

The Corporation of the Town of Blind River

REPORT

Report of the Director of Public Services
June 10, 2020

RE: Transition of the Blue Box to Full Producer Responsibility

OBJECTIVE

To provide updated information to Blind River Council on the Transition of the Blue Box to Full Producer Responsibility.

BACKGROUND

Municipal governments have been advocating for over a decade for producers to have full fiscal and operational responsibility for end of life management of their packaging, printed paper and paper products. Producers are in the best position to reduce waste, increase the resources that are recovered and reincorporated into the economy and enable a consistent province-wide system that makes recycling easier and more accessible.

The municipal transition is proposed to occur between 2023 and the end of 2025.

Minister Yurek wants to ensure that the transitioned Blue Box system is affordable for producers, workable for the waste processing sector, and effective and accessible for residents.

The Council resolution will be used to map out an ideal transition timeline, and determine whether there are years that are over or under subscribed, as it has been dictated that a rolling total of up to one-third of Blue Box programs can transition each year. This information will also allow AMO and the Province to better understand whether there are conflicts.

The existing contract for recycling in the Municipality of Blind River expires November 20th 2024.

Developing Producer Responsibility Regulations for Blue Box

Current Status of the Blue Box

•On August 15, 2019, the Minister directed Stewardship Ontario to develop a plan under section 14 of the *Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016* (WDTA), that aligns with Mr. Lindsay's recommended timing.

SO must consult stakeholders and submit a plan to the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority by June 30, 2020.

The Authority is expected to approve this plan by December 31, 2020, if it is consistent with the Minister's transition direction.

The next step is to develop new Blue Box regulations under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016* (RRCEA).

In developing the regulations, the ministry will invite stakeholders to participate in Working Groups. These groups will provide the ministry with a diverse and balanced range of perspectives, including from industry, municipalities and service providers.

The contributions of these Working Groups will inform further public consultations on the proposed policy and regulations.

Key Elements of an EPR Regulation

Regulations under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA) replace government approved stewardship plans

•Regulates outcomes in key areas, including:

1. A hierarchy of producers that are responsible for meeting outcomes
2. Materials to be collected
3. Collection and management requirements
4. Registration and reporting

RECOMMENDATION

That Council support the transition of the Blue Box program in Blind River to full producer responsibility by November 20, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Bender
Director of Public Services