



# TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

# REPORT

Item No.

**REPORT TO:** Reeve Vincent and Members of Council  
**PREPARED BY:** Jeff Molenhuis , Director of Public Works  
**DATE:** 06/03/2017  
**SUBJECT:** AMO Forum on Bill 151 and Waste-Free Ontario Act  
**ATTACHMENTS:**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby accepts the AMO Forum on Bill 151 and Waste-Free Ontario Act Report for information purposes.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In November 2015, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change introduced Bill 151 – a new legislative framework for waste management to divert more waste away from landfill and toward a recycling end use.

The legislation is comprised of two proposed Acts:

1. Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA)
2. Waste Diversion Transition Act (WDTA).

In addition to the legislation it also contains Strategy for a Waste Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy to support Ontario in achieving its goals. The Bill was proclaimed on November 30, 2016.

Through the Act, a new regulatory authority is created to replace Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO). The new authority is the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA). This authority has new and compliance and enforcement powers.

On Wednesday, February 8, 2017 staff attended the AMO Forum relating to Bill 151 and the Waste Free Ontario Act.

## **DISCUSSION**

This forum was created to inform municipalities about the regulations relating to Bill 151 and Waste Free Ontario Act. This Act creates a new legislative framework for waste management in the Province and will transition the existing diversion programs under the Waste Diversion Act (WDA) including the Blue Box, Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Tires to the new framework. The Act is focused on creating a circular economy strategy through supporting Provincial Policy Statements and the development of an organic strategy.

- The Act puts more responsibility on waste producers for “end of life” management of certain, designated products and packaging. Producers will be financially and physically responsible to recover their own product materials.

- Municipalities are considered potential “service providers” to producers to help them fulfil their obligations. There does not appear to be a legislated role for municipalities in this new framework to help producers fulfil their obligations.
- The Blue Box program is currently netting participating municipalities 50% of their operating costs for recycling under the WDTA. There are provisions to increase this funding as the program transitions into the WFO and RRCEA.

Various speakers were present in discussions throughout the forum from multiple urban centre municipalities, Strategy Matters Inc., Ministry of the Environmental and Climate Change, and AMO.

One of the key discussion points was that producers can discharge this responsibility by directly operating collection and recycling services for the used materials or by contracting with service providers, potentially including municipalities. Following Proclamation, the Waste Diversion Transition Act(WDTA) provides an interim step to ensure the smooth transition of existing Blue Box, WEEE, MHSW, and Used Tires programs to the new Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act(RRCEA) so that there will be no disruptions to the recycling services currently being provided or financed by Producers.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no financial impact to the Township at this time.

#### **FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

Staff will continue to be engaged and informed with this new legislation as it progresses through implementation to functionality. Staff will keep Council informed through routine reporting.

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Goal 2 Our residents are engaged and well informed. Goal 4 the administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.




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Jeff Molenhuis, Director of Public Works




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Sharon Chambers, CAO