

#### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

#### Thursday, June 27, 2024 TO BE HELD IN THE BOARDROOM OF THE SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT OFFICES AT 1975 FIELD ROAD, SECHELT, B.C.

#### AGENDA

CALL 1	O ORDER 9:30 a.m.	
AGENE	A	
1.	Adoption of Agenda	Page 1
PRESE	NTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS	
2.	Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, BC Transit <i>via Zoom</i> Regarding Transit Improvement Program (TIP) Introduction	Annex A pp 2-26
REPOF	TS	
3.	Transit Improvement Program (TIP) – 2025/26 Priorities – Acting General Manager, Community Services; Manager, Transit and Fleet (Voting – B, D, E, F, Sechelt, Gibsons, sNGD)	Annex B pp 27 - 35
4.	Provincial Engagement on Non-residential Packaging and Paper Products - Manager, Solid Waste Services; Solid Waste Programs Coordinator (Voting – A, B, D, E, F, Sechelt, Gibsons, sNGD)	Annex C pp 36- 66

#### COMMUNICATIONS

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### IN CAMERA

That the public be excluded from attendance at the meeting in accordance with Section 90 (1) (e), and (k) of the *Community Charter* – "the acquisitions, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements", and "negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service…".

#### ADJOURNMENT



Annex A

# Sunshine Coast Transit Services

# Rob Ringma

# **BC** Transit





# Agenda

- Ridership and Operations Data Analysis
- Transit Planning 101
- Transit Future Action Plan Updates
- Transit Improvement Process (TIPs)
  - Revised Priorities
- Questions



# Ridership by Quarter, By Route. 2019 to 2024



# Ridership by time of day: 2022 vs 2024









# Average Daily Boardings by Route 2022 to 2024







# **Ridership Performance**

## aka Productivity (rides per hour)

# For every hour of service offered, how many people are getting on?



# **Performance – Productivity**







# **Performance – Productivity**







R	oute Performan	ce <u>2020</u>	Quarter 1 (Jan-March)	Quarter 2 ( April - June 2020 )	Quarter 3 2020 (July - August)	Quarter 4 2020 (Sept-December)
Route	Route Name	Service Type	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour
1	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt	Frequent Transit	14.8	9.5	13.6	10.4
2	West Sechelt	Local Transit	11.0	8.9	11.0	12.7
3	Sechelt Arena	Local Transit	13.8	9.6	11.6	8.7
4	Halfmoon Bay	Local Transit	11.5	10.0	9.3	8.5
90	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt Express	Frequent Transit	22.7	15.0	19.7	16.2

# Performance – By Quarter



Route Performance 2020		Quarter 1 (Jan-March)	Quarter 2 ( April - June 2020 )	Quarter 3 2020 (July - August)	Quarter 4 2020 (Sept-December)	
Route	Route Name	Service Type	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour
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2	West Sechelt	Local Transit	11.0	8.9	11.0	12.7
3	Sechelt Arena	Local Transit	13.8	9.6	11.6	8.7
4	Halfmoon Bay	Local Transit	11.5	10.0	9.3	8.5
90	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt Express	Frequent Transit	22.7	15.0	19.7	16.2

Performance -	B	<b>Quarter</b>

#### Quarter 1 2024 Quarter 2 2023 Quarter 3 2023 Quarter 4 2023 Route Performance 2023/24 (Jan-March) (April-June) (July - August) (Sept-December) Average Boarding Per Average Boarding **Average Boarding Average Boarding** Route Route Name Service Type Per Revenue Hour **Revenue Hour** Per Revenue Hour Per Revenue Hour Langdale 1 Frequent Transit 13.3 16.9 18.0 14.9 Ferry/Sechelt West Sechelt Local Transit 23.9 20.1 13.6 22.0 12.3 10.7 10.6 Sechelt Arena Local Transit 9.0 Local Transit 12.2 Halfmoon Bay 11 13.2 10.3 Langdale Ferry/Sechelt 90 Frequent Transit 25.5 28.9 30.9 27.4 Express





**Ridership** 

### Ridership

R	Route Performance 2020		Quarter 1 (Jan-March)	Quarter 2 ( April - June 2020 )	Quarter 3 2020 (July - August)	Quarter 4 2020 (Sept-December)
Route	Route Name	Service Type	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour
1	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt	Frequent Transit	14.8	9.5	13.6	10.4
2				8.9		12.7
3						8.7
						8.5
90	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt Express	Frequent Transit	22.7	15.0	19.7	16.2

Route Performance 2023/24		Quarter 1 2024 (Jan-March)	Quar (Ap	2023 ne)	Quarter 3 2023 (July - August)	Quarter 4 2023 (Sept-December)	
Route	Route Name	Service Type	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Reve	X 2 ding Pe Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour
1	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt	Frequent Transit	13.3			18.0	14.9
2	West Sechelt	Local Transit	23.9			13.6	22.0
3	Sechelt Arena	Local Transit	12.3			10.7	10.6
4	Halfmoon Bay	Local Transit	11			13.2	10.3
	Langdale						
90	Ferry/Sechelt Express	Frequent Transit	25.5		28.9	30.9	27.4

From 2020 to this past year, Route 90 doubled in productivity



### Ridership

R	Route Performance 2020Quarter 1(Jan-March		Quarter 1 (Jan-March)	Quarter June	r 2 ( April - 2020 )	Quarter 3 2020 (July - August)	Quarter 4 2020 (Sept-December)
Route	Route Name	Service Type	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average B Reven	oarding Per ue Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour
1	Langdale Ferrv/Sechelt	Frequent Transit	14.8	9	9.5	13.6	10.4
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3	Sechelt Arena	Local Transit	13.8			11.6	8.7
4	Halfmoon Bay	Local Transit	11.5			9.3	8.5
90	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt Express	Frequent Transit	22.7			19.7	16.2
				×	X 2		
Ro	ute Performance	e <u>2023/24</u>	Quarter 1 2024 (Jan-March)	X Quart (Api	X 2 2023 ie)	Quarter 3 2023 (July - August)	Quarter 4 2023 (Sept-December)
Route	u <b>te Performance</b> Route Name	e <u>2023/24</u> Service Type	Quarter 1 2024 (Jan-March) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Quart (Api Average Reve	<b>X 2</b> 2023 ie) ling Per	Quarter 3 2023 (July - August) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Quarter 4 2023 (Sept-December) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour
Rot Route	u <b>te Performance</b> Route Name Langdale Ferry/Sechelt	e <u>2023/24</u> Service Type Frequent Transit	Quarter 1 2024 (Jan-March) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour 13.3	Quart (Api Average Revo	X 2 2023 ie) ling Per our	Quarter 3 2023 (July - August) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour 18.0	Quarter 4 2023 (Sept-December) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour 14.9
Route	u <b>te Performance</b> Route Name Langdale Ferrv/Sechelt West Sechelt	e <u>2023/24</u> Service Type Frequent Transit Local Transit	Quarter 1 2024 (Jan-March) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour 13.3 23.9	Quart (Api Average Revo 1u	<b>X 2</b> 2023 ie) ling Per our 0.1	Quarter 3 2023 (July - August) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour 18.0 13.6	Quarter 4 2023 (Sept-December) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour 14.9 22.0
Route 1 2 3	ute Performance Route Name Langdale Ferrv/Sechelt West Sechelt Sechelt Arena	e <u>2023/24</u> Service Type Frequent Transit Local Transit Local Transit	Quarter 1 2024 (Jan-March) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour 13.3 23.9 12.3	Quart (Ap Average Revo 1 20	X 2 2023 ie) ling Per our 0.1	Quarter 3 2023 (July - August) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour 18.0 13.6 10.7	Quarter 4 2023 (Sept-December) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour 14.9 22.0 10.6
Route 1 2 3 4	ute Performance Route Name Langdale Ferrv/Sechelt West Sechelt Sechelt Arena Halfmoon Bay	e 2023/24 Service Type Frequent Transit Local Transit Local Transit Local Transit	Quarter 1 2024 (Jan-March) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour 13.3 23.9 12.3 11	Quart (Ap Average Reve 1 2 9 12	<b>X 2</b> <b>2023</b> <b>ie)</b> ling Per our 0.1 0.1 0.0 2.2	Quarter 3 2023 (July - August) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour 18.0 13.6 10.7 13.2	Quarter 4 2023 (Sept-December) Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour 14.9 22.0 10.6 10.3

### From 2020 to this past year, Route 2 has doubled





### Ridership

R	Route Performance 2020		Quarter 1 (Jan-March)	Quarter 2 June 20	( April - 20 )	Quarter 3 2020 (July - August)	Quarte (Sept-D	er 4 2020 ecember)
Route	Route Name	Service Type	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Boa Revenue	rding Per Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	
1	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt	Frequent Transit	14.8	9.5		13.6	1	0.4
2	West Sechelt	Local Transit	11.0			11.0		
3	Sechelt Arena	Local Transit	13.8			11.6		
4	Halfmoon Bay	Local Transit	11.5			9.3		
90	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt Express	Frequent Transit	22.7			19.7		
Roi	ute Performance	e <u>2023/24</u>	Quarter 1 2024 (Jan-March)	Quart (Ap	2023 ne)	Quarter 3 2023 (July - August)	Quai (Sept-	2023 ember)
Route	Route Name	Service Type	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Average Revenue	ing Per Hour	Average Boarding Per Revenue Hour	Aver. Per Rev	arding onue Hour
1	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt	Frequent Transit	13.3	16.9		18.0	1	4.9
۷	west secheit	LOCAL FRANSIC	23.9	20.1		13.0	2	.2.0
3	Sechelt Arena	Local Transit	12.3	9.0		10.7	1	0.6
4	Halfmoon Bay	Local Transit	11	12.2		13.2	1	.0.3
90	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt Express	Frequent Transit	25.5	28.9		30.9	2	27.4

