

CIF Project #468 – North Western Ontario Project Support

Background

In 2014, the CIF was directed by MIPC to focus efforts on regionalization projects. The CIF retained the services of Rick Denyes to assist the municipalities of Terrace Bay, Schreiber Bay, Thunder Bay, Marathon and the group in the Wawa area to determine if a suitable waste shed related collection and processing system could be developed similar to the one established to the west of the area.

Summary of Results

Initial steps were taken to assess the systems in place that served the communities of Nestor Falls, Fort Frances, Dryden, Thunder Bay, Terrace Bay, Marathon, Wawa and surrounding areas. The consultant used the participating municipality's data and the CIF's Transportation Cost Analysis model to assess various hauling efficiency options including compaction vs. loose loading, and a central transfer/loading station vs. direct haul to markets. It determined that a viable hub-and-spoke collection and central processing system could be developed in the area that would optimize provision of Blue Box services to the local communities. Unfortunately, the unwillingness of the local MRF operator to work with the proponents to develop the system prevented the project from proceeding.

Financials

The final cost of this project was \$5,459.

Learnings

MIPC's direction to CIF to focus on regionalization efforts was well intentioned but highlighted the risks of trying to apply political agendas to real-world conditions. The CIF spent millions over the subsequent years trying to consolidate and coordinate municipalities and their service providers across the province into logical waste sheds only to have most of these projects fail because of the unwillingness of individual participants to support the efforts. The unwillingness of MIPC and others to listen to the cautionary objections raised by CIF prior to initiating this work led to a significant loss of time and resources.