

Ministry of the Environment  
and Climate Change

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



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Mr. John D. Coyne, Chair  
Stewardship Ontario  
Email: [john.coyne@unilever.com](mailto:john.coyne@unilever.com)

Dear Mr. Bain, Mr. McKay, Mr. Jahn, Ms. Hogan and Mr. Coyne:

Thank you for your letter of July 7, 2017 advising about the accord you have collectively reached on the future of the Blue Box Program and requesting the ministry to issue a requirement for program changes to the Blue Box Program Plan as the first step in its evolution towards a circular economy. I wish to acknowledge your initiative and leadership on this important file which is a critical part of the province's resource recovery efforts.

I am pleased to let you know I have directed the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (the Authority) and Stewardship Ontario (SO) to develop a proposal for an amended Blue Box Program Plan.

It is my expectation this proposal will outline the first phase of transition for the Blue Box Program under the *Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016* (WDTA), and will set the stage for a second phase of transition that will result in individual producer responsibility under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016* (RRCEA).

It is in the public interest that the proposal for an amended plan will ensure a seamless transition of the Blue Box Program, specifically that it will not negatively affect Ontarians' experience with and access to Blue Box services, incorporate clear rules to support residents' participation (e.g. standardized materials and services), and improve program performance.

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It is also critical that the proposal for an amended plan will provide for continuous improvement of environmental outcomes. This would be achieved by expanding and harmonizing the list of materials in the existing Blue Box Program that are accepted from Ontario residents, establishing clear and measurable collection and management standards with a high level of environmental protection, and developing methods to support waste reduction.

It is my expectation the proposal for an amended plan will support a circular economy by facilitating reduction, reuse, recycling and reintegration of Blue Box materials into the economy.

Innovation often results from collaborative and competitive efforts among parties. The proposal for an amended plan should support cooperation among parties, including stewards, municipalities, waste management industry, and other affected parties, to bring complementary abilities to deliver better results. It is my expectation the proposal for an amended plan will promote competition by ensuring a fair and open marketplace for Blue Box services under the WDTA and not creating barriers to competition when the program transitions to individual producer responsibility under the RRCEA.

As producers assume the 50 per cent of costs currently borne by municipal taxpayers, it is my expectation there will be a clear and transparent process by which municipalities demonstrate the benefit their taxpayers will receive.

Your offer to meet with me to discuss your proposal is appreciated. As I am sure you understand, my schedule is quite full at present. I am looking forward to meeting you in the near future. At present, I will ask Wendy Ren, Director of the Resource Recovery Policy Branch, to arrange a meeting with you or your representatives to discuss the intended next steps and outcomes in more detail.

Again, thank you for this information and your commitment to facilitate an orderly transition of the Blue Box Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Ballard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Chris Ballard  
Minister

Cc: Mr. Paul Evans, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

Ms. Glenda Gies, Chair  
Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority