



COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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January 22, 2019

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VIA EMAIL: ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honorable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Heyman:

RE: Commercially Generated Recycling – Update to Recycle BC Stewardship Program

At the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSR D) Board meeting held on January 10, 2019, the Board unanimously endorsed the following resolution:

THAT: the Board authorize staff to send a letter to the Minister of Environment requesting the Recycle BC Stewardship program be amended to include commercially generated recycling.

The CSR D has recently renewed its agreement with Recycle BC for the operation of the CSR D's recycling depot network. One of the challenges to administering the program is ensuring that commercially generated recycling materials are not accepted in the residential depot collection program. Small businesses are left with no viable option to recycle the same products that are accepted at depots from residents.

The CSR D has implemented commercial depot collection options to manage commercial printed paper and packaging (PPP) at CSR D landfills. However, given the recent changes in worldwide recycling markets, the cost to manage PPP has increased while the availability of local recycling facilities for PPP has decreased. The Ministry of Environment's current policies do not allow for the inclusion of commercially generated PPP into the Recycle BC stewardship program, which results in increased costs for local governments and decreased recycling options for commercial businesses across the province.

The CSR D understands that the Ministry of Environment is currently reviewing Recycle BC's revised stewardship plan and suggests that this is an opportune time to consider expanding the program to include commercially generated PPP. Changes in market conditions have made recycling extremely challenging and many commercial recycling programs are no longer economically viable. Consequently, an increased amount of commercially generated recyclable materials are being disposed of at landfill sites, rather than being recycled. An expansion of the program to include commercial PPP fully supports the Ministry's goal to divert waste being deposited at landfills wherever possible.

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ELECTORAL AREAS

A GOLDEN-COLUMBIA
B REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C SOUTH SHUSWAP
D FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E SICAMOUS-MALAKWA
F NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM

MUNICIPALITIES

GOLDEN
REVELSTOKE

SALMON ARM
SICAMOUS

The CSRD requests the Ministry give serious consideration to the addition of commercially generated PPP into the Recycling Regulation and amend the Recycle BC Stewardship Program to enable the appropriate collection and processing of these materials. The CSRD Board understands that the provision of recycling options for all PPP products regardless of how they are generated is an important next step in the evolution of environmental stewardship and responsibility. The CSRD looks forward to the Ministry advancing solutions on the full capture of PPP under a fully-funded producer responsible stewardship model.

Yours truly,

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

Per:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhona Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Rhona Martin, Chair