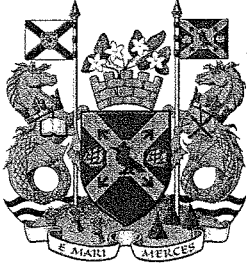


**Halifax
Regional
Municipality**



Peter J. Kelly
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January 21, 2009

REC'D - HALIFAX
23-01-2009
CHAMBER OF COMM.

Valerie Payn, President and CEO
Halifax Chamber of Commerce
656 Windmill Road, Suite 200
Halifax, NS B3B 1B8

Dear Ms. Payn:

Thank you for your e-mail of January 20, 2009, with respect to the management of commercial cardboard collection for recycling.

This issue has been referred by Regional Council to the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee for further discussion and for staff to develop a resolution and a contingency plan should a market for cardboard mixed with other paper from businesses not be available on April 1, 2009. The next meeting of the SWRAC is on January 22nd.

The HRM is very aware of the need to have an open line of communication with the business sector, directly and through those companies that provide collection service at businesses. HRM staff are meeting twice a month with companies that provide collection services at businesses, and also with the two local private paper recyclers, Great Northern Recycling and Scotia Recycling. The attached Recyclable Market Conditions update notice dated January 9th has been prepared by HRM staff at the request of local collection companies, who are distributing the same to businesses throughout the HRM. Please feel free to distribute the attached notice to all of your members. Many members should have received the notice already through their collection company.

HRM staff, in conjunction with the local collection industry and local private sector paper recyclers are developing a long term resolution and also a Contingency Plan which is intended to ensure that all cardboard is marketed, i.e. recycled, and not disposed in the landfill. Disposal of cardboard in the

landfill is not an option. In 1996 the Province banned the disposal of cardboard in landfills. The matter will be brought back to Regional Council by the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee. The resolution of this issue, as approved by Regional Council, will include advance notice to your members and an effective communications plan.

I trust that the above addresses your stated concerns. Thank you for bringing them to my attention. It is appreciated.

Respectfully, I remain



Peter J. Kelly
Mayor

/jc



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RECYCLABLE MARKET CONDITIONS UPDATE

January 9, 2009

Over the last several weeks, the market price of most commodities has dropped significantly. This price drop has impacted corrugated cardboard and paper, which as recyclable commodities, are now worth much less (or have dropped to a negative value) than in the early Fall of 2008.

It is not known how long this downturn in market conditions will last. However, with this current flux in the market, both the Municipality and private recycling facilities have had to respond with changes in business practices. Material quality and separation of materials have become much more important in the marketing of corrugated cardboard and paper. Local private recycling facilities are indicating that as of April 1, 2009 there will likely be no market for corrugated cardboard mixed with other paper.

Commercial collection service providers are also responding to these changes. This may mean that there is a requirement for more source-separation of materials (e.g. separate bins for corrugated cardboard and paper materials) and/or that there may be an increase in cost to collect and process recyclable materials due to the fluctuating charges to deliver these items during this market downturn. Over the next few months, there is an opportunity for property owners and managers to work with their collector to assess how to respond to the evolving market conditions and institute any changes such as the collection of corrugated cardboard separate from paper.

Further updates will be provided as more information is available.

HRM Solid Waste Resources