



Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Sent via email to minister.mecp@ontario.ca

The Honourable Jeff Yurek
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Province of Ontario
College Park 5th Floor, 777 Bay St
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Yurek,

RE: The City of Guelph's Proposed Blue Box Transition Date

The City of Guelph is a leader in innovative waste management practices and in circular economy approaches. We strongly support the provincial decision to transition the blue box program to full producer responsibility.

On December 14th, 2020, City of Guelph Council passed the resolution below requesting to transition our local Blue Box program to full producer responsibility as soon as possible on January 1st, 2023. Delaying our transition will result in significant costs and labour relations challenges for the City.

"That the City of Guelph request that the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks accommodate the City's original request to transition its Blue Box program to full producer responsibility at the earliest transition date, January 1, 2023, or, in the event that this is not possible, that the City of Guelph receive full funding for the operation of the City's Blue Box program based on 100% of reported costs until such time as the program is transitioned to producer responsibility.

That the City's preceding resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks."

Currently, the proposed schedule has Guelph transitioning in 2025. This delay translates into \$1.76M+ in additional annual costs to property taxpayers on the operating side and over \$2.34M to address capital needs as our City continues to grow.

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The Hon. Jeff Yurek

January 18, 2021

RE: The City of Guelph's proposed blue box transition date

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An added complication for the City of Guelph is the upcoming expiration of collective agreements. This labour relations challenge could result in significant additional operating costs to the City above and beyond the \$1.76M/year if we are unable to transition our program in 2023.

To mitigate these challenges, and to allow the City of Guelph to continue being a leader in innovative waste management practices, I ask that the province enable the City to transition its blue box program at our requested date (January 1st, 2023) instead of waiting until 2025. For more information on anticipated impacts of delaying our transition, please see the briefing note accompanying this letter.

I also ask to discuss this item with you directly at your earliest convenience. To coordinate, please contact my office at mayor@guelph.ca. You can also call me directly at 519-829-6430.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cam Guthrie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cam Guthrie

Mayor

C Liam O'Brien, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Scott Stewart, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Guelph

Kealy Dedman, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise, City of Guelph