



Governance & Services Committee

TO: Governance and Services Committee

FROM: Jodie Foster, Director of Communication & Information Services

DATE: October 2, 2019

SUBJECT: Letter to Minister Re: Inclusion of Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Sector into Provincial Recycling Regulation

Purpose: Inform the Governance & Services Committee of the inter-regional collaboration to send a letter to Minister Heyman requesting the Province add the Industrial, Commercial & Institutional Sector into the Provincial Recycling Regulation.

Executive Summary:

An inter-regional collaboration resulted in a letter being sent to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy requesting the addition of the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Sector into the Provincial Recycling Regulation to address a gap in the recycling service across the province. As this initiative supports the Board's Priorities in protecting the environment, Chair Given was pleased to collaborate and is a signatory on this letter.

The inclusion of the ICI sector into BC's Recycling Regulation would:

- Improve the level of service to businesses and institutions in our communities
- Create framework for processing recyclable materials in BC
- Remove the burden of handling ICI recycling from taxpayers
- Reduce recyclables going to landfill

This report is intended to inform the Committee on recent efforts Chair Given and staff have made in furtherance of the Board's priority to reduce our environmental footprint.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Governance and Services Committee receive for information, the report from the Director of Communication & Information Services dated October 2, 2019 regarding the Letter to Minister Heyman requesting the ICI Sector be included in BC's Recycling Regulation.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jodie Foster".

Jodie Foster
Director of Communication & Information Services

Approved for Committee's Consideration

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan: The RDCO Solid Waste Management Plan outlines in strategy #9 that the RDCO “lobby through the BC Product Stewardship Council to influence issues relating to EPR products and program”. And strategy #10 outlines that the RDCO “investigate policy options to encourage recycling (e.g. mandatory recycling for multi-family and ICI, waste management provisions into land use etc.).

Background:

British Columbia is recognized as a leader in Extender Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs. In particular, the addition of Packaging and Printed Paper (PPP) to the Recycling Regulation in 2014 has resulted in better access to recycling services for residents across the province. EPR programs have set the framework for stable, long term end markets for recyclable material to be created in British Columbia.

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District through the BC Product Stewardship Council collaborated with a number of other Regional Districts to make a formal request to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to amend BC’s Recycling Regulation to include PPP from the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector. Presently there is a gap in service in the province. The ICI sector, including small businesses, schools, hospitals, municipal offices, care homes, and tourism resorts are often left with no viable option for recycling. Because PPP from the ICI sector is not included in the provincial EPR program, many regions including the RDCO have recyclable material ending up in landfills.

In addition, in many cases fees are paid into the Recycle BC program for products that are not accepted in the Recycle BC system, simply because of where the material is discarded. For example, a paper cup from a coffee shop can be recycled by a resident (either at depot or curbside), but the same paper cup cannot be recycled at a school, public library, or senior’s care facility.

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Considerations not applicable to this report:

Financial Considerations:

Organizational Issues:

External Implications:

Alternative Recommendation:

Attachment(s): September 26, 2019 letter to the Honourable George Heyman