontario for many of the items that arrive at the City's Household Special Waste (HSW) Depot. PCA operates a program called ReGeneration through Stewardship Ontario. Current information suggests that it will begin a wind down and transition process in mid to late 2018 and will likely take over a year to complete.

City staff will update CWC on both the initiatives when more details are known.

**Impact on Schedules for Future Reports on Achieving 60% Diversion and Resource Recovery Strategy**

The current information and final directions and requirements of the Blue Box Program Plan Amendment and the Food and Organic Waste Action Plan will influence the ability to complete two key projects by the tentative timeframes originally proposed in the February 2017. Revised timeframes are presented below.

	Tentative Timeframe	Revised Timeframe
Draft 60% Diversion Action Plan	February 2018	March - April 2018
Final 60% Diversion Action Plan	March 2018	May – June 2018
Draft Resource Recovery Strategy	March 2018	May - June 2018
Final Resource Recovery Strategy	March 2018	July – August 2018

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This report was prepared with assistance from Wesley Abbott, Project Manager, Solid Waste Management.

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Appendix A: AMO's review of the Minister's Letter and its implications to municipalities

Appendix B: The Future of the Blue Box Graphic

Appendix C: Summary: Stakeholder and Indigenous Peoples Engagement and Communications Plan for the Development of the Proposed Amendment to the Blue Box Program Plan

# Appendix A

## AMO's Review of the Minister's Letter and its Implications to Municipalities

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### The Waste-Free Ontario Act: What it Means for Current and Future Waste Diversion Programs in Your Municipality, September 2017 (Updated)

In November 2016, the Waste Diversion Act was repealed and replaced by the Waste-Free Ontario Act, which includes both the Waste Diversion Transition Act and the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act.

This new legislation will have a major impact on municipal waste management and, most importantly, on waste diversion programs you may operate now or have planned for the future.

#### The transition to full producer responsibility

The cost to run programs for collecting and recycling paper products and packaging is now split 50/50 between municipalities and the companies that produce these items. The new legislation will transfer to full producer responsibility.

This concept will be applied initially for paper products and packaging (e.g. glass, plastics), tires, hazardous wastes and electronics. Other materials such as mattresses, carpets and furniture will be considered in the future.

The new legislation has started the movement toward full producer responsibility, but there is still a lot of work to do. Regulations must be drafted and all the details of the new system must be resolved.

#### Phase 1 of the Blue Box Transition

Municipal Blue Box recycling programs will undergo some of the biggest changes, as municipalities will have new options – to act as service providers to producers who are responsible for collection and management of paper products and packaging, either directly or by subcontracting to private sector companies, or to opt out from providing a service altogether.

It is in the best interest of municipal governments that this work gets done as quickly as possible, particularly given the risks of delays due to the upcoming provincial election. Each year Ontario municipalities pay about \$130 million for Blue Box programs.

#### The Municipal Resource Recovery and Research Collaborative

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Municipal Waste Association, Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario, and the City of Toronto have joined forces to form the Municipal Resource Recovery and Research Collaborative (Municipal 3Rs Collaborative) to advocate for a

smooth and timely transition to full producer responsibility, and to make sure municipal priorities like maintaining service standards to residents, especially in rural and northern Ontario, are protected.

The Municipal 3Rs Collaborative will actively engage with Stewardship Ontario, the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority, and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in the consultations on the proposal to revise the Blue Box Program Plan. Consultation will be the first step in transitioning the Blue Box to full producer responsibility.

### **Initiating the transition process**

In July 2017, the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative and Stewardship Ontario sent a joint letter to then Minister Glen Murray, asking that he request an amendment to the Plan. The letter specifies that the amended Plan must:

- Not negatively impact Ontarians' experience with and access to existing recycling services;
- Improve environmental outcomes;
- Create a consistent recycling experience for all Ontario residents;
- Ensure a fair and open marketplace; and
- Address the provincial interests listed in the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act thus becoming the blueprint for the future development of a producer responsibility paper products and packaging regulation.