### From 2020 to this past year, Route 1 has increased



# Performance, by Day of the Week

Route Performance Summary			Performance Averages May 2023 to April 2024			
Route	Route Name	Service Type	Weekdays	Saturdays	Sundays	
1	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt	Frequent Transit	15	26	21	
2	West Sechelt	Local Transit	19	17	15	
3	Sechelt Arena	Local Transit	11	10	9	
4	Halfmoon Bay	Local Transit	13	11	10	
90	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt Express	Frequent Transit	29	37	34	



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Route Performance Summary			Performance Averages May 2023 to April 2024			
Route	Route Name	Service Type	Weekdays	Saturdays	Sundays	
1	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt	Frequent Transit	15	26	21	
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3	Sechelt Arena	Local Transit	11	10	9	
4	Halfmoon Bay	Local Transit	13	11	10	
90	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt Express	Frequent Transit	29	37	34	

30 is common performance threshold for regional and interregional routes

Route 90 has surpassed critical levels on weekends.

- Pass Ups are likely occurring
- Some overflow demand is likely being absorbed by Route 1





# Performance, by Day of the Week

Route Performance Summary			Performance Averages May 2023 to April 2024			
Route	Route Name	Service Type	Weekdays	Saturdays	Sundays	
1	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt	Frequent Transit	15	26	21	
2	West Sechelt	Local Transit	19 <b>2nd</b>	17	15	
3	Sechelt Arena	Local Transit	11	10	9	
4	Halfmoon Bay	Local Transit	13	11	10	
90	Langdale Ferry/Sechelt Express	Frequent Transit	29 <b>top</b>	37	34	

On weekdays:

Route 2 is now the second most productive route



# How we evaluate priorities for improvements

WEIGHTING		
OPERATIONAL NEEDS	PERFORMANCE DATA	STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES
Are any routes critically behind schedule? We often advise a modest annual increase to deal with increases in congestion.	Are any routes passing people up, or reaching capacity thresholds?	What Service changes identified in the most recent Local Area Transit Plan or Transit Future Action Plan remain outstanding



# **Order of Weighting for Investment**

#### 4. Expand transit service to new areas

- 3. Continual Optimization: Route-and systemlevel Service Standards and Performance Guidelines are met or exceeded
- Buses are well utilized but not overcrowded, and transit is integrated with other modes of transportation
- 1. Transit Service is reliable, safe, accessible and operates sustainably

- Adjust service frequency in response to performance, based upon the Service Standards
- Continue to monitor system and route-level performance
  - Enhance Ease-of Use
  - Integrate Land Use and Transportation Planning
  - Ensure network has appropriate design
  - Right-size Vehicles
    - Basic on-time performance is met
    - Adequate infrastructure for operations is present
    - Vehicle fleet is accessible
    - System and Route level performance are monitored





# **Transit Future Action Plan**







### Transit Future Action Plan

### **Evaluating Priorities in Consideration of Performance, Operations**

WEIGHTING

OPERATIONAL NEEDS Are Routes Behind Schedule? Increased Congestion?	PERFORMANCE DATA Are any Routes passing people up or reaching capacity thresholds?	OUTSTANDING TFAP PRIORITIES What Service Changes in most recent planning documents remain outstanding?	<b>INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS</b> Potential new service changes not already identified. LGP & BCT should adhere to planned priorities to address Operational and Performance needs but this is catch all for other idea's and considerations
<ul> <li>On time problems in the Summer on Route 1 and 90</li> <li>In the summer about 35-50% of the trips are behind.</li> <li>In the winter about 35% of trips are behind</li> </ul> LATEST 10 ROUTES - August 2023 Route Late %           1         48.4%           2         34.0%           3         47.0%           4         48.8%           90         39.6%	<ul> <li>Saturdays and Sundays on Route 90 are at critical load levels.</li> <li>Pass-ups may begin to occur.</li> <li>Route 2 has ridership productivity is rising fastest and may have critical loads on some trips, or will be reaching them soon.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Weekdays Phase 1: Route 90 increase frequency to 30 minutes from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.</li> <li>Weekdays Phase 2: Route 90 increase frequency to 30 minutes for the entire service span on weekdays</li> <li>Modify 1 Sechelt/Langdale Terminal</li> <li>Improve existing connections</li> <li>Increase 2 Sechelt to 60 min Monday to Saturday, 30 min at peak times</li> <li>Modifying 2 Sechelt from circular route to a two-way bi-directional service</li> <li>New Service to Pender Harbour</li> <li>New Service to Earls Cove Ferry Terminal/Egmont</li> </ul>	Question: Is there a cost-neutral opportunity to reallocate service from Route 1 to Route 90 to address demand? Answer: Possibly, but this stands to reshape and change the schedule for Routes and 3. Route 2 is clearly a high-demand and sensitive route. Making change without improving service poses a risk to upsetting existing customers. Consultation should be undertaken.
When Route 90 is overfull, Passengers will use Route 1 as well because it meets the ferries. Delays in route 1 can cause delays in Routes 2 and 3			





### **Transit Future Action Plan**

### **Evaluating Priorities in Consideration of Performance, Operations**

WEIGHTING

OPERATIONAL NEEDS Are Routes Behind Schedule? Increased Congestion?	PERFORMANCE DATA Are any Routes passing people up or reaching capacity thresholds?	<b>OUTSTANDING TFAP PRIORITIES</b> What Service Changes in most recent planning documents remain outstanding?	<b>INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS</b> Potential new service changes not already identified. LGP & BCT should adhere to planned priorities to address Operational and Performance needs but this is catch all for other idea's and considerations
On time problems in the Summer on Route 1 and 90 In the series are are the rabout 35-5 trips are the rabout 35% of trips are behind LATEST 10 ROUTES - August 2023 Route 48.4% 1 48.4% 2 44.0% 3 47.0% 4 46.8% 90 39.6%	Saturdays and Sundays on Route 2 at critical load le 2 ups may begin to 2 Route 2 has ridership productivity is rising fastest at thave critical 3 ome trips, or 3 saching them soc.	<ul> <li>Weekdays Phase 1: Route 90 increase frequency to 30 minutes from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.</li> <li>Weekdays Phase 2: Route 90 increase frequency to 30 minutes for the entire service span on weekdays</li> <li>Modify 1 Sechelt/Langdale Terminal</li> <li>Improve existing connections</li> <li>Increase 2 Sechelt to 60 min Monday to Saturday, 30 min at peak times</li> <li>Modifying 2 Sechelt from circular route to a two-way bi-directional service</li> <li>New Service to Pender Harbour</li> <li>New Service to Earls Cove Ferry Terminal/Egmont</li> </ul>	Question: Is there a cost-neutral opportunity to reallocate service from Route 1 to Route 90 to address demand? Answer: Possibly, but this stands to reshape and change the schedule for Routes and 3. Route 2 is clearly a high-demand and sensitive route. Making change to route 2 without expansion hours to improve the service poses a risk to upsetting existing customers. Consultation should be undertaken.
When Route 90 is overfull, Passengers will use Route 1 as well because it meets the ferries. Delays in route 1 can cause delays in Routes 2 and 3			



# **Transit Improvement Program (TIPs)**

- •Communicates expansion initiatives proposed for the next three years.
- Initiatives are agreed upon and costed by BCT
- Seek local gov't commitment via MOU to the costed expansion initiatives
- Allows BC Transit to proceed with securing funding from the Province
- Expansion Priorities determined by:
  - » Data Analysis
  - » Previously not implemented TIP priorities
  - » Transit Future Plans and other Service Plans
  - » Local initiatives and priorities
  - » Capital and Infrastructure requirements



# **Revised Investment Priorities (Proposed)**

	Service Priorities	Why in this position?	Estimated Cost
	New Order of Priority	Rationale for re-ordering	Estimated Cost
2025/26 Year 1	Additional service hours to make the schedule reliable and consistent * Improve route 90 on weekends and holidays to address overloads (only as needed) * Weekdays Phase 1: Route 90 increase frequency to 30 minutes from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.	<ul> <li>To address on-time performance problems with Route 90</li> <li>To address critical ridership levels on Route 90 on weekends</li> <li>To address high ridership AND enable consistent year-round service on Route 90 and remove formed views achedula character</li> </ul>	2700 Hours and 1 HD Bus Total Cost \$534,853 SCRD Cost: \$260,006
	handyDART: Add Bus to Elect and hours	Increase neak canacity	To be Determined
2026/27 Year 2	Weekdays Phase 2: Route 90 increase frequency to 30 minutes for the entire service span on weekdays	<ul> <li>To address high ridership AND enable consistent year-round service on Route 90 and remove ferry-driven schedule changes</li> </ul>	1800 Hours and 1 HD Bus Total Cost \$307,049 SCRD Cost: \$151,855
	handyDART: Add Service Hours	•Increase service span	To be Determined
2027/28 Year 3	Increase 2 Sechelt to 60 min Monday to Saturday, 30 min at peak times	<ul> <li>To address rapidly increasing ridership on Route 2</li> <li>CAUTION: The Garage Facility may be at capacity</li> </ul>	900 Hours and 2 MD buses Total Cost \$208,394 SCRD Cost: \$128,588





