

Multi-Material BC and the Packaging and Printed Paper Regulation

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Chair, Multi-Material BC

Multi-Material BC

- Multi Material British Columbia (MMBC) is a not-for-profit agency that was established under the British Columbia Society Act
- Formed in anticipation of the government adding Printed Paper and Packaging (PPP) as a new product category under its Recycling Regulation
- MMBC represents the producers (ie. brand owners and first sellers) of PPP in British Columbia

Founding Board Members

- Retail Council of Canada (RCC)
- Food and Consumer Products of Canada (FCPC)
- Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers (CFIG)
- Canadian Restaurant and Food Services Association (CRFA)
- Canadian Newspaper Association (CNA)

Additional Industry Supporters

- Canadian Cosmetic and Specialty Products Association (CCSPA)
- The BC Dairy Council
- BC Lottery Corporation

Activity-to-Date

- Formally incorporated MMBC with interim Board of Directors
- Informal meetings and discussions with local governments, private sector companies, and other organizations currently involved in residential recycling
- Issued RFP in July to assess capacity and cost of current system and identify potential options for developing program plan
- Early in the process with no key decisions expected until next year

BC PPP Regulation is a Precedent

- This is the first time a government has regulated an EPR program for PPP in Canada
- Existing Canadian programs are currently a shared responsibility model between industry stewards (brand owners and first importers) and municipalities, who provide collection services
- Ontario and Quebec's programs are currently shared equally and Manitoba's program is split 80% industry funded and 20% municipally funded

Key Considerations for Industry

- The program will be limited to PPP from residential premises and municipal property that is not Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) property only
- Many municipalities across British Columbia already offer curbside or depot collection of recycling although accepted materials and preparation guidelines vary across municipal and regional boundaries
- BC also has a provincially regulated deposit-return program for beverage containers for all containers of ready-to-drink beverages, except infant formula, meal replacements, milk and milk-substitutes

Next Steps – Research Phase

- Gain a clear understanding of the current municipal recycling landscape, infrastructure and costs in the province of British Columbia
- Identify and make recommendations of what new or shared infrastructure is needed to develop an optimized collection system that supports a province-wide program
- Identify potential models for an EPR system to manage PPP that meets regulatory requirements, follows EPR principles, is cost effective and efficient, and where possible, achieves harmonization with existing provincial stewardship programs

Assessment of Current System

- What materials are currently collected and how they are collected, handled, transported, processed, stored and disposed of within the current system?
- What are the recovery, diversion and recycling rates by material type?
- What are the costs associated with the current provincial recycling system so that options development can be informed by a proper financial analysis?

Options Development

- Identify criteria for an effective EPR program that would allow producers to meet their EPR obligations
- Benchmark EPR models in other jurisdictions
- Identify potential EPR program models that meet these criteria and that would be best suited to the British Columbia context

Engaging Stakeholder

- UBCM Conference – Printed Paper and Packaging Workshop and Electoral Area Director’s Forum
- Public meetings with the MoE in Prince George, Burnaby, Kelowna, Nelson and Victoria – www.rcbc.bc.ca
- Webinar hosted by Ministry of Environment on Oct. 19th
- Formal consultation process as part of program plan development in 2012

Summary

- MMBC has been established to represent obligated stewards and develop a program plan to meet their obligations under the new PPP regulation
- Current focus is determining the current state of the municipal recycling system in BC to inform the development of a range of options for consideration
- MMBC is committed to an ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders to address concerns, provide information and ensure the process for program plan development remains as transparent as possible

Questions?

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