### **Minister Ballard announces at AMO conference that request letter is signed**

At the 2017 AMO Conference in Ottawa, the new Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Chris Ballard, announced he had signed a letter requesting that the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority and Stewardship Ontario, draft and submit an amended Blue Box Program Plan as had been requested by municipalities and Stewardship Ontario. The letter requests that an amended Blue Box Program Plan be sent to the Minister for approval by February 15, 2018.

Be assured that there will be an extensive consultation process across Ontario, with opportunities for your issues and priorities to be heard.

### **Protecting current standards of service and creating new waste diversion opportunities**

The Municipal 3Rs Collaborative has produced a list of specific issues that must be addressed in the amended Blue Box Plan. These range from the mechanisms that will be used to implement the transition to full producer responsibility, to standards of service and program accessibility for residents.

To date, the focus has been on the transition of existing programs and ensuring there are no service disruptions. Your representatives on the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative are also well aware that there are many municipalities that do not yet have Blue Box Programs, or waste diversion programs of

any kind, and that opportunities for new and expanded programs are extremely important. We have been advocating for future program development and will continue to do so.

A fundamental principle – for the municipal sector and for the Ministry – is that opportunities to divert waste and develop a circular economy extend across the entire Province of Ontario, including our rural and northern regions.

### **Next steps – getting informed and involved**

The role of the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative is to listen carefully to the Ontario municipal sector, feed this information into the process, promote municipal interests, and provide updates and resources that will help municipalities manage contracts and make the best possible decisions for their own local programs and communities.

Now that the Minister has signed a request letter, it is even more important for municipal councils and staff to be informed and get involved. Here's how:

- **WATCH TWO VIDEOS** that explain what you need to know about the **Blue Box Transition**:
  - [Mac Bain: What Ontario Municipal Elected Officials Need to Know](#)
  - [Jim McKay: What Ontario Waste Management Staff Need to Know](#)
- **REGISTER [HERE](#)** for the next **AMO Waste Session – scheduled for Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> (Location: Holiday Inn Yorkdale)**. For information, please contact Amber Crawford, Policy Advisor, AMO at [acrawford@amo.on.ca](mailto:acrawford@amo.on.ca).
- **Join the AMO Waste Portal – for access, please send an email to [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca).**
- **Contact any of the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative Members – listed [here](#).**

To learn more about this important transition, please contact our organizations, or directly to Dave Gordon, Senior Advisor at [dgordon@amo.on.ca](mailto:dgordon@amo.on.ca), and Amber Crawford, Policy Advisor at [acrawford@amo.on.ca](mailto:acrawford@amo.on.ca).

Sincerely,

Mac Bain, Chair AMO Waste Task Force

Ron Holman, Chair ROMA





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## MUNICIPAL SECTOR PLAYS KEY ROLE IN BLUE BOX TRANSITION, July 7, 2017

The Province passed new legislation in November 2016 that will have a major impact on the way municipal solid waste is managed.

The *Waste Diversion Act* was repealed and replaced by the *Waste-Free Ontario Act*. The *Waste-Free Ontario Act* includes both the *Waste Diversion Transition Act* and the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act*.

Currently, the cost to run programs for collecting and recycling paper products and packaging is split roughly 50/50 between municipalities and the companies that produce these items. The new legislation will transfer full responsibility for these programs to producers.

This is an opportunity for your municipality to finally get fully compensated for the commercial products that show up in your waste stream.

Full producer responsibility is not a new concept. It has been embraced by several European countries and the Province of British Columbia. Leading companies understand they are in the best position to manage the entire 'life cycle' of their products – from when they are made to when they are reused or recycled.

Here in Ontario, the provincial government has decided to apply this concept initially with paper products and packaging, tires, hazardous wastes and electronics. Other materials such as mattresses, carpets and furniture will be considered in the future.

The new legislation has started the movement toward full producer responsibility, but there is still a lot of work to do. Regulations must be drafted and all the details of the new system must be resolved.

