



January 13, 2017

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Policy Advisor
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Integrated Environmental Policy Division
Waste Management Policy Branch
Non-Hazardous Waste Policy Section
40 St. Clair Avenue West
Floor 8
Toronto Ontario
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Dear Mr. Peverini

Re: Comment period for Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario Building the Circular Economy

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (Ministry) posted the draft Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario Building the Circular Economy (Strategy) on the EBR for public comment on December 16, 2016. The comment period provided is 45 days closing on January 30, 2017. While the municipalities in Ontario appreciate the need for the Ministry to move quickly on this file, the timing of the EBR posting in mid-December and the relatively short comment period make it impossible for municipal staff to brief Council on the contents of the Strategy and prepare comments for submission.

As key players in the current residential waste management and diversion system, municipal input into Ontario's Waste-Free Strategy is critical for the Ministry to understand potential impacts on Ontario residents. Municipal councillors deserve the opportunity to adequately understand the provincial strategy for minimizing waste in Ontario and the potential implications for the municipal programs on which residents currently rely. The release of the Strategy for comment in mid-December when most municipal staff are preparing and presenting budgets, makes it difficult for staff to adequately review the draft Strategy and prepare comments and reports for the January cycle of Council and committee meetings in order to meet the January 30 commenting deadline. Also, with the staggered committee and Council meeting schedules, some municipal councils will not meet before the January 30 deadline.

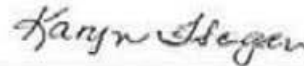
Given the importance of this Strategy to municipalities and the residents they serve, we kindly request the Ministry extend the commenting deadline to February 28, 2017 to allow adequate time for municipal staff to brief Council and submit comments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



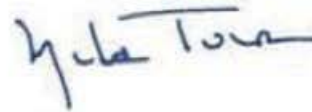
Thomas Schmidt, P.Eng
Chair, Regional Public Works Commissioner
Of Ontario



Karyn Hogan, BA, MLIS, MA
Chair, Municipal Waste Association



Vincent Sferrazza
Director, Policy, Planning & Support
Solid Waste Management Services
City of Toronto



Monika Turner
Director of Policy
Association of Municipalities of Ontario

c: W. Ren, Director Resource Recovery and Policy Branch, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

R. Fleming, Assistant Deputy Ministry, Climate Change and Environmental Policy Division, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change