

To:
City of Hamilton – Office of the City Clerk
Email: clerk@hamilton.ca

Re: Written Submission – Public Works Committee Meeting #25-008 – July 7, 2025
Agenda Item 9.4: Recycling Service for Non-Eligible Properties Beginning January 1, 2026 (City Wide)

Dear Members of the Public Works Committee,

As a business owner and BIA board member, I am submitting this letter in response to the proposed changes regarding the removal of recycling services for non-residential properties, set to begin January 1, 2026.

I represent Ancaster Little Gems Children's Centre, a licensed early learning and child care facility located in the heart of the Ancaster Business Improvement Area. Our centre has proudly served families in this community since 1988 (37 years), providing care and education for children from infancy through school age. We are also a proud member of the Ancaster BIA and actively support initiatives that promote a strong, sustainable local business community.

I write today to express strong concern and opposition to the removal of municipal recycling services for businesses.

At Little Gems, sustainability and environmental responsibility are not optional – they are central to our operations and an integral part of the learning environment we provide for the children in our care. We teach our children about reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling properly. These practices are embedded in our curriculum and our daily operations. Eliminating access to recycling services for businesses directly undermines these values and creates serious logistical and financial burdens.

Specifically, I would like to highlight the following concerns:

1. Environmental Impact

Removing recycling services for businesses may lead to a significant increase in landfill waste across the city. Businesses—especially in the education and childcare sectors—generate a high volume of recyclable materials. Without a reliable system in place, even the most environmentally conscious operators may be forced to dispose of recyclables in general waste, a decision that runs contrary to our shared climate goals.

2. Financial Burden on Small Businesses

Many small businesses operate on tight budgets, and adding the cost of private recycling services—on top of existing rising expenses—is unsustainable. For centres like ours, where every dollar is accounted for in staffing, food, programming, and maintenance, the shift to private recycling may mean cutting other essential services or supports.

3. Mixed Messaging to the Next Generation

As educators of young children, we are shaping future citizens. We emphasize the importance of environmental care, and children take great pride in their roles as “recycling helpers” within our centre. The message that recycling is no longer prioritized by the city creates confusion and undermines what we are working hard to teach them.

4. Equity and Inclusion

Excluding businesses from recycling services creates a two-tiered system, where residential properties are supported in their sustainability efforts while businesses are left to manage independently. This approach feels inequitable and short-sighted, especially given the volume of businesses within the city and their essential role in Hamilton's economy.

I respectfully urge the Committee to reconsider the proposed removal of recycling services for businesses and instead work toward a collaborative, city-supported solution that maintains or expands recycling access for all property types.

Whether this involves a city-subsidized program, inclusion in residential routes, or partnership through BIAs and business clusters, we believe a path forward is possible—one that supports environmental goals without penalizing small businesses.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to a cleaner, more sustainable Hamilton.

Sincerely,



Casie FitzGibbon
Owner/Director, Ancaster Little Gems Children's Centre
BIA Board Member, Ancaster BIA