

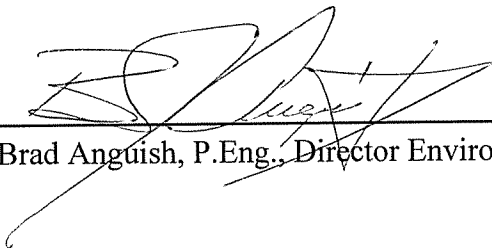


PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**February 13, 2007**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Anguish, P.Eng., Director Environmental Management Services

**DATE:** February 1, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Implications - Provision of Collection Services at Churches

### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

Regional Council, May 30, 2006 - Collection Service Standards - Churches

#### **BACKGROUND**

At the May 30, 2006, Regional Council meeting, Councillor Snow moved that the provision of solid waste (organics and recyclables) collection be referred to the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee (SWRAC) for review. The implications of amending By-Law S-600 to provide municipal collection services at churches has been discussed at two meetings of the SWRAC.

At the December 4, 2006, SWRAC meeting, it was agreed that the implications of providing refuse, organics and recyclables collection at churches be provided for the information of members of Regional Council.

### DISCUSSION

At the September 28, and December 4, 2006, SWRAC meetings, the implications (supported by staff reports) of reversing By-Law S-600 to provide collection services at churches was discussed. Staff notes that, as per Regional Council approval of By-Law S-600 in 1999, churches with a residential component (i.e. a manse or rectory) are eligible to receive municipal collection services. Churches that do not have a residential component are not eligible for the receipt of municipal collection services, for the reasons highlighted in this and the attached staff reports.

Attachment #1 is a staff report dated November 28, 2006, entitled "Implications - Provisions of Municipal Collection Services at Churches". The staff report of November 28, 2006 (with the three other staff reports to SWRAC and Regional Council in 1998, 2001 and 2006), highlights that:

- a reversal of the policy to include churches (those without a residential component, i.e. manse, rectory) as an eligible property for residential collection services has a potential budget implication of \$153,000 annually;
- the \$153,000 expenditure is very likely to increase substantially if additional collection vehicles are required over the remaining 18 months of the residential collection contract;
- a change in the eligibility of churches could prompt a similar request from other institutions, which could have a financial impact for HRM of approximately \$500,000 annually;
- that funding for the provision of collection services at churches is not included in the 06/07 budget;
- that the Solid Waste/Resource Management System relies on tipping fees to offset a significant portion of the budget;
- that providing service to churches and other institutions and non profits would undermine tipping fee revenue, requiring an alternate source of cost recovery or alternately a reduction in service/programs;
- the weekly refuse collection service provided in the early 1990's, prior to the new ISW/RMS, did not meet the service level requirement of many institutions, including churches (many supplemented weekly municipal collection with same week private collection);
- the shift to bi-weekly refuse (and organics ) collection in 1998/99 meant that the new service level would even less meet the needs of churches and other not for profit institutions; and
- the exclusion of all non residential properties, including churches and non profit agencies, from the receipt of municipal collection services, brought equity across the Region.

The adoption of By-Law S-600 in 1999, removed the inequity among industrial/commercial/institutional properties that are taxed based upon assessment, and has ensured a clear distinction between the residential and the ICI sector.

The Assessment Act exempts churches from property taxes. Since 1998, churches are taxed for fire protection service at the residential tax rate. Churches are not taxed for organics, recyclables or refuse collection, or for other HRM services, e.g. snow and ice control, police, street lighting, etc.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The are no budget implications.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Staff report dated November 28, 2006 to SWRAC, with attached three staff reports, November 8, 2000, November 22, 2001 and September 11, 2006.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

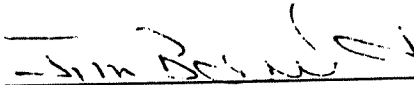
Report Prepared /Approved by : Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources 490-6606



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

Solid Waste/Resource Advisory Committee  
December 4, 2006

TO: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chairman and Members of the Solid Waste/Resource Advisory Committee

SUBMITTED BY:   
Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources

DATE: November 28, 2006

SUBJECT: Implications - Provision of Municipal Collection Services at Churches

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

At the September 28, 2006 meeting of SWRAC, staff was requested to advise of the financial and other implications of providing curbside collection service at churches in the HRM.

