



Date: 08/03/2019

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

And To: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Tera Grady, Supervisor of Solid Waste Management

Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Mar22_2019

File: 5360-01

Short Summary:

Improvements Needed to the BC Recycling Regulation

Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

Memorandum:

As discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 28, 2019, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs in BC are in need of improvement and expansion. The BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS) is actively looking for recommendations on EPR program expansions and new EPR programs. Staff would recommend that the following be submitted to MOECCS:

The Cariboo Regional District (the Region) requests that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Strategy (the Ministry) implement and/or support the following improvements to the Recycling Regulation (the Regulation) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs in British Columbia as soon as possible.

1. Amend Schedule 2 of the Regulation to expand the list of hazardous wastes. All household hazardous wastes (any product labeled with a hazard symbol) and equivalent commercial products should be included in the Regulation.

Additionally, all **empty** packaging from these products should be included in the Regulation.

- Local governments across the Province spend tax dollars to responsibly manage and dispose of hazardous materials not included in the Regulation; it is past time that consumers and the producers of these products take over the costs.
- Private depots have also been saddled with the added expense and responsibility of trying to manage non-program materials properly.
- Many hazardous materials not included in the current Regulation are disposed of by residents through solid waste disposal facilities, potentially putting solid waste workers, the public, wildlife, ground water and soils at risk.

2. Update existing Schedules within the Regulation to include:
 - sharps,
 - veterinary medicines,
 - all sizes of lithium-ion batteries,
 - off-road tires,
 - all electronic and electrical items,
 - single use propane canisters,
 - fire extinguishers,
 - plastic household/recreational products that are not included in the packaging and printed paper program, and
 - commercial packaging and printed paper.
3. Add a new Schedule(s) to the Regulation to provide for recycling of:
 - mattresses and box springs,
 - textiles,
 - bulky items/furniture, and
 - construction and demolition waste.
4. Encourage and support any efficiencies within EPR programs that will reduce consumer confusion; minimize consumer fees; reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and streamline the drop-off and collection of stewardship products. For example, combining the small appliance and the electronics programs would:
 - reduce depot staff training and sorting times,
 - make more efficient use of space at depots,
 - likely reduce GHG emissions through increased pick-up efficiencies from depots;
 - reduce the information consumers are expected to understand,
 - reduce local government staff time to understand and educate the public on the differences between the two programs; and,
 - reduce local government staff time to consult with each stewardship agency.

Solid waste management costs in the Cariboo Regional District will increase as the Region's landfills transition to the new Landfill Criteria. The Cariboo Regional District Board is relying on the Ministry to expand, improve and simplify Extended Producer Responsibility programs in British Columbia in order to eliminate landfill costs associated with materials that can be recycled. This will also reduce risks to workers, the public, wildlife and the environment from landfilling hazardous wastes.

Attachments:

None

Financial Implications:

None

Policy Implications:

None

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- ☐ Ensuring Sufficient and Sustainable Funding
- ☐ Building on our Relationships
- ☒ Providing Cost Effective High Quality Services
- ☐ Focusing on Being Well Governed

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CAO Comments:

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Options:

- 1) Endorse Recommendation
- 2) Receipt and other action
- 3) Receipt only
- 4) Defer

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Tera Grady, Supervisor of Solid Waste Management, dated March 8, 2019 regarding Improvements to the BC Recycling Regulation, be received. Further, that the Board endorse the recommendation to send a letter to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Honourable George Heyman, requesting improvements to the Recycling Regulation.