# **Revised Investment Priorities (Proposed)**

	Service Priorities	Why in this position?	Estimated Cost
	New Order of Priority	Rationale for re-ordering	Estimated Cost
2028/29 Year 4	Modification of route 1 Sechelt/Langdale Terminal. Re-align route 1 and Increase Frequency to 60 min Introduce New route 5 Connector between Upper and Lower Gibsons Weekends Phase 1: Increase route 90 frequency to 30 minutes on weekends and holidays between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m	<ul> <li>Routes 1. 2 and 3 are served by the same bus. To modify Route 1, without negatively impacting Route 2 and 3 customers, extra resources for Route 2 are needed.</li> <li>To address continued strong weekend demand on Route 90</li> </ul>	Not Yet Costed CAUTION: The Garage Facility may be at capacity
Other Priorities	Modifying route 2 Sechelt from circular route to a two-way bi-directional service	•In anticipation of further strengthening of Route 2 ridership	Not Yet Costed CAUTION: The Garage Facility may be at capacity
Other Priorities	Weekends Phase 2: Increase route 90 frequency to 30 minutes on weekends and holidays	•To address continued strong weekend demand	Not Yet Costed CAUTION: The Garage Facility may be at capacity





# Thank-you!

## Rob Ringma Senior Manager, Government Relations <u>rringma@bctransit.com</u>



#### SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Committee of the Whole – June 27, 2024

**AUTHOR:** Shelley Gagnon, GM Community Services

SUBJECT: TRANSIT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) – 2025/26-2027/28 PRIORITIES

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- (1) THAT the report titled Transit Improvement Program (TIP) 2025/26-2027/28 Priorities be received for information;
- (2) AND THAT the 2025/26 Memorandum of Understanding for the Transit Improvement Program be prepared to include the following service expansions: 2025/26:
  - Route 90: Increase frequency to 30 minutes from 6am to 6pm weekdays.
  - Additional handyDART hours of operation
  - Addition of a light duty handyDART bus and the associated hours to increase ridership capacity at peak times

2026/27:

- Route 90: Increase frequency to 30 minutes for the entire service span on weekdays.
- Additional handyDART hours of operation and service span on weekends. 2027/28:
  - Route 2: Increase frequency to 60 minutes Monday to Saturday and 30 minutes at peak times.
  - Additional handyDART hours of operation and service span on weekday evenings.
- (3) AND FURTHER that BC Transit and staff return in the fall of 2024 with the Memorandum of Understand for expansion priorities for the Boards consideration.

#### BACKGROUND

As part of the annual planning cycle, BC Transit initiates a discussion with local governments to review the transit service (referred to as the Transit Improvement Program or TIP's) and identify a three-year service expansion plan along with the timing of the potential service enhancements. The TIP's priorities are derived from the 2022 Transit Future Action Plan (TFAP) and the 2024 Custom Transit Review in conjunction with an analysis of ridership data and performance metrics. Other considerations include local initiatives and priorities as well as capital and infrastructure requirements for the proposed improvements.

These expansion opportunities are presented to the local government in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). If the priorities are supported by the local government, the associated financial requirements are then used by BC Transit to prepare a Provincial budget request for the following year. This information is also used by local governments to inform and

prepare their financial planning and budget accordingly. The first-year priorities require a formal commitment/approval, while year two and three priorities are for budget planning purposes.

Following confirmation of the provincial budget, first year commitments are then formally adopted into the subsequent Annual Operating Agreement provided the matching expansion funding has been allocated by the provincial government. This advance planning is also required to provide the lead time necessary to acquire any additional fleet if required as part of the proposed expansion (this can take up 18 months).

On September 28, 2023 the SCRD Board adopted the following recommendations:

## 278/23 **Recommendation No.5** *Transit Improvement Program (TIP) – 2024 Expansion Priorities*

THAT the report titled Transit Improvement Program (TIP) – 2024 expansion Priorities be received for information;

AND THAT expansion priorities (Year 1), including increased weekday frequency on Route 90 and an annual increase of 550 hours to the Custom Transit service, be approved in principle;

AND THAT the delegated authorities be authorized to sign the Memorandum of Understanding;

AND FURTHER THAT a budget proposal be brought forward to the 2024 Budget deliberations to incorporate the associated revenues and expenses for the expansion to Route 90 and Custom Transit service levels.

When the 2024/25 Provincial budget was announced this past March, funding for BC Transit to maintain existing service levels as well as some expansion funding was approved. On March 15, 2024, BC Transit notified the SCRD that the Custom Transit expansion request of 550 hours/year was approved (anticipated implementation this fall). Unfortunately, the Conventional Transit expansion request to increase the frequency of Route 90 during weekdays was not approved. As such, the Route 90 expansion initiatives identified in the 2024 MOU will not proceed.

The purpose of this report is to propose the 2025/26 - 2027/28 transit expansion initiatives for inclusion in the MOU that will be forthcoming in the fall of 2024.

#### DISCUSSION

The following table outlines the considerations when evaluating priorities for improvements:



#### Analysis

An analysis of the ridership data and performance metrics have prompted a change to the recommended order of the priorities identified in the TFAP.

Ridership on both conventional as well as custom transit has recovered to pre-COVID levels and is trending to exceed these levels by the end of 2024. Route 90 continues to experience the highest annual ridership and has surpassed critical levels on weekends, with overflow demand likely being absorbed by Route 1. In terms of performance, Route 90 averages the highest ridership per day, with Route 2 having the second highest average daily boardings per revenue hour. Route 2 is trending towards reaching critical loads on some trips, which may be further impacted this fall with the implementation of fare free transit for students.

Overall on-time performance over the past 12 months has averaged 59.5%, far below BC Transit's target of 73%. Given that each route does not have its own bus, and a given bus will provide service on different routes within the day, on-time performance has a ripple effect throughout the entire system. Reliability of service is critical for building ridership; therefore, the number one priority continues to be increased service hours on Route 90 to address on-time performance, critical ridership levels on weekends and make the schedule reliable and consistent.

This strategic priority will also have the positive effect of increasing service frequency to a level that will support less bus schedule changes to adjust to ferry schedules (currently up to 4 schedule changes per year). By increasing the frequency on Route 90 to 30 minutes, ferry passengers disembarking at Langdale will not need to wait any longer than 30 minutes or less to catch the next bus, providing greater consistency and reliability for passengers.

The second priority is to address the rapidly increasing ridership on Route 2 which has seen its boardings per hour double (from 9 boardings per hour in 2022 to over 20 per hour in 2023). Routes 1, 2 and 3 are served by the same bus. Increasing the frequency of Route 90 allows the opportunity for a modification of Route 1, coupled with increased service on Route 2, which then

in turn provides an opportunity to also introduce a new Route 5 (Connector between upper and lower Gibsons).

Future year initiatives beyond Year 3 will be added as any selected Year 1 priorities are approved, funded and implemented and the Board will be able to provide their input into the TIPs process each year to ensure transit priorities are in line with community needs.

As per the Custom Transit Review, increasing service hours and capacity in morning and peak service times as well as increasing weekend and evening weekday service will continue to be the priorities for the handyDART service. Staff have also requested that BC Transit investigate the cost to add one light duty handyDART bus to the fleet in order to be able to provide an increase in ridership capacity at peak times in the handyDART schedule. This will be included in future expansion discussions this fiscal.

Increasing service hours also has implications for fleet and supporting infrastructure. Additional service hours for Route 90, Route 2 and handyDART will require additional buses. Knowing that the current Mason Road Yards site is almost at capacity, a study was undertaken to inform the spatial requirements for Transit, Parks and Utilities for the next 20 years (including corporate fleet, garage needs and fleet electrification considerations). The results of this study will be brought forward to the Board prior to the end of 2024 and will inform planning for property options and future investments necessary to support further service expansions and will need to be reflected in the next few years TIP's.

Further, the Sunshine Coast Transit service will pilot Battery Electric Buses (BEB's) within the next two years (anticipated for late 2025/early 2026). With the addition of 2 BEB's and charging infrastructure, the Mason Road Yards is further constrained. Staff are currently exploring short-term options to free up space at the Yards and/or off-site parking for off-duty buses. Further information on this will be presented along with the Mason Road Yards Expansion study later this year.

Lastly, service expansions will require additional transit staff. Recruitment and retention of transit drivers has been an ongoing concern over the past number of years. The 2024 Collective Agreement included a number of initiatives to support transit, which may have a positive impact on driver retention.

Appendix 1 outlines the revised priorities for transit improvements for the next three years (2025/26-2028/29).

#### Options

BC Transit has completed an initial costing exercise to provide the following estimated annual costs associated with the proposed expansion initiatives (see chart below). Estimated costs include the variable hourly costs associated with the increase in service hours, additional fleet lease fees, as well as BC Transits inputs into any fixed and administrative costs. Once the three-year priorities have been confirmed, BC Transit will conduct another round of costing and staff will also review associated costs that aren't covered by the AOA and bring this information forward with the MOU in the fall.

