



Reference: 361779

*October 7, 2020*

His Worship Mayor Ian Thorpe  
and Councillors  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
6300 Hammond Bay Road  
Nanaimo BC V9T 6N2

Sent via email: [ian.thorpe@nanaimo.ca](mailto:ian.thorpe@nanaimo.ca)

Dear Mayor Thorpe and Council:

Thank you for your letter of September 1, 2020, addressed to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, regarding the closure of recycling drop-off locations in Parksville and Qualicum. As a provincial election has been called, I am responding on the Minister's behalf.

The recycling depots in Parksville and Qualicum Beach historically contracted with Recycle BC but have chosen to no longer collect material on behalf of the program. There has been no change to curbside recycling collection services in the area—residents are able to recycle the same materials at the curbside as before. Each community has up to six depots within a 20-30-minute drive which is within the 45-minute drive time standard for rural communities; though I appreciate this is not as convenient as having a depot in one's local community. Until this level of service is re-established, I ask that residents hold on to their materials until such a trip is warranted.

The ministry has reconfirmed that Recycle BC is actively looking for a new location for residents to drop-off those materials that cannot be deposited at the curbside (that is, flexible plastic, foam and non-refundable glass containers). Recycle BC is working with local service providers to find an appropriate location to collect the materials. Several potential locations have been pursued but have not come to fruition for reasons unrelated to Recycle BC's program. I understand discussions continue with three potential service providers, and once new sites are secured, Recycle BC will reach out to stakeholders and the public in the area.

...2

To your point on CleanBC Plastics Action Plan, I am happy to inform you that on September 12, 2020, the ministry announced it is proposing measures to address plastics and other materials. This includes laying the groundwork for a new regulation under the Community Charter to allow local governments to ban certain single-use plastics without requiring provincial approval, developing a legal framework to enable provincial bans on single-use items and issuance of an Intentions Paper (IP). The IP proposes to better address packaging from the industrial, commercial and institutional sector, and lost fishing gear that pollutes oceans and shorelines, while adding mattresses, electric-vehicle batteries, propane canisters, pet medications, etc. to the Recycling Regulation. To find more information and/or to provide feedback, please visit the [Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper](#).

Thank you again for taking the time to write and your patience in finding a viable recycling depot solution for the communities of Parksville and Qualicum.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jardine".

Kevin Jardine  
Deputy Minister

cc: Office of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy