



Waste Free Ontario Act: Bill 151 Legislative Review Workshop CIF Project 751

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Time: 10 am. To 3 p.m.

Location: Novotel Vaughan and by teleconference/webinar

On Wednesday, January 20, 2016, AMO hosted a workshop for municipal Blue Box recycling program staff to review Bill 151, the Waste-Free Ontario Act. This was an educational session, co-funded by CIF, with goals to:

- provide an overview of the new legislation
- present an interactive forum to discuss
 - the implications for the municipal sector, and
 - priority themes to be addressed in responding to the Minister's request for comment on the Bill and Strategy.

The event brought together approximately 80 people in person as well as another 55 that attended online.

Agenda items

1. Overview of the legislation
2. Municipal perspectives and priorities
3. Workshop discussions
4. Considerations for messaging for Municipal Councils and next steps

Speakers

Subject matter experts (shown below) helped set the stage for the workshop activities with presentations addressing specific items outlined in the agenda.

Paula Lombardi, LLB, Siskinds
• Overview of the draft legislation
Derek Stephenson, Strategy Matters Inc., and Andrew Pollock, independent consultant
• Municipal perspectives and priorities for Blue Box recycling
Peter Hume and Dave Gordon, AMO
• Potential items for discussion with municipal councils
Monika Turner, AMO
• Timing and next steps in responding to the draft legislation

Presentation Highlights

- Presentations discussed key features of proposed legislation (Bill 151) and other proposed instruments as they pertain to municipal responsibilities and Blue Box recycling operations
- Presented comparison of draft legislation to former Bill 91 as a means of enhancing understanding of Bill 151
- Explained relationship between Bill 151 and the two acts it enables: the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act and The Waste Diversion Transition Act plus the Strategy for Waste-Free Ontario
- Considered potential impact of, and implications for, future regulations vs. policy statement vs. “Strategy”
- Described potential implications of proposed legislative approach and other items (e.g. policy statements, future role of municipalities, potential role of the “Authority”) on municipal programs
- Presented selection of key elements to consider in reviewing and commenting on the Bill
- Highlighted key provisions likely to be of greatest interest to councilors and items that may be subject to priority discussion in Council
- Anticipated potential timing for development of the legislation and its implementation

Summary of Key Takeaways

- Draft legislation will change existing municipal role in Blue Box program; staff need to stay up to speed on it and prepare to educate council members if/as needed
- Municipal staff need to know their program costs and incorporate language in new contracts to address potential for change
- Transition timing is assumed to be in the range of two to five years; plan accordingly; assess options for good, long-term decision-making

Event Follow-up

The meeting survey indicated a high level of satisfaction among participants who found that the presentations were generally very useful as was the opportunity to discuss the draft legislation and gain new information. Municipalities asked if there was printed information that could be made available to them that summarized the new legislation and its implications for use in council reports. AMO has made these available by providing information directly as well as disseminating through Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario and the Municipal Waste Association. Consideration is being given by CIF to development of a web page to host information and updates on the new legislation for use by stakeholders.