	PROPOSED EXPANSION INITIATIVES					
AOA Period	In Service	Annual Hours	Vehicle Requirements	Estimated Annual Revenue	Estimated Annual Total Costs	Estimated Annual Net Municipal Share
		2,700	1	41,444	534,853	260,006
2025/26 January Description Route 90 Phase 1: Increase free to 6 p.m.				uency to 30 minu	tes from 6 a.m.	
		1,800	1	28,969	307,049	151,855
2026/27	January	Description	Year 2 Option 1: minutes for the e	Route 90 Phase entire service spa	2 - increase freo n on weekdays.	quency to 30
		900	2	14,485	208,394	128,588
2027/28	January	Description	Year 3 Option 1: Monday to Satur	Increase frequer day, 30 min at pe	ncy to route 2 Sec eak times.	chelt to 60 min

Note: In Service (implementation) for 2025/26 expansion priorities is projected to be January 2026.

Further, if the Committee wishes to consider expediting further improvements by combining the above listed priorities into one or two years, the next priority includes modifications and realignment of Route 1 coupled with the introduction for a new Route 5 (Gibsons connector). If directed, BC Transit can provide these projections for 2027/28. These projections will be brought back to the Board this fall when the Memorandum of Understanding comes forward for consideration.

Finally, at the time of writing this report, projections for Custom Transit (handyDART) service improvements had not been costed but will come forward this fall with the MOU. Further service hours for handyDART will require an additional bus which will be built into the cost projections.

Of note, all the above priorities identify the need for additional buses, therefore developing shortterm strategies for parking will be critical, will most likely also have an additional financial impact and may impact the implementation timing of the priorities.

To assist BC Transit and SCRD to prepare the TIP's MOU for presentation to the Board in the fall, staff would like to confirm the 2025/26 – 2027/28 improvement priorities. This will enable BC Transit and staff to quantify the estimated annual hours, additional resources including fleet/buses required, and the order of magnitude costing associated with each expansion initiative.

Staff have provided the following recommendations for the Committee's consideration:

**Recommendation #1 (staff recommended):** That the 2025/26 Memorandum of Understanding for the Transit Improvement Program be prepared to include the following service expansions: 2025/26:

- Route 90: Increase frequency to 30 minutes from 6am to 6pm weekdays.
- Additional handyDART hours of operation

• Addition of a light duty handyDART bus and the associated hours to increase ridership capacity at peak times

2026/27:

- Route 90: Increase frequency to 30 minutes for the entire service span on weekdays.
- Additional handyDART hours of operation and service span on weekends.

#### 2027/28:

- Route 2: Increase frequency to 60 minutes Monday to Saturday and 30 minutes at peak times.
- Additional handyDART hours of operation and service span on weekday evenings.

**Recommendation #2:** That the 2025/26 Memorandum of Understanding for the Transit Improvement Program be prepared to include the following service expansions: 2025/26:

- Route 90: Increase frequency to 30 minutes from 6am to 6pm weekdays.
- Additional handyDART hours of operation
- Addition of a light duty handyDART bus and the associated hours to increase ridership capacity at peak times

2026/27:

- Route 90: Increase frequency to 30 minutes for the entire service span on weekdays.
- Route 2: Increase frequency to 60 minutes Monday to Saturday and 30 minutes at peak times.
- Additional handyDART hours of operation and service span on weekends.

2027/28:

- Modifications and realignment of Route 1 coupled with the introduction for a new Route 5 (Gibsons connector).
- Additional handyDART hours of operation and service span on weekday evenings.

#### Financial Implications

While some base level costing for each initiative has been included in the Table on page 5, the resourcing and financial implications of the expansion priorities will be further costed over the summer and brought back to the Committee in the fall along with the MOU for consideration. However, for taxational context, the estimated cost of \$100,000 of taxation per \$100,000 of assessment value is \$0.52.

		Area B	Area D	Area E	Area F	sNGD	DoS	ToG	Total
0005/00	Taxation ↑	39,492	30,038	23, 145	38,661	5,887	84,818	37,965	260,006
2023/20	Taxation %	0.81%	0.78%	0.78%	0.89%	1.30%	1.49%	1.09%	0.89%
2026/27	Taxation ↑	23,065	17,543	13,517	22,579	3,438	49,538	22,173	151,855
	Taxation %	0.47%	0.45%	0.45%	0.52%	0.76%	0.87%	0.64%	0.52%
2027/20	Taxation ↑	19,531	14,855	11,446	19,120	2,912	41,948	18,776	128,588
2027/28	Taxation %	0.40%	0.38%	0.39%	0.44%	0.64%	0.74%	0.54%	0.44%

#### Organizational Implications

Transit service expansion will result in an increase in service hours, additional fleet requirements, additional demands on the garage, additional FTE's, and increased pressure on an already constrained site at Mason Road Yards.

#### *Timeline for next steps*

Throughout the summer, BC Transit and SCRD staff will quantify the estimated annual hours, additional resources including fleet/buses required, and the order of magnitude costing associated with the proposed 2025 expansion initiatives. This information will be brought back in the fall in the form of a TIP's Memorandum of Understanding for the Boards consideration.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN AND RELATED POLICIES

Transit Service expansions align with Official Community Plans, Integrated Transportation Study (2011), 2022 Transit Future Action Plan, 2024 Custom Transit Review, BC Transit Strategic Plan 2020 and the Province's Clean BC Initiative.

#### CONCLUSION

The annual planning cycle with BC Transit includes the consideration of service expansion priorities (TIP's). It is recommended that BC Transit prepare the 2025/26-2027/28 Memorandum of Understanding for service expansions to include increased frequency on Route 90, Route 2 as well as increased operation hours for Custom Transit (handyDART) services. Staff and BC Transit are to return in the fall of 2024 with the MOU for the Board's consideration.

Reviewed by	:		
Manager	- A. Kidwai	CFO/Finance	X- A. Taylor
GM		Legislative	X - S. Reid
Acting CAO	X-T. Perreault	Other	

Conventional Transit - Service Improvement Priority	Rationale	Implications
<b>Route 90:</b> Increase frequency to 30 minutes from 6am to 6pm on weekdays.	<ul> <li>Address on-time performance</li> <li>Address critical ridership levels</li> <li>Decrease ferry-driven schedule changes</li> </ul>	1 new bus required
<b>Route 90:</b> Increase frequency to 30 minutes for the entire service span on weekdays.	<ul> <li>Address on-time performance</li> <li>Address critical ridership levels</li> <li>Decrease ferry-driven schedule changes</li> </ul>	1 new bus required
<b>Route 2:</b> Increase frequency to 60 minutes Monday through Saturday; and 30 minutes at peak times.	<ul> <li>Address rapidly increasing ridership on Route 2</li> </ul>	2 new buses required
		Caution: Facility challenges (parking and garage facility may be at capacity)
Route 1 and Route 5: Modifications and realignment of Route 1 and introduce a new Route 5 (Connector between Upper and Lower Gibsons).	<ul> <li>Routes 1, 2 and 3 are served by same bus.</li> <li>Once Route 2 frequency has increased, can modify Route 1</li> <li>Route 1 and 5 served by same bus; Route 2 and 3 served by same bus</li> </ul>	Buses TBD
<b>Route 90</b> : Increase frequency to 30 minutes on weekends and holidays between 8am and 6pm.	Address continued strong weekend demand	Buses TBD Caution: Facility challenges (parking and garage facility may be at capacity)
<b>Route 2:</b> Modify route from circular to a two-way bi-directional service.	<ul> <li>In anticipation of further strengthening Route 2 ridership</li> </ul>	Buses TBD Caution: Facility challenges (parking and garage facility may be at capacity)
Custom Transit (handyDART)- Service Improvement Priority	Rationale	Implications
Additional hours of operation	Increase ridership capacity	Buses TBD
Additional hours of operation and service space on weekends	Increase ridership capacity	Buses TBD

#### Appendix 1: Revised Transit Improvement Priorities 1 - 4 years

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		Caution: Facility challenges (parking and garage facility may be at capacity)
Additional hours of operation and service span on weekday evenings	Increase ridership capacity	Buses TBD Caution: Facility challenges (parking and garage facility may be at capacity)
Work with BCT on sourcing and advancing dispatch software solution.	<ul> <li>Improve booking process and dispatch technology.</li> </ul>	Increased efficiencies.

#### SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Committee of the Whole – June 27, 2024

- AUTHOR: Marc Sole, Manager, Solid Waste Services Andrea Patrao, Solid Waste Programs Coordinator
- SUBJECT: PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENT ON NON-RESIDENTIAL PACKAGING AND PAPER PRODUCTS

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- (1) THAT the report titled Provincial Engagement on Non-Residential Packaging and Paper Products be received for information;
- (2) AND THAT the Sunshine Coast Regional District Board send a letter to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in response to the engagement opportunity on Preventing Waste in British Columbia: Non-Residential Packaging and Paper Products.

#### BACKGROUND

On April 23, 2024, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS) released a discussion paper and engagement opportunity on "Preventing Waste in British Columbia: "Non-Residential Packaging and Paper Products". Feedback is due by July 23, 2024. The MOECCS refers to the recyclable portion of industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) waste as non-residential packaging and paper products (PPP). This engagement opportunity is a response from the MOECCS, in part, to the feedback received from local government advocacy.

