

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair and Members of the Planning, Public Works and Transportation Committee

FROM: Gabriel Clarke – Manager of Sustainability and Climate Change

DATE: April 12 2019

MEMORANDUM NO.: MEM-PLS-2019-0002

RE: Comments Submitted to the Province Regarding Ontario's Waste Reduction Discussion Paper

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Planning Public Works and Transportation Committee with an overview of the comments that staff prepared and submitted to the Province of Ontario on behalf of the Town of Halton Hills regarding Ontario's "Reducing Waste and Litter in our Communities: Discussion Paper" that was posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry (ERO number 013-4689) for public input from March 6th to April 20th 2019.

BACKGROUND:

In November of 2018, Ontario's Ministry of Environment and Parks published "Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan" (the plan). The Plan outlined the Province's proposed approach to protecting Ontario's air and water resources, addressing climate change, reducing waste and litter, and conserving land and green spaces.

On March 6th 2019, the Province released a discussion paper entitled "Reducing Waste and Litter in our Communities" for a 45 day public commenting period which closed on April 20th 2019. The discussion paper provided additional details regarding the Province's proposed approach to managing waste in Ontario and also contained a total of 42 questions that were organized into the following categories:

- Reducing litter in neighbourhoods and parks
- Enhancing opportunities for Ontarians to reduce waste
- Extended producer responsibility
- Organic waste
- Plastic waste
- Providing clear rules for compostable products
- Resource Recovery
- Supporting end-markets for recovered material

COMMENTS:

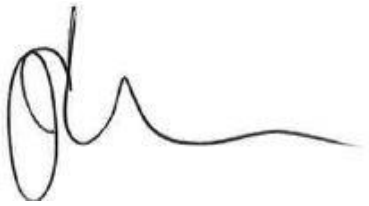
Town staff have provided comments to the Province through the EBR registry. The full comments are attached as Appendix 1. Comments included, but were not limited to the following:

- Supporting existing locally-run community clean-up days
- Expanding the collection of organic waste in restaurants
- Exploring the use of market-based instruments to encourage higher diversion rates
- Supporting the introduction of extended producer responsibility
- Enhanced public education on waste, recycling and composting
- Encouraging organic waste collection enhancements as part of a food waste landfilling ban
- Exploring the use of market-based instruments to reduce plastic waste
- Introducing a distinctive visual identity for compostable products
- Supporting thermal treatment of appropriate materials

CONCLUSION:

The Government of Ontario released the “Reducing Waste and Litter in our Communities” discussion paper to solicit public input on the province’s proposed approach for enhancing Ontario’s waste management system. The discussion paper contained just over 40 questions that touched on a range of waste management issues such as extended producer responsibility, banning certain types of waste from landfills and public education. Town staff prepared and submitted the comments that are attached as Appendix 1 to this Memo.

Reviewed and approved by,

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John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brent Marshall', with a stylized, flowing script.

Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer