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COMMUNICATION

memorandum

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February 2/16  
ITEM - 9

**DATE:** January 27, 2016

**TO:** Honourable Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and Members of Council

**FROM:** Paul Jankowski, Deputy City Manager, Public Works  
Jennifer Rose, Director, Environmental Services

**RE:** **COMMUNICATION – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – FEBRUARY 2, 2016**  
**ITEM # 9, REPORT NO. 6 - WASTE FREE ONTARIO LEGISLATION**  
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DRAFT COMMENTS**

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#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Director of Environmental Services recommend:

1. Council endorses staff objectives outlined in this communication, on the proposed Waste Free Ontario Act and draft Strategy
2. Council authorize the Deputy City Manager, Public Works to draft a letter of comment to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), Region of York and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) regarding the potential legislative change and to incorporate the comments in this report and any additional comments made by Council into the letter.
3. That staff be directed to continue to collaborate with the Region of York and AMO throughout the legislative process to ensure that the objectives outlined in this communication are appropriately addressed.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

An overview of the Waste Free Ontario Act was provided as Item 9, Report 6, at Committee of the Whole on February 2, 2016

**City staff attended a meeting with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario on January 20, 2016 to find a common response to the MOECC where key priorities were identified**

This meeting was attended by approximately 160 people representing municipalities across Ontario and three top priorities were identified to be used for advocacy efforts by municipalities. These three top priorities identified are:

1. No clear role for municipalities in:
  - a. Blue box collecting and processing
  - b. Decision-making on programs and schemes for designated materials that will impact municipal integrated waste management systems
2. No clear requirements for producers to pay for designated materials that end up in municipal waste streams
3. Act will change core municipal legislated responsibilities identified in Regulation 101/94, Municipal Act, and Environmental Compliance Approvals; these need to be addressed to ensure municipalities are not encumbered with legislated responsibilities they no longer control.

**City of Vaughan staff supports the intent of the Waste Free Ontario legislation**

The intent of the legislation is to increase resource productivity in Ontario and reduce waste, and to enable an effective and efficient recycling system. Specifically, staff supports the following:

- Designating full responsibility to producers
- Update of the 3R's regulations to improve Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) and multi-residential waste diversion
- Organics action plan to reduce and divert more food waste from landfills
- Current designated recycling materials remain and more may be added

**City of Vaughan staff has identified the following objectives as a framework for comments to the MOECC which are due on February 29, 2016**New legislation should not cost the residents of Vaughan more for solid waste collection services

Many paper and packaging products end up in the wrong stream (e.g. recyclable plastic in the garbage). The legislation proposes full producer responsibility; however, it is unclear if municipalities would be compensated for managing designated materials which end up in the residential organics/garbage streams.

New legislation should maintain current levels of service for collection of recyclables

Currently, the City provides weekly curbside collection of solid waste to all citizens of single-family households as well as collection in the 51 grandfathered multi-residential complexes. This collection is provided on the same day of the week as all other residential waste collection. A seamless transition to full producer responsibility for collection would be least disruptive to the citizens of Vaughan.

New legislation should provide for continuation of current municipal waste collection contracts

The City has an integrated waste collection system which provides residents with convenient access to recycling, organics, garbage and bulky item collection. Existing contracts should be grandfathered with the enactment of the new legislation.

New legislation should ensure that City of Vaughan diversion programs objectives are maintained

Producer responsibility of recycling programs may lead to some currently collected items entering the waste stream as producers may elect to implement other recycling options such as take-back programs similar to the LCBO's bottle return program, rather than curbside collection. Citizens may elect to put currently collected recyclable items in the garbage. As funding for recycling programs will no longer be provided to municipalities, the City will be responsible for the collection and disposal of these items.

**It is important that the City of Vaughan continues to work collaboratively with York Region and AMO to advocate for a strong municipal role.**

Staff will continue to advocate for municipal and City of Vaughan interests in ongoing consultations as details of the legislation roll out. A letter of comment will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change through the Environmental Registry.



## memorandum

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "PJankowski".

for

Paul Jankowski  
Deputy City Manager, Public Works

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "JRose".

Jennifer Rose  
Director, Environmental Services

Copy To: Stephanie Sidler, Manager of Solid Waste Management