The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) has previously advocated for improved ICI recycling. As a Regional District, the SCRD can set diversion goals through the SCRD's Solid Waste Management Plan but relies on Provincial Regulations for recycling enforcement, which at the time of writing this report is the *BC Recycling Regulation*, which includes residential recycling and other waste types, but not ICI recycling.

The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval to submit feedback related to this engagement opportunity.

#### DISCUSSION

The MOECCS developed the *CleanBC Plastics Action Plan* and 2021-2026 Extended Producer *Responsibility (EPR) 5-year Action Plan* for the prevention of plastic waste which includes a commitment to developing a policy approach for managing non-residential PPP. The purpose of the discussion paper is to provide information about the management of solid waste in British Columbia and context for the feedback the MOECCS is seeking from residents, local governments, indigenous governments, businesses, and other impacted organizations.

#### Staff Report to Committee of the Whole – June 27, 2024 Provincial Engagement on Non-Residential Packaging and Paper Products Page 2 of 3

In the discussion paper the MOECCS includes the following guiding principles:

- A clean environment and climate resilient communities, free of waste and pollution;
- A circular economy supporting BC businesses and jobs where products and materials can easily be repaired, reused, or recycled for as long as possible; and,
- A true, lasting and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

These guiding principles were used to develop proposed outcomes and policy approaches that consider the variety of sources encompassed in the non-residential sector. Schools, hospitals, restaurants, grocery stores, and other businesses in the private sector are all different sources of non-residential waste, and according to the province, a single EPR may not be appropriate to implement for all. Some of the approaches outlined in the discussion paper are related to expansion of existing EPR to include sources similar to residential PPP in existing systems, while others are designed to standardize waste prevention, designate certain materials as recyclable, create reuse requirements, and create disposal bans for packaging materials at a provincial level.

The policy approaches were developed to achieve proposed outcomes that focus on waste prevention, consistency and confidence in non-residential programs, accountability and transparency along with economic benefits for a strong circular economy and maximizing material recovery in consideration of all non-residential waste sources.

The MOECCS is also considering opportunities for how these different policy approaches and the proposed outcomes can support regional district planning, local actions to regulate waste, and standardization of waste reduction targets across the Province and for all sectors. Standardizing waste reduction targets are proposed to ensure consistency across the province for all businesses, organizations, and levels of government while considering the work already being done at the Federal Level to address packaging and plastic waste through the Environment and Climate Change Canada *Ocean Plastics Charter* and *Canada Plastics Pact 2025 Targets*.

#### Analysis

The guiding principles, proposed outcomes, and policy approaches can support changes to the provincial *Recycling Regulation* that align with the Board's past advocacy. As well, there is some alignment of the guiding principles from the discussion paper with of the Board's *2023-2027 Strategic Plan.* Considering the SCRD's role in managing solid waste and the province's reliance on the *Recycling Regulation* to enforce recycling for the diverse non-residential sector, the variety of policy approaches proposed in the discussion paper could result in a greater economy of scale in BC with improved recycling outcomes within our region. Staff have prepared a written response for the Board's consideration (Attachment C) that provides continued support for initiatives that will change the *Recycling Regulation* for the benefit of the region.

#### Timeline for next steps or estimated completion date

Feedback is due to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy by July 23, 2024. The MOECCS has indicated the intention to release an engagement summary towards the end of 2024 which will include written submissions. Future steps from the MOECCS, if regulation changes are considered, will likely include an intentions paper on proposed regulation changes and subsequent engagement prior to implementation, for which there are no committed timelines.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN AND RELATED POLICIES

The staff report is aligned with the Board's Service Delivery Focus Area of Solid Waste Solutions: Optimize use of Sechelt Landfill site to bridge to future long-term waste disposal solutions, and Enhance diversion and recycling programs and look for ways to reduce costs.

#### CONCLUSION

Staff recommend providing a written submission to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's engagement opportunity on "Preventing Waste in British Columbia: Non-Residential Packaging and Paper Products" as the proposed outcomes would improve non-residential waste diversion in the region, which is not within the SCRD's jurisdiction to regulate.

It also reaffirms past advocacy to hold non-residential PPP producers fully accountable to fund the cost of recycling.

#### Attachments

Attachment A – Preventing Waste in British Columbia: Non-Residential Packaging and Paper Products – Discussion Paper

Attachment B – Drafted written submission response regarding Preventing Waste in British Columbia – Non-Residential Packaging and Paper Products – Sunshine Coast Regional District Feedback, dated July 11, 2024

Reviewed b	y:		
Manager		Finance	
GM	X - R. Rosenboom	Legislative	X - S. Reid
CAO	X - T. Perreault	Other	

Attachment A

# Preventing Waste in British Columbia: Non-Residential Packaging & Paper Products

# **Discussion Paper**





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# **Purpose of discussion paper**

British Columbia has been taking actions to prevent plastic waste, as outlined in the <u>CleanBC</u> <u>Plastics Action Plan</u>. This includes actions under the <u>2021-2026 Extended Producer Responsibility</u> <u>5-year Action Plan</u> and the commitment to identify a policy approach for non-residential packaging and paper products in 2025.

Working towards identifying policy approaches for non-residential packaging, the ministry is seeking your input on a series of desired outcomes and potential policy approaches. Given the complexity of non-residential packaging waste, it is anticipated that a combination of actions and a phased approach will be required.

This discussion paper provides background on solid waste in British Columbia, including what it is made of and where it is collected, focusing on the non-residential sector, also referred to as the industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sector. This paper discusses the challenges of managing municipal solid waste in B.C. as well as identifying opportunities to prevent waste from non-residential packaging. It is designed to promote discussion and aims to gain insight from interested parties to help inform effective and efficient solutions.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the ministry) invites you to contribute your knowledge and ideas to inform the development of policy approaches that will improve the prevention and recycling of non-residential (ICI) packaging waste in communities across B.C.

#### We want to hear your thoughts on:

- Questions posed in the discussion sections;
- Issues or concerns you think we should be aware of;
- Ideas or solutions for non-residential packaging you or your organization wishes to share;
- Where efforts should be prioritized; and
- Anything you wish to share on the topic of how to improve the Province's approach to nonresidential packaging and paper products.



# Why focus on nonresidential packaging?

In British Columbia we dispose of over 2.5 million tonnes of solid waste from our homes and businesses in landfills or through incineration each year. This is over 500 kg of waste disposed per person. An estimated one-third of this waste is packaging and packaging-like materials that can be prevented through waste reduction and reuse initiatives or diverted through recycling programs. While over 99% of British Columbians have access to recycling at home through curbside blue boxes, multi-family building recycling programs or depot services, recycling and waste prevention outside of the home at locations such as offices, retail stores, restaurants, warehouses, manufacturing facilities, institutions and schools is not as consistent.

Under the <u>CleanBC Plastics Action Plan</u>, British Columbia has taken actions to prevent plastic waste, including reducing the use of hard-to-recycle plastics, and expanding B.C.'s reuse services and recycling programs. However, more actions are needed to prevent packaging waste from polluting our environment, filling up our landfills and contributing to litter and greenhouse gas emissions. Action is needed to ensure that there are options to reuse and recycle materials outside the home in communities across the province.





### **Key Definitions**

Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) Waste | waste generated by all nonresidential sources, and that is excluded from the residential waste stream, namely institutional waste, which is generated by institutional facilities such as schools, hospitals, government facilities, assisted living/long-term care homes, or universities; commercial waste, which is generated by commercial operations such as shopping centers, offices, businesses, and hotels; and (light) industrial waste, which is generated by manufacturing and primary and secondary industries, and is managed off-site from the manufacturing operation.

**Non-residential packaging and paper products** | Packaging and paper generated and/or disposed by the ICI sector, including construction businesses.

**Packaging and paper products (PPP): Packaging** (*Environmental Management Act* (EMA) definition) | a material, substance or object that is used to protect, contain, or transport a product, or attached to a commodity or product or its container for the purpose of marketing or communicating information about the product. Includes packaging-like products such as food containers, wraps, bags, boxes, and items supplied to consumers for the purpose of protecting, containing or transporting products.

**Paper Products** | paper that is not packaging but is printed with text or graphics as a medium for communicating information. Does not include paper products that, due to their anticipated use, could become unsanitary or unsafe to recycle, or bound reference, literary or textbooks.

**Municipal solid waste (MSW)** (EMA definition) | Refuse that originates from residential, commercial, institutional, demolition, land clearing and construction sites.

**Disposal** | the introduction of waste into the environment through any discharge. For clarity, disposal includes both landfilling and incineration of waste.

### The challenge of waste in British Columbia

In B.C. over half of the municipal solid waste disposed is made up of highly recyclable or compostable material including plastics, paper, metal, glass, and compostable organics (Figure 1). Other types of waste such as building materials, wood, textiles, and other materials comprise the remaining portions. Municipal solid waste comes from many sources including homes, businesses, schools, shopping malls and work sites, and through construction and demolition activities. These waste sources are often grouped into three main categories: residential; non-residential, also referred to as industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI); and construction, renovation, and demolition.

Municipal solid waste, including packaging and plastic, poses a challenge in B.C. as it fills up our landfills, contributes to litter and pollution and is increasingly more expensive to manage. Waste management, including disposal, has significant economic costs that are paid for by local governments, First Nations, businesses, and taxpayers to ensure waste is managed appropriately. While waste is comprised of many types of materials, an estimated one-third of B.C.'s waste is made up of plastics, paper, and other packaging-like materials, much of which could be prevented through reuse or recycling.