Blue Box recycling programs will undergo some of the biggest changes, as municipalities will have new options – to act as service providers to producers who are required to pay for these programs, to work with private companies that may use municipal infrastructure, or to opt out altogether.

It is in the best interest of municipal governments to get this work done as quickly as possible, particularly given some inevitable delays around the upcoming provincial election. Each year the Blue Box transition is delayed will cost municipal governments across Ontario an estimated \$130M.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Municipal Waste Association, Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario, and the City of Toronto have joined forces to form the Municipal Resource Recovery and Research Collaborative (Municipal 3Rs Collaborative) to advocate for a smooth and timely transition to full producer responsibility, and to make sure key municipal priorities like maintaining service standards to residents are protected.

The Municipal 3Rs Collaborative is working closely with key producers and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in a process to consult on revisions to the current Blue Box Program Plan. This would be the first step in transitioning the Blue Box to full producer responsibility.

Today, the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative sent a joint letter to the Minister asking that he request the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority, the new regulatory authority established under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act*, to initiate a consultation to amend the Plan. The letter specifies that the amended Plan must:

- Not negatively impact Ontarians' experience with and access to existing recycling services;
- Improve environmental outcomes;
- Create a consistent recycling experience for all Ontario residents;
- Ensure a fair and open marketplace; and
- Address the provincial interests listed in the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act* thus becoming the blueprint for the future development of a producer responsibility paper products and packaging regulation.

The key issues to be addressed in the consultation of an amended Plan include:

- Mechanism for the transition to full producer responsibility;
- Payments and terms;
- Targets;
- Ongoing transition due to municipal contract timing variability; and
- Standards of service provision.

The role of the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative is to listen carefully to the Ontario municipal sector, feed this information into the process, promote municipal interests, and provide updates and resources that will help municipalities manage contracts and make the best possible decisions for their own local programs and communities.

The Municipal 3Rs Collaborative is working to support all Ontario municipal governments in this process, and be assured that there will be an extensive consultation process to ensure full participation by the sector.

This is why it is very important for your municipal council and staff to get in touch, ask questions and become fully informed. Start by signing up for AMO's Waste Portal by sending an email to: [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca), and please contact any of the organizations listed below to learn more about this important transition.

MUNICIPAL 3RS COLLABORATIVE MEMBERS		
<b>Jon Arsenault</b> Director, Waste Management – Waterloo Region (519) 575-4777 <a href="mailto:jarsenault@regionofwaterloo.ca">jarsenault@regionofwaterloo.ca</a>	<b>Mirka Januszkiewicz</b> RPWCO Member & Director, Waste Management – Durham Region (905) 668-4113 ext. 3464 <a href="mailto:Mirka.Januszkiewicz@Durham.ca">Mirka.Januszkiewicz@Durham.ca</a>	<b>Laura McDowell</b> RPWCO Member & Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection – York Region (905) 830-4444 ext. 75077 <a href="mailto:Laura.mcdowell@york.ca">Laura.mcdowell@york.ca</a>
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# THE FUTURE OF THE BLUE BOX

**Current Blue Box Program Plan (BBPP)**  
Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016

Producers provide funding up to 50% of net cost of the Blue Box Program.

In-kind contribution by newspapers is part of the 50% funding, which impacts the amount that municipalities receive.

There is a 60% recycling target based on a basket of goods (i.e. combined material target).



Minister to receive the amended BBPP by February 15, 2018 for approval

Stewardship Ontario is required to consult and develop an amendment to the BBPP.

Resource Productivity and Resource Authority (RPRA) and the Minister are required to consult and approve.

**Non-transitioned Municipalities**  
Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016

Municipalities continue to operate or to contract for collection and processing services. The amended BBPP will determine eligible sources of Blue Box materials, how program costs will be calculated and verified, and a percentage of these costs to be paid by producers.

Municipality transitions upon completion of collection and processing contracts or upon agreed terms. (full details to be confirmed)

**Transitioned Municipalities**  
Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016  
(Changes required to Regulation 101/94 for transitioned municipalities)

Stewardship Ontario is required to consult and amend the BBPP. The amended BBPP could improve service accessibility and result in an expanded list of paper products and packaging. There will likely be a 75% recycling target based on a basket of goods and the move to material specific targets.

