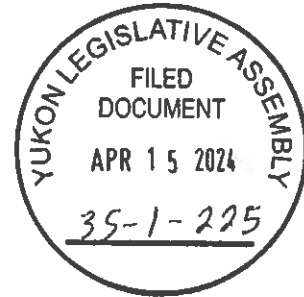




April 11, 2024

Mayor Cabott
City of Whitehorse
2121 Second Avenue
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1C2



Dear Mayor Cabott:

RE: Blue Bin Curbside Collection Program

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you to discuss Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and stewardship plans.

Here are some follow-ups to our conversation:

Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO)

Circular Materials, a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO), works on behalf of producers to meet the obligations and standards set in the *Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation*. Circular Materials has expressed interest in operating an EPR program for packaging and paper products (PPP) in the Yukon and is currently working with stakeholders and service providers (including municipalities) to create a stewardship plan.

This plan will be considered and ultimately approved or rejected by me as Minister of the Environment.

The Yukon government has communicated our expectations to Circular Materials with respect to service levels across the territory. The Yukon government has stated that we believe the only viable option to realize the diversion volume required to meet our waste reduction goals is to operate a curbside collection program in the City of Whitehorse, along with some version of a depot system to serve residents that fall outside of a "blue bin" catchment area. We will be negotiating terms of a Stewardship Plan with the Producer Responsibility Organization in the Fall of 2024.

Curbside Collection

Based on the recent discussion between you as Mayor of the City of Whitehorse and Richard Mostyn in his role as the Minister of Community Services, our government understands that you are looking for certainty that any plan we approve will include blue box collection within the City of Whitehorse's Urban Containment Boundary. We can commit to that.

While municipal waste management remains a responsibility of municipalities across Canada, our Government's expectations are that a blue box service, once implemented, will be continued by the PRO under the EPR model.

As an obligated party, Circular Materials will need to prove in their stewardship plan how collection targets and service level expectations will be met. A convenient collection service in the territory's largest city would support the PRO in meeting their collection targets.

We encourage the City of Whitehorse to work with Circular Materials to ensure expectations on service levels are well established. Circular Materials has communicated in a letter to City Council March 24th, 2024, and again in a meeting April 9th with senior officials, a desire to collaborate with the City of Whitehorse to develop "an effective and efficient collection system during the upcoming consultation period." Circular Materials advised at the April 9th meeting that an engagement roadmap is under development and would be shared with the City of Whitehorse once complete.

I trust continued consultation with Circular Materials, along with my firm commitment to ensure a stewardship plan includes curbside collection in the City of Whitehorse, provides you and City Council assurance that a municipally-run blue box will be an on-ramp to a long-term, producer-led curbside collection system.

With Raven ReCentre's announcement that as of September 15, 2024, they will be closing the free public drop-off for paper and packaging at 100 Galena Road, we hope the City of Whitehorse will swiftly move forward with the decision to implement a curbside recycling system for Whitehorse residents to ensure that there is no gap in service for residents and to prevent recyclable materials from being directed to the landfill.

We strongly believe that continuity in recycling services is not only what our citizens expect, but that a new service will support enhanced recycling behavior and a successful transition to EPR.

We look forward to working together to develop a modern and effective recycling service in partnership with the City of Whitehorse and with Circular Materials. Please have officials reach out to Bryna Cable, Director of Environmental Protection & Assessment if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nils Clarke', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Nils Clarke
Minister of Environment
Government of Yukon

cc: Council