Figure 1. Waste by type – Over 50% of our waste disposed is from recyclable or compostable materials: organics (e.g., food scraps), plastics, paper, metal, and glass).



Waste prevention efforts in B.C. are increasingly important as the largest landfills in the province, which accept more than half of B.C.'s waste each year, have an average remaining lifespan of only fifteen years before further expansion is necessary. The costs of landfilling and treating waste may increase significantly unless the amount of waste created in the province is reduced. Landfills also contribute to pollution and climate change - emissions from B.C. landfills are estimated to be 2 million tonnes of CO2e each year; the same as adding 435,000 cars to our roads. Limited landfill capacity, the increase in waste and the resulting increase in economic and environmental costs show the need for new actions to reduce and prevent waste.

Currently, there are a variety of regulations and requirements in B.C. for residential and non-residential waste. First Nations, local governments and the provincial government all have important roles to ensure municipal solid waste is managed safely with waste prevention and recycling programs prioritized. To reduce waste in B.C., it is necessary to ensure that communities throughout the province have access to affordable waste prevention and recycling options, stopping waste before it starts and ensuring the value of the materials and goods we produce, and use, are brought back into the economy and kept out of the landfill (see inset on Circular Economy).

#### What is a Circular Economy?

A circular economy aims to eliminate waste, pollution, and carbon emissions by using materials for as long as possible. Through circular design, products can easily be repaired, reused, or recycled. A circular economy shifts from the linear "take, make, waste" system where natural resources are used to make items that are disposed of when no longer needed. A circular economy approach designs out waste from the process, keeping products and materials in use for as long as possible through strategies such as sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products back into manufacturing processes.

A circular economy offers environmental benefits by reducing our reliance on a constant flow of new raw materials and reducing litter and the volume of material going to landfill in both urban and remote communities. Reducing our consumption and generation of waste is crucial to achieving these goals, ensuring materials are not lost and are instead valued as a material that is important to our economy.

As an economic driver for business, innovation, and materials management, adopting circular thinking can enable economic results while reducing the impacts on our climate and environment. Plastics and packaging are one example of material being moved into a circular economy in B.C., eliminating "waste" and instead using plastics as a valuable resource providing environmental, social, and economic benefits.





### Where we are now

British Columbia is already taking steps to prevent waste, including plastics, through regulations, funding programs, local government actions and business-led initiatives.

As part of the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan, the provincial Single-use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation (SUPWPR) was recently enacted to prevent plastic and packaging waste. The SUPWPR provides a framework to phase out certain hard-to-recycle singleuse and plastic packaging and items, such as plastic cutlery and shopping bags, many of which are from non-residential sources. This regulation reduces the impacts of hardto-recycle plastics and single-use items, and supports British Columbians to switch towards reusable, recyclable and compostable items.

# B.C.'s Regulatory Framework for Waste Management

#### The Environmental Management Act

governs the management of waste in British Columbia. The act provides the authority for managing waste, while protecting our health and the environment. Specifically, the act enables the regulation and management of packaging, product containers, single-use products or any other materials or substances from all sources including the ICI sector.

#### Through Solid Waste Management

**Planning** regional districts are required to develop solid waste management plans (SWMPs) with strategies to manage waste within their district including waste prevention programs, recycling, composting, and disposal following the pollution prevention hierarchy. SWMPs include waste diversion goals and local targets.

The **Single-use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation (SUPWPR)** bans single-use plastic shopping bags and takeout containers made from problematic plastics and restricts other single-use items to be available only by-request.

The **Recycling Regulation** is the basis of the provincial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for a wide range of products, including packaging and containers.

The Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction Regulation – Environment and Wildlife Regulation under the Community Charter provides provincial consistency for municipalities to address the issue of waste, including single-use and plastic items, in their communities, enabling municipalities to create waste reduction bylaws relevant to their unique circumstances. Another regulatory tool under the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA), the Recycling Regulation, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems require producers, such as manufacturers, distributors, and retailers to take responsibility for the life cycle of the products they sell, including collection, such as curbside collection or collection depots; and recycling the packaging and products collected.

B.C. has a wide range of packaging and products covered by EPR programs, resulting in a robust and resilient recycling economy. This includes EPR for plastics and packaging collected from the residential sector in curbside blue boxes, multi-family building recycling programs or depot services. In B.C., we have a North American leading EPR program for residential packaging and paper products collected from our homes, where over 95% of plastics collected for recycling through the residential program are processed locally in the province. Other EPR programs in B.C. already accept items from non-residential sources, such as deposit-return beverage containers, and moderate risk waste packaging such as oil or paint containers.

In addition to regulatory requirements, the province has created funding opportunities through the <u>CleanBC</u> <u>Plastics Action Fund</u> and the <u>Clean Coast Clean Waters</u> <u>Initiative</u> (inset). These funding programs support

#### Provincial Funding Programs to Reduce Waste and Pollution

**Plastics** | Through the CleanBC Plastics Action Fund, B.C. has supported over 30 projects led by businesses and First Nations to reduce plastic waste, implementing reuse solutions as well as using recycled plastics to produce new products or materials.

**Ocean Plastics** | The Clean Coast Clean Waters Initiative has removed 1,500 tonnes of material from B.C.'s coastlines, ensuring that most of the collected materials are recycled or reused again.

**Organics** | B.C. is working to increase diversion of organic material, by supporting organics collection and processing infrastructure in B.C. communities. To date, 45 new organics projects have been funded through the Organics Infrastructure Program (OIP) and Organics Infrastructure and Collection Program (OICP) across the province.

projects that prevent plastics and waste from polluting our environment or entering our landfills. To further reduce materials going to landfill, B.C. is also funding composting facilities and programs to increase the diversion of organic material and support its use as compost.





At the local level, regional districts develop solid waste management plans (SWMP) that are submitted to the ministry for approval, with strategies for preventing and managing municipal solid waste, including recyclable materials, within their region. Within the solid waste management plans, regional districts set targets to decrease the amount of solid waste disposed and identify programs that will be implemented to reduce and manage waste within their jurisdictions, including local collection facilities, landfill or disposal bans, data collection requirements, bylaws, and regulations to increase reuse and waste prevention.

Some municipal governments have also used local bylaws to prevent waste, enabled by the Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation under the *Community Charter*. These local bylaws have included actions such as bans on the sale of certain hard-to-recycle materials or products, for example plastic bags and foam take-out containers.

There are also examples of B.C. businesses and institutions taking steps to prevent plastic and packaging waste. This includes actions of businesses to meet environmental, social and governance (ESG) goals to prevent waste and reduce the environmental and social impacts on communities. Actions include material sorting to keep recyclables from entering landfills, promoting plastic and packaging recycling by setting reduction targets, reporting on plastic and waste generation, or preventing packaging by switching to reusable food service ware.

# The opportunity to prevent non-residential packaging waste

In B.C., a third of our waste being disposed is comprised of recyclable materials such as plastic, paper, and other packaging-like materials with up to half of packaging and paper in the non-residential sector being sent to landfills. Non-residential packaging, including plastics and paper, provides an opportunity to increase reuse and recycling as many of the products and materials are similar or identical to residential packaging.

As a result of B.C.'s residential EPR program for packaging and paper products (PPP), which came into effect in 2014, B.C. has an established network of recyclers and processors enabling the majority of collected packaging to be processed within the Pacific Northwest. This robust system provides a significant opportunity to build upon existing reuse and recycling infrastructure to create consistency and prevent both residential and non-residential packaging, plastics, and paper from entering our landfills.

#### The Pollution Prevention Hierarchy

The 5 R pollution prevention hierarchy is a useful planning tool for moving towards zero waste. Once all achievable opportunities at a higher level have been taken, only then should the next level be looked at. For example, opportunities for recycling should be explored only after all opportunities for reduction and reuse of materials have been exhausted.

The pollution prevention hierarchy supports a circular economy approach which can create jobs, promote innovation, and help to protect people and the environment.

### **The Pollution Prevention Hierarchy** Reduce Reduce by as much as possible the amount or toxicity of material that enters the solid waste stream and also the impact on the environment of producing it in the first place. Ш **Reuse** Ensure that materials or products are reused as many times as possible before entering the solid waste stream. **Recycle** Recycle as much material as possible. **Recovery** Recover material and/or energy from the solid waste stream through the use of technology. Residuals o<sup>g</sup> Management Provide safe and effective residual management, once the solid waste stream has been reduced

As businesses and governments work to reduce waste and plastic pollution, there is increasing demand for recycled content to be used in new products, including recycled plastics, metal, glass, paper, and cardboard. With increased government and corporate recognition of recycled materials, and commitments to increase recycled content, the non-residential sector provides an opportunity to improve the prevention and recycling of plastics, paper, and other packaging materials.

Reducing, reusing, and recycling waste, following the pollution prevention hierarchy (inset on previous page), can provide many benefits to British Columbia's economy and communities. Reuse and recycling systems can reduce pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions, as well as create jobs, up to five times more than sending materials to landfills. In addition, a provincial waste management approach can provide transparency and accountability by establishing targets and reporting requirements. This in turn can increase British Columbians' confidence in waste management systems that keep materials out of the landfill and environment and within B.C.'s circular economy.

## A closer look at non-residential packaging

The non-residential (ICI) sector is comprised of diverse sources of waste, including light industrial sources such as agriculture, manufacturing and jobsites, businesses such as retail stores, tourism, and restaurants, as well institutions including hospitals, schools, and universities (Figure 2).





The recent <u>Canada Plastics Pact B.C. ICI Packaging and Paper Products Baseline Report</u> looked at both business waste audits and landfill reporting to present an overview of the types and quantities of packaging, and identified significant data gaps in waste reporting for non-residential packaging. Non-residential packaging is more diverse than residential packaging and consists of both business-to-consumer packaging and business-to-business packaging. Some of these items are similar or identical to those found in the residential packaging waste stream, while other items or materials are specific to business-to-business applications or may be unique to one source, such as agriculture, construction, or medical facilities.

# Table 1: Description of non-residential sources of packaging and packaging-like products

Material	Examples	Sources of waste					
Business-to-consumer packaging							
Rigid plastic, flexible plastic	<ul> <li>Rigid plastic containers</li> <li>Flexible plastic packaging and overwrap</li> </ul>	• Event stadiums and spaces (includes arts and					
Paper, boxboard, old corrugated cardboard (OCC)	<ul> <li>Boxboard packaging</li> <li>Cardboard boxes and flats</li> <li>Food containers</li> <li>Paper bags</li> <li>Flyers; brochures; booklets, catalogues; newspapers; magazines; copy paper</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>entertainment venues)</li> <li>Retail, transportation, and grocery</li> <li>Accommodations (hotels and motels)</li> <li>Alternate accommodations (work</li> </ul>					
Glass	Glass jars	camps, university dorms,					
Metal	<ul> <li>Tins</li> <li>Foil</li> <li>Components of multi-material packaging, pouches etc.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Schools</li> <li>Offices and workplaces</li> </ul>					
Business-to-b	usiness packaging						
Rigid plastic, flexible plastic	<ul> <li>Large format food packaging (e.g. jars, drums)</li> <li>Agricultural packaging (e.g. silage wraps, twine)</li> <li>Medical packaging waste (e.g. drug packaging, sharps)</li> <li>Packaging from new construction materials</li> <li>Flexible plastic wrap and bags</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Food service (restaurants, quick service, university and hospital cafeterias, events)</li> <li>Retail and grocery</li> <li>Warehouses</li> </ul>					
Paper, boxboard, old corrugated cardboard (OCC)	<ul> <li>Large format packaging for light industrial</li> <li>Packaging from new construction materials, shipping boxes</li> <li>Flats (e.g. produce boxes)</li> <li>Flyers; brochures; booklets, catalogues; newspapers; magazines; copy paper</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Manufacturing</li> <li>Agriculture</li> <li>Hospitals</li> <li>Long-term care homes</li> <li>Light industrial</li> </ul>					
Glass	Large format food packaging (e.g. jars)	_					
Metal	<ul> <li>Large format food packaging (e.g. cans)</li> <li>Drums</li> <li>Foil</li> <li>Components of multi-material packaging</li> </ul>						
Wood	<ul> <li>New construction materials (e.g. wood pallets, crates)</li> <li>Bulk orders (e.g. wood pallets, crates)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Retail</li> <li>Construction and light industrial</li> </ul>					

# What we have learned so far

The ministry has heard through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) resolutions, meetings with First Nations and Indigenous organizations, previous engagements on the plastics action plan and EPR programs, and correspondence from business, recycling, and waste management associations that there are many opportunities available to improve the management of non-residential packaging waste. As outlined in Table 2, these organizations have shared ideas and identified concerns where non-residential waste management systems can be improved, or where the current system is causing challenges and is inconsistent. In some geographic locations or for some types of packaging, waste management has been reported as ineffective, costly to users and causing risks to the environment.

Some local governments, First Nations and small businesses have indicated there is a desire for B.C.'s residential packaging EPR program to be expanded to include collection from non-residential sources, such as small businesses or schools. There have also been examples of non-residential recycling being effectively managed within existing markets, which should be supported to continue, including businesses or organizations utilizing reuse options, such as crates or pallets, or recycling materials such as cardboard.

The table on the following page outlines a summary of what we have learned from key interested parties.



The CleanBC Plastics Action Fund has supported the Ocean Legacy Foundation to find innovative ways to replace new plastics by recycling marine debris.

# Table 2: What we have learned from key interested partners on non-residential packaging waste

### Local governments

- Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) motions from local governments have requested action on nonresidential packaging, based on the cost of managing waste and operating landfills.
- Local governments have requested expansion of existing EPR programs to cover packaging and paper products from non-residential sources.
- Local governments have submitted bylaws to the ministry for approval enabling actions such as requiring source separation of waste at businesses, banning specific single-use items, or requiring the use of reusables for on-site dining to prevent waste from packaging outside the home.

### First Nations and Indigenous organizations

- Indigenous organizations have identified challenges managing waste in First Nations, including preventing and recycling non-residential packaging waste separately from the residential packaging waste.
- Some First Nations have challenges with non-residential packaging waste due to factors including community size or remoteness.

### **B.C. businesses**

- Businesses are required to organize and pay for the waste management services that they need. Some businesses have limited options for managing their packaging waste.
- Larger companies and those located in urban areas may be able to manage their waste cost-effectively due to economies of scale and established waste management networks and infrastructure, but it is often more difficult and expensive for small businesses, or those in rural and remote locations to access recycling services.
- In some geographic areas of the province, collection and recycling are cost prohibitive, resulting in recyclable materials being stockpiled or sent to landfills.
- Some small businesses would like to opt in to the service provided through the residential EPR packaging program, as they otherwise lack affordable options to recycle their packaging waste.

### ICI rural and remote working group

- In 2023, the ministry convened a working group, focused on North-Central B.C., to identify interim (non-regulatory) options to improve diversion of non-residential packaging. The working group was comprised of representatives from local governments, First Nations, businesses, and waste haulers. The interim options report, <u>Recycling of ICI Packaging and Paper Products in B.C.'s Rural and Remote</u> <u>Communities</u>, was created to summarize the working group's findings.
- Rural and remote areas of British Columbia are uniquely challenged with effective management and diversion of non-residential packaging waste due to distance from major centers/markets and associated increased costs, a lack of accessible infrastructure, a lack of facilities, services and subject matter experts and a lack of readily available, affordable options.
- Regional districts in rural and remote areas of the province continue to see increasing volumes of nonresidential packaging waste at landfills, increasing their operational demands and overall costs.

# **Proposed outcomes**

This discussion paper, and future work on policy approaches, are guided by the principles of:

- A clean environment and climate resilient communities, free of waste and pollution;
- A circular economy, supporting, B.C. businesses and jobs, where products and materials for as long as possible and materials can easily be repaired, reused, or recycled, and,
- A true, lasting, and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Building on the guiding principles, the proposed desired outcomes, are intended to support policy approaches that consider the entire lifecycle of non-residential packaging. The full lifecycle of packaging includes many users that are impacted by the packaging choices. This includes the companies that are involved from manufacturing packaging, the businesses that use packaging, the people who purchase goods and services in packaging, as well as the communities who help manage packaging, and the reuse, recycling and waste industry that provide services from washing to recycling or disposal.



Fresh Prep—a meal-prep delivery service—received funding from the CleanBC Action Fund and was able to increase the use of their reusable Fresh Prep Zero Waste Kit.

#### The proposed desired outcomes from improved management of nonresidential packaging, including plastics and paper products are as follows:



**Prevention-first approach:** Actions are prioritized using the pollution prevention hierarchy (see inset on page 11), resulting in a focus on waste reduction and materials reuse over recycling, and recycling over energy recovery or disposal. Materials are kept out of landfills and the environment and are used at their highest value to support a circular economy.



**Consistency and confidence:** Prevention of packaging waste, including plastic and paper, is supported and incentivized through reuse and recycling whether at school, at work, or outside the home to build consistency between all programs across the province. Consistency in reuse and recycling options generates confidence that programs will be available, and materials are being reused and recycled at their highest value regardless of where they are generated.



**Accountability and transparency:** Businesses and institutions are accountable for their waste generation, management, and reduction efforts. Ambitious waste prevention targets and reliable, transparent systems of collecting data show progress in waste prevention for non-residential packaging, and assurance that materials collected are being recycled as intended.



**Access:** Businesses and organizations in all sectors (industrial, commercial, institutional, public) and communities have access to cost-effective choices to manage non-residential packaging and paper products, including recycling. Access to waste prevention and recycling options in First Nations communities are prioritized.



**Economic benefits for a strong circular economy:** Government leadership supports cost-effective, sustainable business practices, that leverage market conditions and create green jobs for British Columbians through prevention of packaging waste, including plastic and paper. Waste management spending and procurement promote a healthy environment and circular economy.



**Maximize material recovery:** Source separation, material collection, processing and recycling are improved to produce higher quality materials that are used in manufacturing new products with recycled content.

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. Are there any desired outcomes missing from this list?
- 2. What outcomes are most relevant to your business, organization, or community?
- 3. How would you prioritize these outcomes?
- 4. Are there indicators or measures of success you would suggest are used to determine if an outcome is achieved or is achievable?

# **Opportunities**

Managing non-residential packaging, including plastics and paper, is a complex issue with many possible opportunities to prevent waste from entering the environment and filling up landfills. Because of the range of sectors and waste streams, no one approach will solve the waste management challenges for all non-residential packaging. B.C. will require a combination of options to move materials into the circular economy and keep packaging and plastic waste from polluting our environment and entering our landfills. Several opportunities have been summarized in this section, and through this engagement, we are looking for feedback on the opportunities presented, as well and details about any other actions that should be considered as solutions for non-residential packaging.

