



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO  
WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
(Committee of the Whole)**

**AGENDA**

Thursday, May 7, 2020

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
	<u>AGENDA</u> – May 7, 2020	Approve
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
2-6	Waste Management Committee Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2020	Receive
	<u>REPORT</u>	
7-10	Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - Reinstate Cardboard Ban at Knockholt Landfill	Recommendation
	<u>VERBAL REPORT</u> – Chair Fisher re: Update	
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
11-14	Recycle BC – Smithers Telkwa Transfer Station Compensation	Receive
15	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy – RDBN Recycling Services	Receive
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**(Committee Of The Whole)****Thursday, March 5, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Fisher

Directors Shane Brienen  
Clint Lambert  
Brad Layton  
Linda McGuire  
Mark Parker  
Bev Playfair  
Jerry Petersen  
Kim Watt-Senner

Directors Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers  
Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)  
Chris Newell, Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)  
Michael Riis-Christianson, Electoral Area "B" (Burns Lake Rural)  
Gerry Thiessen, District of Vanderhoof

Alternate Director Bob Hughes, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services  
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Rory Mckenzie, Director of Environmental Services  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Fisher called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**AGENDA**Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director FunkWMC.2020-1-1

"That the Waste Management Committee receive the March 5, 2020 Agenda."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**MINUTES**Waste Management  
Committee Meeting Minutes  
-December 12, 2019Moved by Director Layton  
Seconded by Director LambertWMC.2020-1-2

"That the Minutes of the Waste Management Committee for December 12, 2019 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **VERBAL REPORTS**

### **1. Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – Welcome**

Mr. Eriksen provided a brief overview of his growing up in Burns Lake, educational background, living in Denmark the past six years and recent return to B.C. and Burns Lake.

### **2. Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)**

- Submitted the Plan to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoE) in 2019
  - Approved in November 2019
  - MoE noted the RDBN exceeded expectations for local government, municipal and First Nations engagement
- Implementation
  - Recycling a top priority
    - Working towards implementation of recycling initiatives in 8 RDBN municipalities and 7 electoral areas
    - Initial concept to utilize bottle depots
    - Due to circumstances that occurred Smithers, Fort St. James and Burns Lake recycling depots were established at RDBN Transfer Stations
    - Required funding and significant staff time to implement
    - Recycling initiatives on going
    - Wanting to expand to Granisle and the Southside of Francois Lake Transfer Stations
    - Cheslatta Carrier Nation on the Southside has indicated its wish to implement a plan
    - Collaboration with First Nations
- Cost Recovery Update
  - Cameras at RDBN Transfer sites to monitor traffic
    - Assist in determining tipping fees
  - Complete GPS (Global Positioning System) overview of the sites to be conducted once the snow has left
    - Determine traffic flow
- Region Wide Recycling Update
  - Fort St. James Depot at the RDBN Transfer Station pilot project to implement programs/staffing
    - Recycle BC
    - EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) Programs
      - a. Electronics
      - b. Small appliances
      - c. Lamps and light fixtures
      - d. Batteries
      - e. Smoke alarms
      - f. Paint Care
      - g. Auto batteries
    - Has been successful to date
    - Ribbon cutting celebration Friday, March 13, 2020 at 12:30 p.m.
  - All collection/compensation data not yet available – still in collection phase
  - Monitoring capacity of collection vs. costs
  - At the four RDBN Depot sites (Transfer Stations) the Reuse Shed staff also oversee the EPR Programs
  - Investigating additional EPR Programs at other RDBN sites

## **VERBAL REPORTS (CONT'D)**

- MARR – Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable
  - In the process of waiving the \$20 fee for Ozone Depleting Substance
  - To be implemented potentially in late spring 2020
  - Beneficial and help mitigate illegal dumping of appliances
- Recycle BC
  - Requirements for sorting
- Some EPR Programs require improvements
- Area A Solid Waste Feasibility Study
  - Northern Capital Planning Grant Area A funding to be utilized to conduct the Study
    - Investigate volumes of materials
    - Possible uses for materials, etc.
  - Shift to circular economies
  - Investigate region as a whole
  - Investigate working with neighboring Regional Districts.

Moved by Director Playfair  
 Seconded by Director Lambert

WMC.2020-1-3

“That the Solid Waste Management Plan verbal report be received as presented.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **3. Solid Waste Forum/Conference Update**

- Youth attendance/participation
  - Involve summer employees
  - An application has been submitted for an Environmental Services Student
  - Explore further depending on outcome of summer student position and at time of forums/conferences
  - Potential youth forum to connect youth from across the region.

### **4. Work Camp Waste Update**

- In the process of amending the bylaw
- A number of tasks to be completed in order to implement collection
- Determine potential adjustments for increased municipal garbage drop off at RDBN Transfer Station facilities from camp waste
- Work camp waste to be calculated similar to Construction & Demolition waste utilizing the scales at RDBN landfills only.

### **5. Regional Solid Waste Advisory Group (RSWAG)**

- Update
  - Waited for the hiring of the new Director of Environmental Services to allow for his involvement in the process
  - Draft outline of potential representatives
    - RDBN Board members
    - Representatives from across the Regional District
    - First Nations
    - Municipalities
    - Public
    - Staff will bring forward Committee members for Board ratification

## **VERBAL REPORTS (CONT'D)**

- Name change to Regional Solid Waste Management Committee
  - RDBN will bring forward the Solid Waste Management Plan implementation
  - Opportunity for the Committee to provide comments
- First meeting to take place in late spring and second meeting in fall 2020.

### **6. Western Challenges**

- Curbside Update
  - Currently at a standstill
  - Determine specific ask for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
  - Importance of reinstating baling facilities in the RDBN
  - Recycle BC currently in transition to a new contractor to manage residential packaging and printed paper (PPP) recycling post-collection
  - Awaiting a response from MoE to schedule a new meeting
- ICI (Industrial Commercial Institutional) Funding
  - ICI is commodity based
- Expression of Interest to businesses
- Consolidation Centre
  - Costs to operate a baling facility exceeds possible return of a commodity-based product
  - ICI collection required to increase volumes and efficiencies in the north.

### **7. Landfill Closures**

- Long-Term & Reserve Planning
  - Incorporate into budgets and financial planning
  - Current liability to the RDBN
  - Public Accounting Standard requires that the liability be included in the RDBN Financial Statement
  - Current reserves and liabilities for landfill closure works
    - Potential taxation to address possibilities
    - Implementing operational reserves
  - Legal requirement from the Province
  - Environmental staff conduct closure works as Landfills move forward
  - Potential risks
  - Liability insurance
  - Staff will review insurance options and bring forward to the Committee.

### **8. PPP (Packaging and Printed Paper) Post Collection Cost Study for Recycle BC**

- Update
  - Study to review incentive rates paid by Recycle BC to Depots, curbside and multi-family dwelling collection contracts
  - RDBN is participating in the Cost Study for the Vanderhoof Recycle Depot.
  - Information to be submitted by March 20, 2020.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Greening Up Fort Society  
ICI Recycling

Moved by Director Layton  
 Seconded by Director Lambert

WMC.2020-1-4

“That the Waste Management Committee receive the correspondence from the Greening Up Fort Society re: ICI Recycling.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NCLGA Resolution RE:  
 Industrial Commercial  
 Institutional (ICI) Recycling**

Chair Fisher spoke of bringing forward a resolution to the North Central Local Government Association in regard to Industrial Commercial Institutional (ICI) Recycling. Director Fisher verbally read a draft resolution to submit to NCLGA. He will work with staff to submit a resolution to NCLGA prior to its March 13, 2020 deadline. Staff will bring forward the resolution for ratification at the March 19, 2020 Board Meeting.

Moved by Director Playfair  
 Seconded by Director McGuire

**WMC.2020-1-5**

“That the Waste Management Committee support the drafted resolution regarding Industrial Commercial Institutional Recycling to be submitted to the North Central Local Government Association prior to NCLGA’s deadline of March 13, 2020; and further, that the resolution be brought forward to the Regional Board for ratification at its March 19, 2020 meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Brienon  
 Seconded by Director Playfair

**WMC.2020-1-6**

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:03 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mark Fisher, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO  
Waste Management Committee**

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Chair Fisher, Waste Management Committee

From: Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services

Date: May 7, 2020

Subject: Reinstate Cardboard ban at Knockholt Landfill

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That the Waste Management Committee recommend to the Board of Directors to direct staff to reinstate the ban on cardboard at Knockholt Landfill on August 1, 2020.
  - 2) That the Waste Management Committee support staff in researching a temporary ICI cardboard solution while negotiations with Recycle BC's Post-Collection Company (or other 3<sup>rd</sup> party) to establish and operate a new baling facility are underway.
  - 3) That staff report back to the Board of Directors with a recommendation on a temporary solution for ICI cardboard after consultation with the commercial sector and stakeholders.
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**BACKGROUND:**

**Receiving and Baling Facility**

On May 9, 2019, the privately owned and operated baling facility (in Smithers) that handled recycled material generated in the western portion of the RDBN, was destroyed in a fire. The facility received and baled mainly Institutional, Commercial and Industrial (ICI) cardboard and Recycle BC (RBC) products from curbside recycling and the RBC Depot in Smithers.

There are currently no operational baling facilities in the western portion of the RDBN.

**ICI Cardboard**

As a gesture of good faith towards the businesses in the community, the RDBN temporarily lifted the cardboard ban in May 2019 at Knockholt Landfill (KLF) and Smither/Telkwa Transfer Station (STTS). This ban has been in place since July 1, 2016. Lifting the ban has reduced the hauling distance (and cost) for "recycling" ICI cardboard, which would otherwise be trucked loose to Prince George as Terrace does not have capacity to receive more volume at this time. The lifting of the cardboard ban was expected to last 3 to 6 months while a new baling solution was established.

Presently, no promising solutions for handling ICI have been proposed by private business or otherwise. RDBN staff feels that there is little incentive for the region to find a solution as long as landfilling of ICI cardboard products is allowed.

**Residential Recycling**

After the fire, curbside recycling service was suspended, and private residents were directed to the RBC depot with their recyclables. The Smithers Town Council reverted their municipal curbside recycling



collection to household garbage every week, allowing the previous recycling material to be combined with household waste. It is important to note that, aside from an initial spike in volumes at the Smithers-Telkwa Recycling Depot, there has not been a significant increase in materials received at the RBC Depot; an indication that recyclables are being disposed of as waste. Up until March of 2020, RBC material was transported loose in totes to Surrey, BC and currently being hauled loose to Prince George. Recycle BC's current post-collection company, Green for Life (GFL), is willing to provide compensation for a residential recycling receiving facility only. This compensation, however, would not be adequate to cover the costs for the ICI portion of the facility due to the volumes of cardboard generated by the ICI waste sector. The ICI volumes would require additional infrastructure (larger receiving and storage areas and larger baler) and likely additional staff.

In September 2019, Staff reported the proposed capital and operational costs needed to establish a facility to allow for the expansion into ICI. The Board was not supportive of the annual loss in operational costs that the RDBN would incur to run a facility (about \$140K) with the proposed compensation package and current incentive rates. The RDBN has lobbied the Province to find better incentive rates for the northern rural regions as well as the inclusion of ICI as an EPR program. Although the Province is aware of the need for a solution to ICI recycling, no changes to these programs are expected in the foreseeable future.

### **Knockholt Landfill**

Knockholt Landfill (KLF) has received approximately 500 metric tons of additional material (ICI cardboard) since the ban was lifted, which is estimated to account for approximately 30% of the current volume of material being landfilled. The most notable consequence of this extra material is the need for development of Phase 3B in 2020 which was originally budgeted for 2021. The high volume of cardboard is also reducing the quality of landfilling occurring at KLF due to the nature of the material. Despite the attendant's best efforts to evenly distribute the cardboard throughout the waste and achieve appropriate compaction, there is a risk for layering, inconsistent compaction and overall reduced stability in the landfill. This is not optimal landfill practice and may lead to future issues at Knockholt. It has been recently observed that during the COVID-19 crisis, there has been about a 30% increase in cardboard loads coming to KLF, likely due to online order deliveries. This is expected to continue as long as the crisis, with further impacts to the landfill.

### **Impacts to Local Business**

As mentioned above, the cardboard ban at KLF was lifted to reduce the financial impact to businesses in the Smithers area, who would be forced to pay for the transport of loose cardboard to Prince George for recycling. The cost of transport to KLF was significantly less than to Prince George, but still came with a considerably higher financial burden than prior to the loss of the receiving facility in 2019. One retailer in Smithers has seen an approximate doubling in collection fees from \$24k to \$53k per year since losing the baling facility in Smithers. If the cardboard ban is reinstated, the cost of hauling will again increase significantly if no other option is found. This retailer has indicated that they will be forced to lay-off at least one employee if cardboard collection costs increase. Currently, smaller self-haul business owners are able to dispose of (landfill) their cardboard at the STTS free of charge.

### **Smithers-Telkwa Transfer Station**

The cardboard received from self-haul businesses at the STTS has also impacted both transfer station and hauling operations. Currently, the RDBN hauls waste from STTS to KLF. The extra volumes at the STTS have increased weekly hauling requirements and an increase in associated wages, fuel and maintenance costs. There is also an extra burden to the transfer station attendant who is receiving and handling the incoming loads.

## **DISCUSSION**

There are several important issues associated with ICI cardboard in the western portion of the RDBN and there is no simple solution that addresses them all to everyone's satisfaction. It is clear to RDBN staff that minimizing impacts to the lifespan and integrity of Knockholt Landfill is the main priority and reinstating the





cardboard ban is the best way to achieve this. The financial consequence for businesses in the Smithers area is the issue at the center of this larger problem. Removing a local option for recycling/disposal of ICI cardboard may increase the expense of recycling to an unsustainable level potentially resulting in illegal dumping, burning or an illegal influx at the RBC depot. People in the area are willing to recycle cardboard, but only at a reasonable expense. In addition to the above impacts, the continued landfilling of ICI cardboard is also in substantial conflict with the RDBN's Solid Waste Management Plan. Our goal as local government is to encourage recycling and facilitate this in a fair manner.

That being said, staff has compiled the following options regarding the current cardboard ban.

**Option 1: Reinstate the Cardboard ban**

Force generators to pay for hauling and recycling of this material. This would result in a significant financial burden for local businesses who would have to pay for transport of loose cardboard to Prince George (Terrace does not have capacity). We must also consider the inefficiency of transporting loose cardboard these long distances and the additional fuel emissions generated.

**Option 2: No Change**

Continue landfilling ICI cardboard with significant impacts to the quality and life expectancy of the landfill. The increase in per capita disposal rates conflicts with the solid waste goals for the RDBN. This option also comes with impacts to Smithers/Telkwa businesses who have seen the increase in collection costs due to the travel distance to Knockholt.

**Option 3: Tipping fees**

Delay reinstating the cardboard ban until a baling facility is established but charge the tipping fee of \$130/mt (as per bylaw no. 1879) for landfilling. This will result in an additional financial impact to businesses for a period of time until recommendation 1 is fulfilled, however this would be cheaper for businesses than hauling to Prince George. This would impact the quality and lifespan of Knockholt Landfill but would incentivize recycling.

**Option 4: Establish Temporary ICI Recycling in Smithers**

Reinstate the cardboard ban at KLF, but provide an ICI receiving service for Smithers area businesses. The service would be located at the Smithers-Telkwa Transfer Station (STTS) and would require at least 1 full-time employee (FTE), a baling station, storage area and transportation solution. There are three (3) main models for this approach:

- A. Allow for drop-off of cardboard at no cost to businesses. The RDBN would assume all expenses. Logistically this would not be difficult to achieve, and the infrastructure could be implemented at a relatively low cost. Operations would be expensive and unequal across the region
- B. Allow for drop-off of cardboard at a subsidized cost to businesses. The RDBN would assume a portion of total expenses. User fees and payment methods would need to be established.
- C. Allow for drop-off of cardboard with full cost recovery. The RDBN would operate the service, but user fees would cover all expenses. This may be difficult to achieve with the potentially deficient cardboard volumes generated in the area.

For simplicity (and lack of commitment to handle ICI), all of the above options disregard (but do not negate) the residential recycling options as RBC's post-collection contractor will be responsible for this regardless of how we proceed.

An integral part of each of the above options would be public awareness programs and to and continue efforts to support the establishment a new baling facility.

RDBN staff would like to further explore Option 4B. A tentative plan is to install two (2) temporary compacting roll-off bins at STTS with a pay-per-use system. The bins would require an attendant during



opening hours, and businesses would be required to weigh their loads at the existing scale. Businesses would pre-pay for this service and be debited the per kg price of each load. When full, the compacted bins would be hauled by either the RDBN or a private waste hauler to Prince George. Depending on collected fees, bin cost and hauling costs, this system could potentially allow for full cost-recovery, however further research into pricing options is needed.

There are several things to consider when establishing Option 4B. Although it is intended as a temporary solution, it may provide valuable insight into the feasibility of the RDBN taking-on ICI cardboard internally. Temporary or not, an important consideration is the cost of recycling region wide. The perception of providing a service or subsidizing one region and not another is a fair issue. Finding a solution that equalizes the cost of ICI cardboard recycling across the region seems ideal, however, the result will ultimately be that the western portion of the RDBN would require more resources to do so.

### **CONCLUSION**

The issue of ICI cardboard recycling is complex, and the impacts to the landfill are already resulting in premature expenditures for phase development. Upon the RDBN reinstating the cardboard ban at Knockholt Landfill, staff will communicate this decision to the impacted stakeholders and take a lead role in working on solutions for the ICI cardboard in the western region. While the financial details of the above proposed solution(s) are finalized, the RDBN should host a virtual town hall with the business community to determine if the region has moved closer to an independent solution for ICI cardboard.



February 4, 2020

Attn: Curtis Helgesen  
 Chief Administrative Officer  
 Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
 37 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
 Burns Lake BC  
 V0J 1E0

Dear Curtis,

As I believe you are aware, despite all possible efforts, Recycle BC and our current post-collection contractor Green by Nature (GBN) have not been able thus far to site either a temporary or long-term facility near Smithers, where the Town of Smithers and the Village of Telkwa can deliver their curbside recycling.

Having fully explored all options currently available, we communicated on January 20, 2020 to both the Town of Smithers and the Village of Telkwa that we have no further available alternatives at this time, and reiterated the remaining option, which is for Smithers and Telkwa to recommence curbside recycling collection and deliver collected material to the Do Your Part facility in Terrace. As we indicated in our communication, GBN would be prepared to enter into discussions with Smithers and Telkwa to cover the mileage cost associated with the distance to this facility beyond 60 km from their municipal borders. We asked both communities to confirm by February 1, 2020 whether they would be moving forward with that option. Both communities have now confirmed they will not be reestablishing curbside collection at this time.

Recycle BC remains committed to exploring additional options to site a facility near Smithers. We are currently working on the transition to a new post-collection service provider, Green for Life, effective May 19, 2020. It is our hope that our new contractor will be able to provide a viable solution near Smithers. We understand Green for Life has been in touch with the Regional District to discuss this further, and we remain optimistic.

Given the loss of the local facility in a fire last year, this has proven an unusual situation. We appreciate the efforts taken by the Regional District to increase the staffing at the Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station. We have been pleased to support that increase in staff with additional payments of \$8,000 a month beyond our typical per-tonne incentives for contracted depot collectors. We are proposing to continue those payments until May (with the process adjustment noted below) and will reconsider and discuss this arrangement with the RD at that time, once we have a better understanding of whether a new facility has been sited.

Given that Smithers and Telkwa will not be reestablishing curbside collection at this time, effective February 1, 2020 we will be amending the Regional District's incentive structure for the Smithers/Telkwa Transfer Station to adjust applicable material categories to the higher "without

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curbside” rate. We will also adjust the number of depot only households to include the populations of Smithers and Telkwa, which will increase the resident education and service administration top-up payments received on a monthly basis.

We estimate that these adjustments will result in a \$1,000 a month increase in the incentives received by the Regional District on a monthly basis, but should not have any impact on the volume of material received or the staff required at the depot. As a result of this change, we ask that the Regional District adjust the monthly invoices sent to Recycle BC for the additional staffing from \$8,000 a month to \$7,000 a month effective February 1, 2020, to ensure compensation remains consistent. This will result in no net change to the Regional District’s overall compensation. This is a simple rationalization to reflect that curbside collection is not being provided.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, I would be happy to set up a call.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jordan Best  
Director, Collection  
Recycle BC  
Phone: 604-314-4084  
Email: [jbest@recyclebc.ca](mailto:jbest@recyclebc.ca)

CC :

Rory McKenzie – RDBN  
Janette Derksen – RDBN  
Brendan McShane – Recycle BC

**Cheryl Anderson**

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**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]: RE: STTSR compensation May agreement

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**From:** Jordan Best <[jbest@recyclebc.ca](mailto:jbest@recyclebc.ca)>  
**Sent:** April 28, 2020 2:36 PM  
**To:** Janette Derksen <[janette.derksen@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:janette.derksen@rdbn.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Brendan McShane <[bmcshane@recyclebc.ca](mailto:bmcshane@recyclebc.ca)>; Alex Eriksen <[alex.eriksen@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:alex.eriksen@rdbn.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: RE: STTSR compensation May agreement

Hi Janette,

We are prepared to continue with the current payments for another 3 months' time, which we can review again in 3 months or when a receiving facility is established and curbside collection begins again (whichever comes first).