Municipalities will have options:

- a. to act as service providers to producers who are required to pay for these programs
- b. work with private service providers
- c. opt out from providing service altogether

**NEW Regulation**  
Resource Recovery & Circular Economy Act, 2016

Producers (collectively or individually) to collect and manage Blue Box materials based on requirements in new regulation.

Municipalities will have the following options:

- a. act as service providers to producers who are required to pay for these programs
- b. work with private companies that may use existing municipal infrastructure
- c. opt out from providing service altogether

The new regulation could improve service accessibility and result in an expanded list of paper products and packaging with material specific targets.

RPRA will have greater power to oversee and enforce.



## Appendix C

# Summary: Stakeholder and Indigenous Peoples Engagement and Communications Plan for the Development of the Proposed Amendment to the Blue Box Program Plan



Stewardship Ontario



## SUMMARY: STAKEHOLDER AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BLUE BOX PROGRAM PLAN

### Overview

The management and funding of Ontario's Blue Box Program is currently shared between municipalities or First Nations communities and stewards (first importers, brand owners or franchisors of products and packaging materials that end up in residential Blue Boxes). In November, 2016, new legislation was proclaimed that directed a shift from this shared-cost model to one that requires stewards to become fully responsible, both financially and operationally, for collecting and managing paper products and packaging materials (PPP).

In response to these legislative changes, the Ontario Minister of the Environment and Climate Change issued a letter in August, 2017, directing the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (the Authority) and Stewardship Ontario to prepare a proposal for an amended Blue Box Program Plan (a-BBPP) by February 15, 2018 that will transition the Blue Box Program from its current shared-cost model to full producer responsibility. The Minister's letter requires the a-BBPP be prepared in consultation and engagement with stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples. The Minister also requested the Authority and Stewardship Ontario jointly develop a communications and issues management plan to ensure meaningful consultation, engagement and communication is conducted with affected stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples, such as stewards, municipalities, First Nations communities and the waste management industry.

### What You'll Find Within the Plan

As requested by the Minister, the Authority and Stewardship Ontario have together developed this [Stakeholder and Indigenous Peoples Engagement and Communications Plan](#). Throughout the plan, you will find details on the following:

- Background information on the current Blue Box Program and an overview of the recent legislative changes.
- Stewardship Ontario and the Authority's roles and responsibilities throughout the a-BBPP initiative.
- Key messages, principles and objectives of the Stakeholder and Indigenous Peoples Engagement and Communications Plan.
- Stewardship Ontario and the Authority's a-BBPP consultation and engagement approach.  
An overview of the stakeholder and Indigenous Peoples groups that will be actively engaged and consulted with
- It identifies the key issues and concerns that are likely to arise in each of the groups along with how these issues may be addressed.
- Details on the two phases of consultation and engagement, including timelines, consultation and engagement formats, and ways to provide feedback.

### Consultation and Engagement Approach

The consultation period begins in October and ends in January 2018. Throughout this period, stakeholders will be invited to meetings to discuss and provide feedback on features of the a-BBPP that affect them. The discussion and feedback gathered from these meetings will help Stewardship Ontario draft a proposal for an a-BBPP. The draft a-BBPP proposal will be sent out to stakeholders in December, 2017, for further review and feedback, before being finalized and submitted to the Authority for approval. If the Authority approves the proposal for an a-BBPP, the final proposal and the Stakeholder and Indigenous Peoples Engagement and Communications Plan will then be submitted to the Minister for approval by the February 15, 2018 deadline.

Stewardship Ontario and the Authority are committed to engaging in meaningful consultation and engagement with stewards, municipalities, Indigenous Peoples, the waste management industry and other stakeholders on the proposal to amend the Blue Box Program Plan. All a-BBPP updates, communications to stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples, as well as the materials from consultation and engagement meetings will be posted on [the Authority's website](#) and the [Stewardship Ontario website](#) throughout the consultation period.