**BACKGROUND**

In September 1998, HRM Council approved a new collection strategy which brought equity across the Region. The new collection strategy defined eligible properties as residential properties (up to and including a building with six units) while excluding industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) properties, except churches having a residential component, i.e. a manse or rectory. Non-eligible properties<sup>1</sup> are required to provide their own collection.

As the attached staff reports of September 11, 2006 and November 8, 2000 detailed, a change in the eligibility requirements to extend municipal collection services to churches has the potential for other non/not-for-profit institutions such as schools, universities, hospitals, etc. to request receipt of municipal collection services. This report details the implications if an amendment to By-Law S-600 be undertaken, making churches eligible for receipt of municipal organics, recyclables and refuse collection.

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<sup>1</sup> Businesses and non-profits in rural areas of HRM are eligible for curbside collection. This service represents a small fraction of the overall solid waste system.

**DISCUSSION**

**A. *Churches:***

Staff have identified 284 places of worship across the HRM. The cost of providing biweekly organics and refuse, and weekly/biweekly recyclables' collection is estimated to be approximately \$30,000 a year. Assuming that a church produces twice the volume of materials per year than a single family dwelling (that averages 3 bags of refuse biweekly), HRM would suffer a loss of approximately \$123,000 in revenue, as the waste and organics from a church would not be charged a disposal fee at the Otter Lake and two compost facilities. The total net cost to HRM for providing collection services at churches is estimated to be approximately \$153,000 in 06/07.

**B. *Institutions (inclusive of churches):***

It is estimated that there are approximately 1,000 institutional non/not-for-profit institutions (inclusive of churches) in the HRM. If the policy was adjusted, other institutions may seek the same treatment, which would have greater financial implications for HRM of approximately \$500,000 a year.

**C. *By-Law S-600:***

As detailed in the attached staff reports, over the past seven years since the adoption of the policy, as contained in By-Law S-600, there have been occasional enquiries. Staff has responded to each and every enquiry, including clarification of the policy, options a church may consider (which includes the subscription collection service offered through the BIDC), and an educational/training session by Solid Waste Resource Education Officers to help church staff and members learn how to minimize waste/maximize recycling and composting.

**D. *Collection Contracts:***

If HRM began providing curbside collection service to churches and other institutions, the existing collection contracts would have to be renegotiated. Negotiating a change in service during the term of a contract is not preferred, as there is no competition to ensure HRM receives the best price for the service. The six companies who provide collection services in eight zones across the HRM may require additional collection vehicles for the remaining nineteen months of the residential collection contracts. If additional collection vehicles were required and available, HRM would likely pay a premium for the service as the cost of the vehicle would have to be recovered over the same nineteen months.

**E. *Service Level - Bi-Weekly Collection of Refuse and Organics:***

As the attached staff report of September 11, 2006 details, prior to the introduction of biweekly refuse collection in 1998, most institutional properties supplemented the weekly municipal collection with private same week collection. The shift to biweekly refuse and organics collection in 1998, meant that the HRM service level would even less meet the needs of institutional properties such as churches. This was the basis of staff's recommendation (which was approved by Regional Council) for the new collection strategy and supportive policy in By-Law S-600.

**F. *Churches and Taxation:***

Finance has advised that under the Assessment Act, churches are exempt from property taxes. Since 1998, churches are taxed for fire protection services at the residential tax rate. Churches are not taxed for collection of organics, recyclables or refuse (or for other HRM services, e.g. snow and ice control, police, street lighting, etc.). Therefore, it is HRM's policy for other residential and

commercial properties to subsidize, i.e. lessen the burden of taxes for church properties. The definition of a church property, under the Assessment Act, includes "church and place of worship and land used in connection therewith, churchyard, burial ground, church hall used for religious or congregational purposes...."

### BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The 2006/07 budget does not contain funds for the total net cost to the HRM of \$153,000 for the provision of curbside collection service at churches. It is probable that the cost of \$153,000 in 06/07 (which would be subject to an annual adjustment for the remainder of the residential collection contract) would increase, if additional collection vehicles were required over the final nineteen months of the contract.

A change in the eligibility for curbside collection service for non-profit organizations may prompt similar requests from other institutions which could have a financial impact for HRM of approximately \$500,000/year. HRM's Solid Waste/Resource Management System relies on tipping fees to offset a significant portion of the operating costs. Providing service to institutions like churches would undermine revenue from tipping fees, requiring an alternate source of cost recovery or alternately a reduction in service/programs.

### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

### ALTERNATIVES

One alternative, which is not recommended for the reasons outlined in this and the attached staff reports, is to commence the process of a public hearing to amend By-Law S-600 making churches eligible for receipt of collection services. A biweekly service level for the collection of refuse and organics will not meet the needs of churches where large community events are often held, i.e. bingo, yard sales, community lunches, etc., and has potential for significant financial implications for the HRM.

### ATTACHMENTS

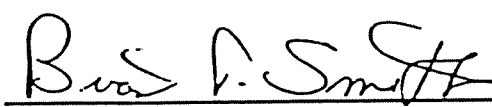
- 1) Staff report to SWRAC, dated November 8, 2006;
- 2) Staff report to Regional Council, dated November 22, 2001; and
- 3) Staff report to SWRAC, dated September 11, 2006.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources 490-6606

Halifax Regional Council  
November 14, 2000

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Brian T. Smith, Director of Solid Waste Resources

**DATE:** November 8, 2000.

**SUBJECT:** Treatment of Churches in HRM re Solid Waste System

### Information Report

#### ORIGIN

Questions from Councillor Cooper and Councillor Fougere at the October 17 Council Session.

#### BACKGROUND

Councillor Cooper asked for some information on why churches are considered as commercial establishments as far as waste collection is concerned, how this provision was being interpreted by waste haulers, and why there were instances where no notification was given to churches that residential collection was being stopped. Councillor Fougere asked staff to consider a program where churches could be sold tags at the residential rate, rather than the commercial rate.

## DISCUSSION

The definitions and restrictions relative to the provision of residential collection by HRM are found in the Solid Waste Resources By-Law, No. S-600. Churches come under the definition of "institutional premises" in the by-law No. S-600, section 2 (s), page 3,

"institutional premises" means any building exclusively used by any corporate body or society for promoting a particular purpose on a non-profit basis and includes public buildings."

Such buildings, which include churches, hospitals, schools, charities, sports and social club facilities, and are not provided with residential collection unless:

1. there is a residential use in the building (e.g. a rectory), or
2. they are located in the more rural parts of HRM where small businesses and institutions are part of the residential collection system because of the low density of commercial operations.

Council would have to approach any change in the definition of "institutional premises" very cautiously, as a change for one type of institution could generate requests for reviews from other non-profit organizations. The current definition may have some problems, but it has been working reasonably well for several years now, and many of the differences that existed before amalgamation have been sorted out. Residential collection costs HRM over \$7 million/year as presently configured, with annual increases to respond to added dwelling units and costs of service.

Our residential collection system services nearly 114,000 residential units, over eight different collection districts, and occasionally problems have arisen with respect to the application of the institutional property definition by individual waste haulers. HRM has not made any sudden changes to its by-law that would have created the situation of lack of notice identified by Councillor Cooper, but it is possible that one of our haulers has made some adjustment in service. Generally, staff have been able to address these problems on an individual basis, and this has proven satisfactory to most organizations and to Council in the past.

With respect to issuing bag tags as proposed by Councillor Fougere, something similar was initiated a few years ago by the Halifax Downtown Business Association in response to changes in HRM collection provisions. HRM provided some technical advice for this arrangement, which works with a commercial hauler, and is not part of the HRM residential collection system. Staff could provide similar technical advice to groups of churches interested in reducing their cost of commercial collection. This would be preferable to having HRM institute such a system itself, in terms of the resources that could be made available to develop and administer such a system.



**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The extension of residential collection service to Churches would have significant cost implications for HRM in terms of adding a large number of additional facilities to the current residential collection routes. Depending on the definition of a church for purposes of collection, the number of such facilities, and the potential for other non-profit groups to seek similar assistance, the additional cost could be considerable.

**MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The current residential waste resources collection system costs approximately \$7 million each year, a figure that grows each year with changes in housing units and service costs. Any change in the definition of a residence would have recurring annual cost implications.

**ALTERNATIVES**

None recommended, this report is for information only.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Brian T. Smith, Director, Solid Waste Resources

Report Approved by:

BTS

Halifax Regional Council  
November 27, 2001

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Brian T. Smith  
Brian T. Smith, Director of Solid Waste Resources

DATE: November 22, 2001

SUBJECT: Solid Waste Removal - Non-Profit Organizations

## INFORMATION REPORT

### ORIGIN

Requests from November 13 and November 20, 2001 Regional Council Sessions. Councillors Fougere and Johns asked staff to report on strategies to help non-profit organizations offset the expense of handling solid waste materials, including reducing tipping fees to these organizations.

### BACKGROUND

A variety of non-profit organizations and charities accept furniture, clothing and food from the public and businesses to be redistributed to those in need. For example, unsaleable packaged food is sent by grocery stores to a reclamation centre, from which the Metro Food Bank picks up, sorts and distributes supplies to its clients. Other charities handle furniture or clothing dropped off by the public. Some of the donated material is not suitable for redistribution, for example damaged or spoiled foodstuffs or clothing and it must be disposed of by the non-profit organizations at their own expense.

By-Law S-600, adopted by Council in January 1999, specifies that only residential properties (up to six units) are eligible for curbside collection of waste materials. All other waste generators, including non-profit organizations, must arrange their own collection and pay the disposal fee. The By-Law also specifies the tipping fee for those deliver wastes to HRM's Otter Lake disposal site. The cost of operating HRM's waste management

system is paid for in part by tipping fees. This approach is based on the principle that those generating wastes should be responsible for the cost of its disposal.

Council reviewed the issue of whether non-profit organizations should be eligible for curbside collection and exempt from tipping fees (see Report to Council November 9, 1998). Council decided at the time not to change the eligibility criteria, in part because of the potential expense to HRM and loss of tipping fee revenue.

## DISCUSSION

Several issues were raised by Regional Council at the November 13 and 20 meetings. This report addresses those issues and presents some options to be explored by HRM and non-profit organizations.

### **Reduced tipping fees for non-profit organizations:**

While the specific request from Council deals only with the Metro Food Bank and furniture banks, waiving or reducing the tipping fees for a few non-profits might have broader implications and costs for HRM. Other organizations could follow this example and seek to have tipping fees waived or curbside collection provided. This would represent both reduced revenues for HRM and higher collection costs. Any change in the current policy would require a firm policy definition of who would or would not be eligible for reduced fees. Should Council wish to pursue this approach, it is suggested the matter be referred to the Solid Waste Resources Advisory Committee first. This would provide a forum for discussing the change in policy, its limitations, timing and financial implications before developing a recommendation to Council.

Tipping fees are used in part to encourage source separation of recoverable organics or recyclables. There is an economic incentive (as well as a regulatory one) to recover materials which should not be disposed of. There is no fee for recyclables delivered to the Recycling Facility and the tipping fee for organics at the composting facilities is almost half that at Otter Lake. One way non-profits can reduce their cost is to maximize separation of recoverables. Conversely, reduced disposal fees provide little economic incentive to separate recoverables, thus indirectly encouraging more waste generation.

### Responsibility for waste disposal:

The process by which the Metro Food Bank receives material first begins with damaged or unsaleable food shipped from grocery stores to a reclamation centre - a central clearing house for food which cannot be sold. The Food Bank then retrieves material from the reclamation centre (unsorted) and distributes the useable food to other food banks and disposes of the residue. As the Food Bank is not permitted to sort unusable items at the reclamation centre they end up paying the waste management costs of the non usable material they accept. An argument can be made that the grocery stores bear some responsibility for the waste they themselves generate.

The Metro Food Bank handles some 860 tonnes of reclaimed food each year. Of this about 385 tonnes is unsuitable for redistribution and requires disposal at Otter Lake. The cost of waste management of this residue - contracted collection and disposal fees - is more than \$64,000 per year and is paid entirely by the Food Bank.

