

September 1, 2020

Honourable George Heyman  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
PO Box 9360 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9M2

Dave Lefebvre  
Recycle BC  
Director, Public Affairs West  
405-221 West Esplanade  
North Vancouver, BC V7M 3J3

**Re: Recycle BC Depot Collection Coverage – Closure of locations in Parksville and Qualicum**

Dear Minister Heyman and Director Lefebvre:

You are likely aware that the Parksville Bottle & Recycling Depot and Qualicum Bottle & Recycling Depot ended their contracts with Recycle BC starting March 1, 2020. We are aware that Recycle BC has been working to find an alternate depot in the area, however, this service gap has still not been resolved. As these facilities were the only two facilities accepting the Recycle BC materials in each of the respective communities, residents are now having to leave their community in order to manage Recycle BC materials. The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) continues to dialogue with Recycle BC in assisting with finding a new collection site..

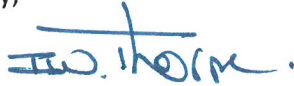
We are writing to request that both the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS) and Recycle BC prioritize a replacement service for the residents of Parksville and Qualicum. Without alternative locations in the Parksville and Qualicum areas, residents are likely to dispose of their packaging and printed paper in the garbage which impacts the waste diversion values that the RDN has worked hard to instill in the community as well as negatively impacting Recycle BC recovery rates.

The Recycle BC Depot Statement of Work states there is no obligation to replace the Parksville and/or Qualicum depots as both municipalities are considered rural and are within the 45-minute drive requirement for rural residents to the next closest depot location. It does not seem a reasonable standard where residents such as those of Parksville and Qualicum can purchase all of their consumer goods within their community, yet are expected to drive a 90-minute return trip to drop off recyclables. Furthermore, we understand the requirement is based on “drive” time, however, it does not consider public transportation times or whether public transportation to an adjacent community even exists. Residents that rely on public transportation or multi-family residents, that are not serviced by a Recycle BC collector, face a significant barrier for even participating in the Recycle BC extended producer responsibility (EPR) program.

The RDN is looking forward to the Province's announcements on the Clean BC Plastics Actions Plan with one of the key initiatives to recycle more plastics. Establishing a base level of service where people have access to EPR programs within the community they purchase most of their consumer goods would support the Clean BC initiative. This would provide a high level of convenient access to most residents that we believe would contribute to the Clean BC Plastic Action Plan's success. Such a base line standard set for Recycle BC would ensure a quick resolution to the current service gap in Parksville and Qualicum.

Thank you for your consideration of the RDN's perspective on this matter. We look forward to hearing from both of you on progress on advancing the Recycle BC EPR program and on restoring service in both Parksville and Qualicum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "I.W. THORPE". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first part of the name.

Ian W. Thorpe, Chair

cc: Brendan McShane, Recycle BC  
Bob McDonald, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy