



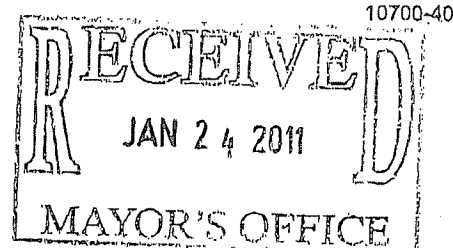
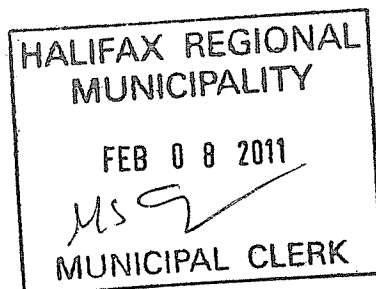
Environment
Office of the Minister

PO Box 442, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2P0 • www.gov.ns.ca/nse

our file number:

12700-21-11121
Tel# 33836

JAN 20 2011



Mayor Peter Kelly
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax NS B2N 3H7

Dear Mayor Kelly:

Thank you for your letter of December 13, 2010, regarding HRM's views on the RRFB's diversion and incentive programs and their relationship to provincial solid-waste goals.

The waste disposal target of 300 kilograms per person per year by the year 2015 is a provincial target, as was the 50 per cent solid-waste diversion goal set by the provincial government in 1995. The 300 kg target, like the 50 per cent diversion goal, is established in Part IX of the *Environment Act*, and it is re-stated in the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* (EGSPA).

The municipal solid waste regions were established under the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations for the purposes of Part IX of the *Environment Act* and to encourage regional cooperation in planning for and achieving provincial goals such as the 50 per cent diversion goal, and now the 300 kilogram disposal target. This approach requires all municipal regions to play a role in achieving the 2015 target.

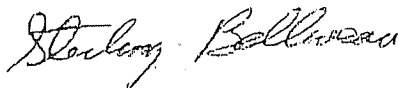
Solid waste diversion credits are calculated taking population into account. However, there are also fixed and other costs that municipalities and regions incur regardless of size or population. We support the RRFB's decision to provide supplemental funding programs that aid in regional achievement of the new disposal target, such as one-time payments in addition to the diversion credits. In order for all regions to sustain and expand their diversion/disposal activities, there needs to be flexibility beyond allocating funding only on the basis of population.

Mayor Peter Kelly
Page 2

I have requested that Mr. Johnny McPherson, Acting Minister of Waste Resource Management, contact HRM's Solid Waste Resource section staff and make arrangements for them to meet on this issue.

Thank you for your thoughts on this issue.

Sincerely,

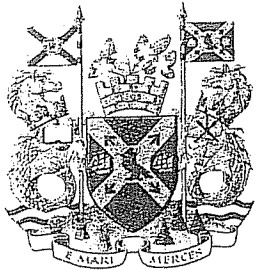


Sterling Belliveau
Minister

c: Bill Ring, RRFB

MUNICIPAL CLERKS OFFICE	
Distributed to:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Councillors	Meeting <u>Regional Council</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAO	Date: <u>Dec. 7/10</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DCAO	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solicitor	Item No. <u>11.4.1</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<u>J. Church, G. Helms,</u>
<u>K. Reashor, K. Tidgwell (ESC)</u>	

*Halifax
Regional
Municipality*



Peter Kelly
Mayor

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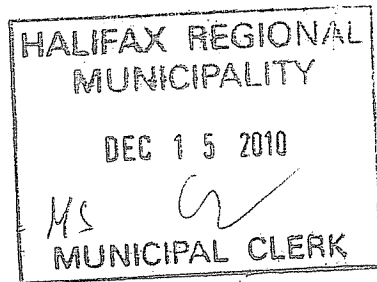
December 13, 2010

Honourable Sterling Belliveau
Minister of Environment
5th Floor, 5151 Terminal Road
PO Box 442
Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

Dear Minister Belliveau:

As you know, Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) plays a critical role in the Province meeting its Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (EGSPA) targets. Recently, HRM wrote to the CEO of the Resource Recovery Fund Board, (RRFB), Bill Ring, to clarify a point which has a direct impact on funding allocations to HRM from RRFB diversion and incentive programs. HRM requested that the RRFB confirm their programs were acknowledging that the 2015 EGSPA target of 300kg/pp of waste was a provincial target and not a regional or municipal target in the case of HRM. The response from RRFB was that diversion credits and incentive programs are, in fact, based on their position that the 2015 EGSPA target is a regional or municipal objective (attached).

HRM has sought clarification on a number of occasions from your staff and has been assured that the 300 kg/pp target is a provincial objective, not a regional or municipal objective. As has been explained to HRM, this position is based on the recognition of the density of industry, economic activity, and population in HRM, which puts the municipality in a different situation than all other jurisdictions in the Province. For the RRFB to compare and impose the same waste diversion expectation requirements on HRM (population 394,800) as, for example, the Western region (population 45,075), is unfair. HRM does not believe this is the intent of the EGSPA target. This issue was raised again and your staff assured HRM staff, in the presence of RRFB staff at the recent Regional Chairs meeting, that the 300 kg/pp target is a Provincial goal. HRM believes it is being unfairly penalized and losing out on funding as a result of the RRFB's position that the target is a regional (municipal) goal. RRFB has developed and implemented an incentive funding program that is based on this position (attached). It is requested that




you clarify this issue and whether the noted incentive program can be modified to reflect this reality.

In addition, HRM feels that funding incentives and grants, even "one time" funding grants, allocated to all seven regions equally is also unjustifiable. HRM residents generate over 50 percent of the RRFB deposit revenues. Special one-time grants, such as the recent \$100,000 issued to all regions by the RRFB, should not be allocated equally to regions which are not equivalent in representation of population or existing environmental diversion programs. It is requested that the RRFB be reminded that all incentive and grant programs should take into account the size of the regions for equitable investment of provincially generated funding.

HRM takes great pride in its diversion achievements to date. HRM reached 51% in the 2009 Nova Scotia Waste Diversion calculations, achieving the highest diversion of any region in Nova Scotia based on the Nova Scotia conversion calculations data. HRM continues to proactively engage residents and the corporate community in environmental stewardship programs which maintain a support rating of greater than 90%. HRM has every confidence that the municipality will continue to lead the Province in its diversion programs based on equitable demographic and waste generation comparisons.

In recognition of your staff confirming that the 300 kg target is a Provincial target, HRM staff would welcome the opportunity to assist and work with your staff and RRFB in the development of a practical and fair per capita kg/pp target per region, which HRM would then incorporate into its diversion messaging and education programs.

Respectfully, I remain


Peter Kelly
Mayor

CC: Halifax Regional Council
HRM Members of Legislative Assembly

MUNICIPAL CLERKS OFFICE

Distributed to:

☒ Councillors Meeting Regional Council
☒ Mayor
☒ CAO
☒ DCAR M. Labrecque, W. Arney
☒ Solicitor
☒ Communications

Date: Dec 7/11
June 15, 2012

Item No. 11.4.1
Item No. 11.4.1

Conc. I. Church, G. Helm
K. Reardon, K. Tidgwell