

**Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de l'Environnement,
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357-2022-2960

December 16, 2022

Her Worship Sue Carleton
Mayor
Township of Georgian Bluffs
Email: suecarleton@outlook.com

Dear Mayor Carleton:

To begin, I would like to congratulate you on your recent election. I look forward to working with you and your Council to protect our environment for generations to come.

Thank you for your commitment to your community and our province.

I am writing to reaffirm my government's commitment to the transition of municipal blue box programs to producer responsibility between July 1, 2023 and the end of 2025. As you know, your municipality is one of those slated to transition to the new framework in 2023.

Our new blue box regulation was filed in June 2021 after extensive consultation with municipalities, producers, and the waste sector. It is expected to save municipalities \$171 million per year once fully transitioned while expanding services to more communities and locations and expanding what is collected across Ontario.

Simply put, we know Ontarians want to recycle more and expect us to do our part in the roles that we hold. For decades, Ontario's diversion rates have been stalled at 30%. We can and must do better. That is why we are implementing one standardized blue box program across Ontario and working with municipalities and producers to set the highest recycling targets in North America. Thank you and your staff for being part of this historic transformation to reduce waste.

The first step will be for producers to develop one common collection system across Ontario. There are currently two Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) doing this work on behalf of producers – Circular Materials and Ryse Solutions. These two PROs have submitted a joint plan that sets out how they will establish a collection system. Circular Materials is taking the lead in organizing the necessary contracts for setting up the collection system, including working with municipalities on how services will be provided in their communities.

Some municipalities will have already informed Circular Materials of their intent to have Circular Materials provide collection services in their community, with no role for the municipality. If this is the case for your municipality, thank you for your timely consideration of this matter.

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For some, however, we understand that further discussions may be needed with Circular Materials and municipal staff. It is important that all parties continue to work collaboratively on the transfer of responsibility away from municipalities. An orderly and well-planned implementation of the regulation is critical to avoid any disruption to blue box services for Ontarians and will set up all parties for success in the future.

I strongly encourage you to work closely with Circular Materials, and where applicable, finalize any needed commercial agreements in a timely manner that will support a smooth transition to producer responsibility. I expect that your municipal staff will have already been engaged in discussion with Circular Materials about how they want to proceed. If they have not, I strongly encourage you to direct them to do so.

The Blue Box Transition Schedule outlines the date that eligible communities will start transitioning to producer run blue box services between July 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025. As laid out in the schedule, the Township of Georgian Bluffs is set to transition on 10/1/2023.

If your municipality has any questions about the role for municipalities in implementing the blue box regulation, I encourage you to contact Circular Materials directly. Circular Materials has established a Municipal Working Group and it is likely that your municipal staff are already directly engaged in that process. Circular Materials can be contacted by email at info@circularmaterials.ca or by phone at (844) 328-7149.

Your municipality can also contact the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) for questions about the blue box regulation. RPRA is the organization responsible for overseeing compliance with Ontario's producer responsibility framework for recycling. RPRA's Compliance and Registry team can be reached by email at registry@rpri.ca or by phone at (833) 600-0530.

Finally, if you would like to speak with me directly about this, please send an email to david.piccini@ontario.ca and I will get back to you at my earliest convenience. I am confident that working together, we can have a successful transition to the producer responsibility framework and build a better blue box program that will benefit the people of Ontario, for today and for future generations.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support on this important initiative.

Sincerely,



David Piccini
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Colin Best, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Frank Denton, CEO, Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority