

January 4th, 2010



Mayor Peter Kelly
Halifax Regional Municipality
P. O. Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor Kelly:

Re: Commercial Waste Collection and the Service Review Process

I write to you with respect to correspondence between staff at the Chamber and city staff regarding the issue of including commercial waste collection as part of the current service review process.

Members of the Chamber have expressed concern to us over the fact that they feel they are paying twice for waste collection services – once in the tax rate and again as fees to haulers. As you know, waste collection is paid in the general portion of the commercial tax rate. However, commercial property owners also have to pay haulers tipping fees and bin rental fees.

According to an email from Geri Kaiser dated December 16th *“...quick discussion with staff around this issue we really see this issue more of a tax structure issue rather than a service review issue.”* The Chamber has two concerns with this. One is the status of the tax reform project and how quickly this issue will be realistically addressed. The other is the fact that a review of commercial waste collection services fits the stated criteria of the service review. For example, one of the ten questions that the review aims to answer is *“What is the full cost/benefit of this service?”*

It is important that commercial tax payers understand the full costs and benefits of commercial waste services. We ask that the city reconsider including a review of commercial waste collection services within the service review process.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Payn", is written over a large, faint watermark of the same signature.

Valerie Payn
President & CEO
Halifax Chamber of Commerce

C. Cathie O'Toole

Brad Anguish

Ed Thornhill

T 902.468.7111 F 902.468.7333
www.halifaxchamber.com

656 Windmill Road, Suite 200
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada B3B 1B8

