
TO: Solid Waste Management Select Committee **MEETING:** September 5, 2019

FROM: Meghan Ebueza
Solid Waste Planner **FILE:** 5365-02

SUBJECT: Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Recycling Letter to Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board Chair be authorized to sign the joint letter prepared by the Thompson-Nicola Regional District addressed to the Honourable Minister Heyman requesting that waste sourced from the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors be included in the *Recycling Regulation*.

SUMMARY

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) is sending a letter to the Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy requesting packaging and printed paper (PPP) from industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sector be added to the *Recycling Regulation*. The TNRD is inviting other Regional Districts to be co-signatories on the letter. Further, the TNRD proposes that the letter be delivered in person to the Minister at a meeting at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities 2019 Convention and that participating Board Chairs attend the meeting.

BACKGROUND

In 2014, the BC *Recycling Regulation* was expanded to include PPP which changed the landscape of recycling in BC and has resulted in improved recycling for the residential sector. However, there is still a gap in service for ICI customers (i.e. schools, small business, restaurants, health care facilities). The exclusion of ICI PPP from the *Recycling Regulation* means ICI customers are dependent on the private sector or local governments for access to recycling and does not hold the producers of ICI PPP accountable for the costs of recycling these materials.

With the recent changes in the global recycling commodity market, particularly in China, local governments and the private sector are facing challenges that include reduced access or lack of access to recycling for the ICI sector.

Without being included in the *Recycling Regulation*, ICI recyclables such as cardboard, paper, metal, plastic and glass containers run the risk of being landfilled. The 2018 RDN Board approved SWMP identifies expanded ICI waste management as a new zero waste program. The RDN encourages recycling by the ICI sector through variable tipping fees and landfill bans which prohibit the landfilling of recyclables. The 2012 RDN waste composition study estimated

that 16% of ICI garbage disposed of contained recyclables consisting primarily of paper and cardboard.

The TNRD has sent a request to BC Regional Districts requesting they support and sign the joint letter to Honourable Minister Heyman. By signing the letter (Attachment 1), it provides a unified message that producers should be responsible for the cost of recycling and disposal for all packaging and products and not limited to residential packaging and products only. The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (Attachment 2) and qathet Regional District (Attachment 3) have already sent letters to the Minister with concerns regarding ICI recycling. The TNRD will be presenting the letter to the Minister at the UBCM conference in September and is asking participating Board Chairs to be present in the meeting.

ALTERNATIVES

1. The Board Chair be authorized to sign the joint letter prepared by the Thompson-Nicola Regional District addressed to the Honourable Minister Heyman requesting that waste sourced from the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors be included in the *Recycling Regulation*.
2. The Board provide alternate direction to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Stewardship - Achieve the 90% waste diversion target as per the Solid Waste Management Plan.

The inclusion of ICI packaging and printed paper in the *Recycling Regulation* will assist the RDN in achieving the 90% waste diversion target. Programs and regulations at the provincial and federal level regarding waste diversion and waste reduction are anticipated to increase regional waste diversion by 5%.

People and Partnerships - Seek opportunities to partner with the provincial and federal governments, other government agencies, and community stakeholder groups in order to advance strategic plan goals and objectives.

By partnering with other local governments to provide feedback to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy on the regulations that will assist the Province in reaching the provincial waste disposal target of 350 kg per person by 2020/21.



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August 23, 2019

Reviewed by:

- L. Gardner, Manager, Solid Waste Services
- R. Alexander, General Manager, Regional and Community Utilities
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

1. Letter to Minister Heyman re: ICI Recycling
2. Columbia Shuswap Regional District Letter
3. qathet Regional District Letter