Solid Waste staff, on November 16, 2001, organized a packaged food workshop to examine the issue of handling waste food and the responsibility for its management. The workshop, attended by representatives of non-profits, grocery stores, food processors and waste haulers, provided an opportunity to review the options available to handle this material and discuss who should pay the costs involved. Staff will be holding further consultation sessions with various stakeholders to try to develop a resolution to the problem of transferring disposal costs from food businesses to non-profit groups.

The RRFB Nova Scotia, through the Eco Efficiency Centre is establishing a materials exchange in the province. An exchange is an electronic bulletin board listing materials which are no longer required by the owner and offered to a potential user. Charities could take advantage of an Exchange to trade items among themselves.

### Educating the Public:

Charities rely on the public to supply materials for redistribution. One of the difficulties faced by non-profit groups is that the public drops off material which cannot be used by the charity. Groups communicate their needs (and what they cannot use) through advertisements, public service announcements and community newsletters. Waste Resources has regularly assisted non-profits in broadcasting their message by such things as:

- providing information directly to residents who call with specific items to donate;
- presenting a directory of non-profit groups that accept donations of used materials in the *Naturally Green* newsletters;
- organizing a "Reuse Day" as part of Waste Reduction Week this past October, during which the public was able to drop materials off to be used by various charities.

Solid Waste staff will continue to provide avenues to groups to communicate their needs. While we do this as a compliment to our other recycling initiatives, there is a cash value for the advertising HRM provides for the non-profit groups.

**Conclusion:**

Reducing tipping fees for non-profit organizations, while assisting them in the short term does not address the broader issues - overall increases in costs to HRM, potential increases in waste generation and avoiding requiring the waste generators (i.e. local grocery stores) from taking responsibility for their own waste. Waste Resources staff has helped resolve some of the waste management problems faced by charities and will continue to work with them in a variety of ways. Reducing tipping fees has policy implications for HRM which should be addressed by the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Waiving the estimated annual tipping fees for the Metro Food Bank alone has an immediate cost of more than \$40,000 (approximately 370 tonnes by \$115). This amount has not been budgeted for in the 2001/2002 budget. The loss in revenue would have to be made up from other parts of the budget and would re-occur in each year to follow. Additional costs would arise if fees are waived for other non-profits.

**ALTERNATIVES**

Non-profit organizations could apply to the HRM Grants Committee for help with waste management costs. As non-profit organizations utilize private contractors for the disposal of waste, the recovery of costs would involve the submission of monthly invoices by the waste hauler to the non-profit organization who could then seek the recovery of the disposal costs through the Grants Committee. Applications for the Community Grants Program are available at Municipal Clerk's office and all customer Service Centres of HRM.

**ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

Additional copies of this report and information on its status can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

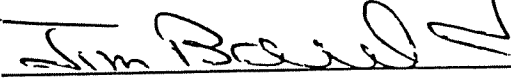
Report prepared by: Fred Wendt, Waste Resource Analyst, 490-7175



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee  
September 28, 2006

**TO:** Councillor Reg Rankin, Chairman and Members of SWRAC

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources

**DATE:** September 11, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Solid Waste Collection Service Standards - Churches

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

At the May 30, 2006, Halifax Regional Council meeting, Councillor Krista Snow moved that the provision of collection at churches be referred to SWRAC.

At the SWRAC meeting of June 8, 2006, staff were requested to provide information on the feasibility of providing the same level of collection services at churches as provided at eligible residential properties, as specified in By-Law S-600.

#### BACKGROUND

The determination of properties that are eligible to receive collection of recyclables, organics and refuse as a municipal service was established in 1998 by Regional Council, with the adoption of a Collection Strategy for the New Solid Waste/Resource Management System, which was subsequently executed by Regional Council in January 1999, with the approval of By-Law S-600.

The determination of properties that are eligible for municipal collection services, was the outcome of a lengthy public process which harmonized the varying collection service levels that existed within the twenty-one (21) residential collection zones, located in the four former municipalities. The Collection Strategy for the New Solid Waste Resource Management System defined properties

eligible for residential collection services, and brought equity and a common service level across the HRM.

In 1997, for the purpose of a cost effective and efficient provision of collection service for the new solid waste/resource management system, staff recommended the following:

- (A) the collapsing of the twenty-one (21) collection zones into six (6) zones;
- (B) bi weekly collection of organics and refuse;
- (C) biweekly collection of recyclables in rural HRM (previously monthly collection);
- (D) the limit of ten bags of refuse biweekly (previously ranged from eight bags a week to twenty bags a week in the former municipal units);
- (E) the removal of collection services at non residential use properties; and
- (F) limiting collection services to apartment buildings up to six (6) units.

In 1997, Regional Council approved all staff's recommendations except (A). Eight (8) collection zones were approved, rather than six (6).

Staff's recommendation, which was approved by Regional Council in 1998, to remove collection services at non residential use properties, that had previously received municipal refuse and recycling collection services in the four former municipalities, was based upon the following factors:

In 1997, staff determined that of the approximate 12,000 industrial, commercial, and institutional non residential use/zoned properties in the HRM (the majority are located in industrial parks, office towers and malls), that only 1,000 were receiving weekly municipal curbside collection services. The 1,000 non residential properties were businesses, corner stores, and institutions such as churches, which had direct street frontage.

Many of the 1,000 non residential properties (including churches where community events are often held), because of large volumes of materials and/or limited storage space (for multiple refuse and organic containers), supplemented the weekly municipal refuse collection service with private weekly collection services. As the weekly municipal collection service level did not meet the needs of the 1,000 ICI properties, many were contracting supplementary private collection. The shift to biweekly curbside collection of refuse and organics meant that the new service level would even less meet the needs of the ICI sector, including churches.

The elimination of municipal collection services at the 1,000 ICI properties achieved equity with all other ICI properties who did not receive the service. This change removed the inequity among the commercial properties that are taxed based upon assessment and ensured a clear distinction between the residential and ICI sector, which has enabled the protection of the revenue base for HRM from tipping fees at the Otter Lake and the two HRM sponsored compost facilities.

In 1998 (concurrently with the harmonization of HRM's collection service), the private sector, through the Business Improvement District Commissions, commenced a subscription-based collection service at interested ICI properties, including "institutional premises" such as churches. This service continues to be available through local BDC offices.

## **DISCUSSION**

Since the implementation of the new solid waste system in 1998, occasionally there have been enquiries relating to properties, as specified in By-Law S-600 that are eligible to receive municipal collection. In 2000 a question was raised at Regional Council regarding the treatment of churches in HRM with respect to solid waste collection services.

Attachment # 1 is a staff report dated November 8, 2000, to Regional Council entitled "Treatment of Churches in HRM re Solid Waste System". The report provides information respecting the definition of "institutional premises".

The report clarifies that, as specified in By-Law S-600, churches are not eligible to receive municipal collection services, except those churches that have a residential component (with a rectory or a live-in care taker) and churches located in the more rural parts of the HRM where there is a low density of commercial properties, and little reasonable opportunity for efficient collection by private collectors.

As the staff report of November 8, 2000 advised, there are potentially major implications if a change in the definition of "institutional premises" were to include churches as eligible for municipal collection service. A change for one type of institution could result in a similar request by other non-profit and not-for-profit agencies across the HRM. Residential collection costs HRM over \$8 million a year, with annual increases for additional dwelling units and yearly contract price adjustments.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.



## ALTERNATIVES

One alternative, which is not recommended, is for HRM to provide collection services at "institutional premises" such as churches. This is not recommended as:

- it will result an inequity among institutional/not for profit /non residential properties;
- the biweekly service level will be problematic, if not impractical, for the storage of the volume of material (i.e. waste and/or organics) generated by churches, where often large community events are held;
- it may generate requests from other ICI sector members;
- if implemented for ICI sector, there are potential financial implications for HRM in lost revenue from tipping fees;
- it would be a duplication of a service which has been provided directly through the private sector, or through a member-based subscription service through the BIDC's since 1998.

## ATTACHMENTS

Staff report dated November 8, 2000.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Jim Bauld, Manager , Solid Waste Resources 490-6606