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MEMORANDUM

TO: His Worship Mayor Kelly and Members of Regional Council
FROM: Brad Anguish, P.Eng., Director, EMS
DATE: April 7, 2006
SUBJECT: Letter from the Community Monitoring Committee

At the March 29, 2006 meeting of the Community Monitoring Committee, a motion was approved for a letter to go to the Honourable Getson Bolivar, Minister of Environment and Labour, urging the implementation of new initiatives that will further waste diversion, i.e. recycling and composting in the HRM.

The attached letter dated April 4, 2006, from the Community Monitoring Committee, is provided for the information and support by Regional Council. Staff has reviewed the letter and advises the content of the letter is consistent with the goal of the HRM Integrated Solid Waste Resource Management strategy of maximizing diversion and minimizing the disposal of waste.

BRAD ANGUISH, DIRECTOR EMS

attachment

Recycling paper reduces air pollution and saves landfill space

Environmental Management Services
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Monitoring HRM
Solid Waste Strategy

community monitoring committee

April 4, 2006

The Honourable Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Minister of Environment and Labour
Province of Nova Scotia
5151 Terminal Road, 6th floor
Halifax, NS B3J 2T8

Dear Minister,

**RE: Chair of the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment
- again establish Nova Scotia and Canada as a leader in waste diversion
- new national packaging protocol**

The Members of the Community Monitoring Committee would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Environment and Labour. Community Monitoring Committee will continue to work with you and your department for a quality environment.

Community Monitoring Committee is a community-based organization charged with the monitoring of the Solid Waste Strategy of Halifax Regional Municipality and has fulfilled this role since its adoption in 1996. CMC participated in the provincial driven regionalization of solid waste management and led the public participation in the creation of the first and highly recognized Solid Waste Management Strategy.

There is considerable local, national and international recognition of the uniqueness of the Halifax Regional Municipality Solid Waste Management Strategy and its implementation. There have been several awards of recognition for the Halifax Regional Municipality initiative. There are several Provincial-Halifax Regional Municipality showcases of the facilities and demonstrations abroad such as the current one at Guiana through Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Members are increasingly concerned with the growth in volume of plastics that are being buried in the Residual Disposal Facility (landfill) rather than being recycled. The expectation of the public is that the packaging industry will increase the recycling of its packaging products and eliminate this volume of inert (useless) material absorbing space in these modern (and expensive) landfills.

Nova Scotia is no longer recognized a world leader in recycling and composting. Many other provinces and countries that have introduced new waste diversion programs for such items as electronics, oil containers, and plastic bags are now ahead of Nova Scotia. It has been more than four years since the introduction of the last provincial program -- the paint recycling program in Nova Scotia. The failure by the Province to secure a stewardship agreement with the producers

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Minister of Environment and Labour
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and distributors of flyers by December 31, 2005 jeopardizes the continuation of the agreement with the local newspaper industry, which will result in lost opportunities to promote recycling programs for paint, tires and deposit beverage containers.

The residents HRM and all 56 municipalities in Nova Scotia are subsidizing industry by providing the collection and disposal of their products in very expensive second-generation landfills. Attempts to secure new voluntary stewardship agreements with industry are not working. A new non-voluntary Provincial policy approach is required through legislation with industry.

This new policy approach - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), will ensure that a product does not enter the waste stream without the costs of the management of the final disposition of the product being included in the cost of the item. The inclusion of the cost of the management of a product after its useful life will drive industry to design for the environment by ensuring their product can be easily disassembled and its various components recycled.

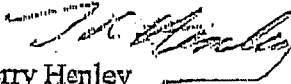
It is time for the introduction of a new national packaging protocol, with an established diversion goal and a rigid schedule that will once again establish Nova Scotia and Canada as a leader in waste diversion.

In the intervening years since the last national packaging protocol in the early 1990's, the lack of a national standard for such industries as plastics, as an example, has resulted in a plethora of food containers of different types of plastic- without even the basic requirement for minimum size for lettering and recycling symbols, let alone a requirement for similar type plastic.

The recycling industry in Canada needs to be on the same level playing field as the raw resource industry. The implementation of financial incentives for the reuse, recycling, composting and waste diversion industries will achieve a triple bottom line - of good social, environmental and economic responsibility. GPI Atlantic has confirmed the integrated solid waste resource management strategy introduced in 1995 has resulted in a net savings of between \$33 to \$60 per person in Nova Scotia. There are many opportunities to extend these benefits to even greater heights.

As Minister of Environment and Labour for Nova Scotia, and as Chair of the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment, the CMC --the guardians of the HRM ISW/RMS- directly appeal to your leadership on these many issues. The job is not complete. There is an excellent opportunity to broaden the past successes of solid waste /resource management in Nova Scotia and Canada.

Thank you for your consideration


Terry Henley
Chairman

Cc: Mayor and Council, Halifax Regional Municipality
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