

Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change

Ministère de l'Environnement
et de l'Action en matière de
changement climatique



Office of the Minister

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
JUN 21 2016	
REF'D TO	J. Pilon - Council
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ENV1283MC-2016-374	
ACTION	_____

July 8/16

JUN 15 2016

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your correspondence to Premier Wynne and me regarding the need for new waste diversion legislation. I would also like to acknowledge receipt of Hamilton's Public Works Committee Report 15-012, Item 9.1, regarding changes to the *Waste Diversion Act, 2002*.

I can assure you and Hamilton Council that the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) recognizes the important contributions that are made by our municipal partners with respect to waste diversion and resource recovery. We understand the importance of introducing new, more effective legislation that will ensure producer responsibility for end-of-life products and packaging.

On November 26, 2015, the Ontario government introduced the proposed Waste-Free Ontario Act, (Bill 151). We also released for public comment the draft document titled "Waste-Free Ontario Strategy: Building the Circular Economy". The draft Strategy provides a roadmap for Ontario to achieve the goals of zero waste and zero greenhouse-gas emissions from the waste sector.

The *Waste-Free Ontario Act* was passed in the Ontario Legislature on June 1st. This legislation will hold producers accountable for meeting regulated outcomes in recovering resources and reducing waste associated with their products and packaging. The Act, which is a form of extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation, and accompanying Strategy, will foster innovation in product and packaging design, and encourage businesses to design long-lasting, reusable and easily recyclable products. The objective of EPR policies is to shift the physical and/or financial responsibility for managing products and packaging to the producer who has the greatest control over their design. This approach will reduce the amount of waste going for disposal and increase producer responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products.

Through this legislation, the ministry will examine, on a material-by-material basis, what products and packaging could be best diverted from the waste stream through a producer responsibility approach. The province will also be finalizing the draft Strategy within three months of the legislation coming into effect.

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Page 2.

For news and more information about the *Waste-Free Ontario Act*, please visit the Ontario news website at <https://news.ontario.ca/ene/en/2016/06/ontario-passes-new-waste-free-ontario-act.html>. This site also has a link to the document titled "Waste-Free Ontario Strategy: Building the Circular Economy".

We look forward to continuing to work with the City of Hamilton and our other municipal partners to achieve our mutual goals with respect to waste diversion and resource recovery.

Again, thank you for writing to us and for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen Murray". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the top and a horizontal line across the middle.

Glen Murray
Minister

c: The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier
(WSU 2120882-MR)