

Ministry  
of the  
Environment

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ENV1283MC-2003-1477

DEC 22 2003

Ms. Gemma Zecchini  
Chair  
Waste Diversion Ontario  
45 Sheppard Avenue, Suite 920  
North York, ON M2N 5W9

Dear Ms. Zecchini:

The Blue Box system is a valuable asset to Ontario's municipalities in their efforts to reduce dependence on landfill. I am confident that the Blue Box Program Plan will improve the already excellent performance of the Blue Box system.

Having said that, I want the Blue Box system to play an even larger role in achieving the government's commitment to divert 60 percent of waste by 2008. Therefore, I am requesting Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) propose new measures, or enhancements to existing measures, that will allow the Blue Box system to divert at least 60 percent of Blue Box wastes by 2008.

Please also note that I want the 2004 schedule of steward's fees to apply as soon as possible but no later than June, 2004. I will need to receive your proposal for the new schedule to quickly allow time for public comment before I make my decision.

The new 2004 fees schedule should include 2 new actions. First, a cost-containment strategy that will ensure municipal blue box program costs are properly managed. Second, I would like WDO to do further analysis on the financial and operational impacts of the Blue Box Program Plan on the small business community, and include incentives for small businesses to improve diversion of their blue box wastes in order to reduce their cost.

The Appendix includes detailed program requirements which I want you to ensure are explicitly included as part of the program and addressed in the submission.

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Ms. Gemma Zecchini  
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I am requesting that you submit the above items to me for my approval by March 31, 2004.

As there are many benefits for broad input from the public and affected stakeholders in the development of waste diversion programs, I would like public input to be a central organizing principle for these requests. I am especially interested in coordinating any public consultation each of us may engage in. For this reason, I have asked staff of the Ministry of the Environment to coordinate the ministry's consultation programs with your staff.

Our government is anxious to achieve the 60 percent waste diversion goal. I am counting on WDO to be a major driving force in this objective.

Again, thank you for your commitment to these important initiatives and I look forward to your submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leona Dombrowsky".

Leona Dombrowsky  
Minister of the Environment

## APPENDIX

### Detailed Program Requirements:

1. Policies and practices to lead to at least 60 per cent diversion of all Blue Box wastes by 2008 through reduction, reuse or recycling.
2. Target percentages for each Blue Box material that will be diverted annually in the program. Policies and practices to ensure that the proposed material diversion targets are met.
3. Benchmark targets for municipal diversion rates.
4. Specific cost containment principles for municipalities and stewards to follow. Policies and practices that will ensure compliance with cost containment principles.
5. Policies and practices to encourage effectiveness and efficiency for municipal Blue Box systems.
6. Policies and practices to ensure that the administrative costs incurred by Waste Diversion Ontario and Stewardship Ontario are no more than 5 per cent of the total program costs.
7. Projected schedule of steward's fees.