Let me know if that works.

Thanks.

**JORDAN BEST**

Director, Collection

Recycle BC  
P 778-588-9510  
M 604-314-4084  
[RecycleBC.ca](http://RecycleBC.ca)

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**From:** Janette Derksen <[janette.derksen@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:janette.derksen@rdbn.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 10:42 AM  
**To:** Jordan Best <[jbest@recyclebc.ca](mailto:jbest@recyclebc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Brendan McShane <[bmcshane@recyclebc.ca](mailto:bmcshane@recyclebc.ca)>; Alex Eriksen <[alex.eriksen@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:alex.eriksen@rdbn.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** STTSR compensation May agreement  
**Importance:** High

Jordan,

I hope all is safe and well during the challenging times.

As per your letter dated Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 2020, the RDBN would like to work out further arrangements on the compensation agreement we have with Recycle BC. The letter states that these payments will continue till May and will reconsider at that time. The temporary employee who's wages this funding is paying for will have to be given notice of any change sooner than later as we are approaching May. With the pandemic this notice is needed in advance for this employee to get another job or possibly get on EI.

I will assume that the RDBN will continue to invoice Recycle BC during the month of May for temporary employee wages and admin costs until further notice. Again, we appreciate the funding that Recycle BC has given the RDBN for this and hope that it continues.

I am to report to our Board on this as well as follow up on the status of GFL and the progress of the receiving facility problem in Smithers/Telkwa so I am hoping we can have a date on when we could be losing the compensation dollars entirely or possibly an extension on a modified or the current agreement by this week.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

*Janette Derksen*

Deputy Director of Environmental Services  
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
P.O. Box 820, #37-3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Burns Lake, BC V0J1E0  
p. 250-692-3195 tf. 1-800-320-3339 c. 250-251-1424  
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**FOR COVID-19 INFORMATION GO TO**  
<https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/media-status-updates/covid-19-information>

Email secured by Check Point

Hello Curtis,

Apologies for the delay in following up on this. As you offered to coordinate communications around the issue of restoring curbside recycling services in Smithers and Telkwa, I hope you can forward this to all the appropriate parties.

As discussed on our last call, we have explored the possibility of the ministry facilitating a joint call between the three local governments and Recycle BC to bring everyone together and go over the issues and potential options. After our call, we followed up with Recycle BC and we have received assurance from GFL – Recycle BC’s new post-collection contractor – that they have identified specific opportunities that they are exploring and are actively engaged in negotiations with parties in the area to develop a solution.

GFL has a contract with Recycle BC to establish a post-collection network for residential packaging and paper on their behalf and, as part of a normal commercial process, they should be granted the space to negotiate contracts with local governments and/or private businesses for services they require. Involvement of the ministry at a time when commercial agreements are being negotiated may be viewed as interference in GFL’s commercial process. We have therefore concluded that it would not be appropriate for us to engage on this at this time.

We regret that the communities of Smithers and Telkwa were previously unable to reach an agreement with Recycle BC to temporarily transport materials to Terrace in order to resume curbside collection sooner. We hope the ongoing negotiations lead to a resolution in short order. If needed, we would be glad to schedule an update call on the outcome of the negotiations.

On the separate issue of ICI packaging and paper, which is currently not covered under the Recycling Regulation, Minister George Heyman is aware of the concerns raised by many local governments and the need for the ministry to look into how this could be addressed. Last year the ministry undertook research and focused engagement concerning additional products that may prove suitable to manage under the regulation. This work will help inform us on product/material gaps, including how recycling in the ICI sector is currently managed. Any work to explore regulatory amendments involving ICI materials would be accompanied by further consultation in advance of any regulatory changes. We will keep you informed on any opportunities for engagement as they arise.

Kindest regards,  
Hanna

**Hanna Vovk**

Senior Policy Analyst | Extended Producer Responsibility

Environmental Protection Division | BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

778.698.8276 | [Hanna.Vovk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Hanna.Vovk@gov.bc.ca) | 525 Superior St., Victoria, V8V 0C5, BC

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