

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX [<mailto:ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 3:40 PM

To: RDNO Info

Cc: 'alangdon@retailcouncil.org'; Nicole Kohnert; 'peter.rotheisler@cord.bc.ca'; 'glendagies@ggies.ca'

Subject: RE: Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Program Impacts on People with Developmental Disabilities (Community Living)

Reference: 160085

January 12, 2012

Patrick David Nicol, Chair
and Directors
Regional District of North Okanagan
Email: Info@rdno.ca

Dear Chair Nicol and Directors:

I am writing in response to a letter of November 24, 2011, regarding the Venture Training Program in your Regional District and concerns regarding potential impacts to this program. I appreciate that the Regional District took the time to bring these concerns to my attention at this early stage in the transition of responsibility for managing packaging and printed paper.

I also wish to thank you for your continued support of Extended Producer Responsibility programs in British Columbia (BC). I recognize that local government support will be important to ensure a smooth transition in the management of packaging and printed paper to industry and commend you for taking the early initiative to raise this issue with Multi-Materials BC (MMBC) and the BC Product Stewardship Council.

We will continue to closely monitor the development of the stewardship program for packaging and printed paper and will follow up with MMBC and Ms. Glenda Gies directly to ensure they have received this input. Glenda Gies and Associates are contracted by MMBC to collect data on the existing packaging and printed paper collection systems in BC. I would recommend connecting with Ms. Gies' team directly on the work you are doing today. She can be reached at glendagies@ggies.ca.

Prior to submitting a stewardship plan on November 19, 2012, producers must undergo public consultation in accordance with the Recycling Regulation. MMBC has indicated that they are intending to host these consultations in the early fall. In the interim, I would encourage you to continue to engage in dialogue with MMBC to express how you foresee working with them in the future.

Thank you again for your letter informing me of the Venture Training Program.

Sincerely,

Terry Lake
Minister of Environment

cc: Allen Langdon, Multi-Materials BC
BC Product Stewardship Council
Glenda Gies and Associates



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES:

CITY OF ARMSTRONG
DISTRICT OF COLDSTREAM
CITY OF ENDERBY

VILLAGE OF LUMBY
TOWNSHIP OF SPALLUMCHEEN
CITY OF VERNON

ELECTORAL AREAS:

B – SWAN LAKE
C – B.X. DISTRICT
D – LUMBY (RURAL)

E – CHERRYVILLE
F – ENDERBY (RURAL)

OFFICE OF: ENGINEERING

OUR FILE No.: 5360.0

November 24, 2011

The Honourable Terry Lake
Minister of Environment
PO Box 9047 STN Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Sir:

Re: Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Program Impacts on People with Developmental Disabilities (Community Living)

The Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) Board of Directors, at their regular meeting held on November 2, 2011 requested that staff prepare a letter to the Ministry of Environment expressing their concern regarding impacts to community groups when industry takes over the management of the Blue Bag Recycling Program material.

In the North Okanagan, the Vernon and District Association for Community Living (Venture Training) assists the RDNO's contractor and the RDNO directly with sorting and processing recyclable material (including beverage containers, packaging and printed paper). This relationship has been long standing and supports Venture Training and their staff in a myriad of positive ways including financially and with work and developmental experience.

The RDNO is concerned that when the stewards of the Blue Bag material take over responsibility for sorting and processing within the next three years, that Venture Training will be negatively impacted to the extent that our region may lose an extremely valuable and needed program for our marginalized citizens. By a copy of this letter to Multi-Materials BC, we hope to let the stewards know of the RDNO's concerns as well, so that they may design their management programs in such a way as to protect these important relationships and workers within our community. A copy of this letter will also be sent to the BC Product Stewardship Council who represent all regional districts in BC and have a mandate to, among other things, provide an exchange of information regarding existing and proposed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Programs in BC.

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We acknowledge that it is important to continue to pursue EPR to the fullest extent possible in order to shift the financial burden of waste management from local government (the tax payer) to the consumer and the producer of products. We commend you and your staff for your efforts in advancing this highly acclaimed program in BC.

Local government has been managing the residential solid waste stream for many years and therefore have the most direct link to the many systems and relationships needed to do this in the most effective and efficient manner. We respectfully request that the RDNO is kept apprised of all negotiations with and decisions by the stewardship agencies and the Ministry of Environment that may impact our current solid waste management programs, and most important with respect to Venture Training, that may impact the contractors assisting us with packaging and printed paper recycling.

When implementing the Recycling Regulation and associated guidance documents, and when approving the stewardship plans for packaging and printed paper EPR programs in BC, we trust that you will consider the impact this regulation will have on the parties involved, specifically the developmentally disabled and their supporting agencies.

Yours truly,



Herman Halvorson
Chair

NK/pj

cc: Allen Langdon, Multi-Material BC (email)
BC Product Stewardship Council (email)