



**June 13, 2013**

## **City Council Committee Report**

**TO: Mayor and Council**

**FR: Karen Brown, CAO**

**RE: Proposed Waste Reduction Act**

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### **Recommendation:**

**Whereas** the Province has introduced proposed legislation entitled the Waste Reduction Act; and

**Whereas** this proposed legislation will hold individual producers responsible for managing the waste from their products and packaging; and

**Whereas** this proposed legislation will encourage increased waste diversion from landfills, which will result in fostering innovation and more efficient packaging, as well as help both extend the life expectancy of existing landfill sites and reduce the need for new landfill sites; and

**Whereas** this new legislation recognizes municipalities' important role in waste diversion while working to ensure that the taxpayer relief through greater industry funding for the Blue Box program in the long term;

### **Now therefore, let it be resolved**

**That** the Council of the City of Kenora hereby supports the proposed changes under the new Waste Reduction Act for the reasons as outlined within this resolution; and further

**That** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of the Environment, Sarah Campbell, MPP (Kenora – Rainy River), as well as submitted to Wendy Ren, Assistant Director, Ministry of the Environment, in conjunction with the Province's consultation on this proposed legislation with reference to EBR Registry number 011-9260.

### **Background:**

On June 6, 2013, Jim Bradley, Ministry of the Environment, announced the proposed Waste Reduction Act. This new proposed legislation is intended to replace the current Waste Diversion Act. Copies of the AMO Press Release and AMO Key Roles of Municipalities in relation to the Waste Reduction Act have been attached to this report for

background information (attachments #1 and #2, respectively). The information included in those attachments has not been reiterated within this report.

From the municipal perspective, key messages as provided by AMO related to this new legislation include:

- Support for holding individual producers responsible for managing the waste from their products and packaging.
- Businesses need additional incentives to reduce waste, improve products and packaging and use resources more efficiently – all while protecting our environment.
- For too long, businesses have been able to pass waste costs off to property taxpayers, who have been left holding the bag, and the bill.
- The proposed legislation also recognizes municipalities' important role in waste diversion.
- The proposed legislation should provide taxpayer relief through greater industry funding for the Blue Box program in the long term.

It is recognized that, if passed, a transition to the new legislation would be required, the details for which have not been formalized at this time. Ultimately, the changes proposed in this new legislation are positive, and Kenora should communicate support for the proposed legislation to the Province.

**Budget:**

There is no impact to the budget related to the support of this proposed legislation. The intent is increased producer responsibility and a shift in the formula for blue box funding, which should ultimately provide long term relief to property taxpayers across the Province.

**Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:**

The proposed legislation has been posted for 90 days for consultation purposes, beginning June 6, 2013. A Council resolution supporting this legislation is recommended, with a copy of the resolution to be sent to Wendy Ren, Assistant Director, Ministry of the Environment, with reference to EBR Registry number 011-9260 for the correspondence. Contact information as follows:

Wendy Ren  
Assistant Director  
Ministry of the Environment  
Integrated Environmental Policy Division  
Waste Management Policy Branch  
135 St Clair Avenue West  
Floor 7  
Toronto Ontario  
M4V 1P5  
Phone: (416) 212-1128  
Fax: (416) 325-4233

In addition, a copy of the resolution should be forwarded to the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of the Environment, as well as Sarah Campbell, MPP (Kenora – Rainy River).

Cc: Rick Perchuk / Mukesh Pokharel