

JUL 27 2001 11:10AM

HALIFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

No. 1960 P. 1

Halifax Regional Municipality



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July 23, 2001

Ms Michelle Reid,
Chair, Burnside Committee
Metropolitan Halifax Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 8990
Halifax, NS B3K 5M6

Dear Ms Reid:

Thank you for your letter of July 17, 2001.

The success of the HRM's Solid Waste Resources Management System is well recognized across Canada and beyond. This success is the result of strong support by citizens of the HRM, particularly from those members of the business sector, some of which generate a large volume of food waste, including grocery stores and supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias in universities and hospitals, etc. Organics from nonresidential properties have increased by 11% in April and May of 2001, compared to the same two months last year. The HRM is committed to the continued success of the composting program, both for the short-term and the years ahead.

In the short-term, measures have been implemented to ensure that the seasonal over capacity situation at the two HRM sponsored compost facilities does not negatively impact upon our success. Last fall and this spring, a total of approximately 2,000 tonnes of leaf and yard waste was diverted to alternate sites, other than the HRM sponsored compost facilities, for processing without any incidents or issues. The HRM recently issued a tender-call which, subject to Council approval, will ensure that leaf and yard waste and Christmas Trees are received and processed over the next two-year period at



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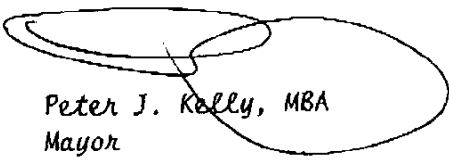
a facility exclusive of the weekly tonnage limits at the Miller Composting and New Era Farms Ltd. facilities.

HRM Solid Waste Resources staff continues to ensure the delivery of organics to the two composting facilities are balanced within the weekly tonnage limit. In addition the HRM has recently partnered with the Municipality of the County of Lunenburg for the receipt of organic materials for those weeks the capacity of the Miller and New Era Farms composting facility are exceeded (in addition to the separate management of leaf and yard waste).

The implementation of these initiatives provides an opportunity for the HRM to assess the composting system requirements in the future and how best to enhance the infrastructure and total annual capacity. These measures will serve to guarantee that issues related to over capacity at both HRM sponsored composting facilities will not be experienced.

Thank you for your positive comments and expression of interest with the continued success of our composting program.

Respectfully, I remain,



Peter J. Kelly, MBA
Mayor

/jc