## **Provincial target setting**

Targets are an important way to provide focus, to motivate action and measure success toward shared values and goals. For solid waste disposal, B.C. has had a long-term target to lower the municipal solid waste disposal rate to 350 kg per person per year. Decreasing the amount of non-residential packaging disposed is one part of the actions necessary to achieve progress towards this target. Many regional districts have set locally relevant targets, including regional municipal solid waste disposal rates much lower than 350 kg per person, and the ministry is looking at setting provincial targets for non-residential packaging aimed at promoting continuous improvement.

In the Recycling Regulation, it is expected that items regulated through stewardship programs will achieve, or are capable of achieving within a reasonable time, a 75% recovery rate or another recovery rate established by the director. The general trend for targets should demonstrate continuous improvement, and every stewardship plan has a target for the materials the stewardship agency is responsible for.



# At the national level, several targets have been set in the last five years for addressing packaging and plastic waste. These include:

#### **Environment and Climate Change Canada** (ECCC) Ocean Plastics Charter

- Working with industry towards 100% reusable, recyclable, or, where viable alternatives do not exist, recoverable, plastics by 2030;
- Taking into account the full environmental impacts of alternatives, significantly reducing the unnecessary use of single-use plastics; and
- Working with industry and other levels of government, to reuse and/or recycle at least 55% of plastic packaging by 2030 and recover 100% of all plastics by 2040.

#### Canada Plastics Pact 2025 Targets

- Define a list of plastic packaging that is to be designated as problematic or unnecessary and take measures to eliminate them;
- **100%** of plastic packaging designed to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable;
- **50%** of plastic packaging is effectively recycled or composted; and
- **30%** recycled content across all plastic packaging.

Provincial targets for packaging waste for the non-residential sectors will be an important part of any policy approaches identified. Provincial targets for waste prevention, reuse, collection, and recycling can provide a consistent, unified goal for all businesses, organizations, and levels of government across B.C. Establishing targets can provide direction for businesses and communities, as well as a framework for collecting data and measuring success.

### **Discussion Questions**

- 5. Should non-residential packaging targets be the same, or better than existing residential packaging targets? Why or why not?
- 6. What types of targets would be most useful? Reduction targets; reuse targets; recycling targets; diversion targets?
- 7. Should there be regional or business specific targets in addition to provincial targets? Why or why not?
- 8. How can we measure success or progress against established targets?

### Supporting regional planning and local actions

A provincial approach to preventing nonresidential packaging waste is important for providing consistency, and there are also opportunities and the need for local governments to continue to take actions to address their local waste challenges. Provincial guidance and regulations can support these actions, enabling local governments to prevent waste while requiring a level of uniformity with other jurisdictions within the province. For example, through the Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction - Environment and Wildlife Regulation under the Community Charter, municipalities have introduced bylaws that either ban or limit certain single-use items. Municipalities have expressed the desire to implement regionally specific actions such as requiring reusables for on-site dining, prohibiting the use of certain single-use or plastic items, or limiting the use of single-use water bottles. These types of actions may be able to be enacted at a local government level, and sometimes require approval by the ministry depending on the requirements and circumstances specific to the bylaw.

Solid waste management planning by regional districts will also continue to play an important role in local government waste management. Solid waste management plans can identify opportunities and needs for local waste management actions, including the prevention of non-residential packaging waste, the implementation of landfill disposal bans, setting requirements for source separation, or other programs or bylaws that can have an impact on nonresidential waste management programs such as facility or hauler licensing.

Indigenous organizations and First Nations have provided information regarding the prevention of non-residential packaging waste that may be specific to Indigenous people and First Nations. First Nations often have unique challenges and opportunities regarding non-residential packaging waste and may benefit from actions specific to a community. The Province will continue to engage with First Nations to support initiatives to prevent non-residential packaging waste.

The Province anticipates continuing to support First Nations, municipalities, and regional districts to reduce packaging and plastic waste, while working to achieve desired provincial outcomes for the prevention of non-residential packaging waste.

#### **Discussion Questions**

- 9. What actions are best suited at the local, regional, or provincial level of government?
- 10. What factors should be taken into consideration if the Province enables or promotes local actions?

## **Exploring provincial policies**

To address the complexity of the non-residential (ICI) sector and the Province's commitment to a circular economy, a range of policy actions will be necessary to manage non-residential packaging waste, including plastics and paper. In the table below, several provincial policy approaches have been summarized to address many aspects of non-residential packaging, such as business-to-business packaging, or packaging from a specific sector and to further prioritize a prevention-first approach, focusing on reuse. Each opportunity includes a link to another jurisdiction where similar polices are in place to provide more information about what that policy option could include.

### Table 3: Policy approaches to address non-residential packaging



#### Policy option: Reuse requirements for specific sectors



Requirements for reuse in specific or designated sectors (i.e., closed loop systems - institutions, events). Would include systems for data collection and monitoring.

### Materials Single-use items

Recyclables

#### Sources

Events
 Institutions (food service providers)

Banff – Reuse for dine-in;

at events (Sausalito, San

Francisco, Los Angeles)

California jurisdictions – Reuse

- Ferries/AirportsHospitals
- Work Camps

# Policy option: Standardized waste prevention and management actions for businesses and institutions.



### **Discussion Questions**

- 11. What is already working to prevent packaging waste for businesses, institutions, haulers, local governments?
- 12. Are there other actions that should be considered? What are they?
- 13. What are the benefits or limitations of these waste prevention options?
- 14. How ready are organizations, businesses, governments to implement?
- 15. How should implementation be prioritized

### Extended Producer Responsibility programs

Producer funded EPR programs in British Columbia have shifted the cost of waste management from local governments and communities to producers and increased the collection and recycling of materials and transparently reporting on provincial outcomes. In 2022, B.C. had 19 EPR programs, including EPR programs that already accept packaging from nonresidential (ICI) sources, such as deposit-refund beverage containers and some automotive product containers. Through work under the 2021-2026 Extended Producer Responsibility 5-year Action Plan, EPR continues to expand, including the inclusion of additional non-residential packaging such aerosol containers and other automative product containers.

Some local governments, small businesses and First Nations have identified a desire to expand B.C.'s EPR program to cover non-residential packaging and paper products. Recognizing that the non-residential sector is diverse, EPR approaches may be best suited for some aspects of non-residential packaging but are unlikely to be able to be applied across the entire sector. The table on the following page provides some examples of EPR opportunities that have been implemented in other jurisdictions and may be relevant for expansion in B.C.

#### Extended Producer Responsibility in British Columbia

The Recycling Regulation requires producers (manufacturers, distributors, and retailers) of designated products to take responsibility for the lifecycle of their products, including collection and recycling. This approach, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), shifts the end-of-life responsibility from local governments, First Nations and taxpayers to producers and consumers.

Under this system, producers have the flexibility to use market-driven solutions, make cost-effective business decisions, and find innovative ways to operate their EPR programs to meet their regulatory requirements. These costs can be covered directly by producers or passed along to consumers through product pricing or by applying an additional charge on the purchase receipt, such as an "eco-fee".

B.C.'s EPR approach requires all producers to track their material and how it is processed. This data must be audited and reported annually, providing assurance that the program is meeting environmental commitments.

The EPR agency in charge of residential packaging and paper products in B.C. is RecycleBC. Many other EPR agencies operate in B.C. managing items from used oil to electronics to beverage containers.

### Table 4: EPR approaches to address non-residential packaging

Desired Outcomes	Description	Example Materials and Sources	Examples from Other Jurisdictions
Policy option: E from more sour	xpansion of EPR to inclu rces	ude packaging and pape	r products
	EPR expanded to cover collection from businesses or institutions with similar waste streams, e.g.: Schools, offices and other workplaces, events, and out- of-home collection; Long-term care homes, university dorms, work camps; Potential to opt-in for small businesses or geographic locations or specific material types.	<ul> <li>Materials</li> <li>Grocery and consumer goods packaging</li> <li>OCC (old corrugated cardboard)</li> <li>Sources <ul> <li>Schools</li> <li>Long-term care homesAccommodations</li> <li>Public parks, campsites</li> <li>Small businesses</li> <li>Industry</li> <li>First Nations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Quebec – <u>Modernized Quebec.</u> <u>Selective Collection Systems</u> Oregon – <u>Plastic Pollution and</u> <u>Recycling Modernization Act</u> <u>implementation</u>
Policy option: E	PR stewardship for a sp	ecific sector	
	An organization or stewardship agency collects and manages reduction and recycling of packaging materials from a specific sector.	<ul> <li>Materials</li> <li>Specialty packaging materials</li> <li>Sources</li> <li>Agriculture</li> </ul>	Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Quebec – <u>Clean Farms regulated</u> programs



### **Discussion Questions:**

- 16. What are the benefits or limitations of expanded EPR options?
- 17. How ready are organizations, businesses, and governments to implement an expanded form of EPR?
- 18. Are there sectors or materials that should prioritized to be included or excluded?
- 19. How should implementation of EPR actions be prioritized (e.g. by sector, by material, by geographic location)?

# Your feedback

Preventing non-residential packaging waste, including plastic and paper, is a complex policy issue and requires a variety of perspectives from interested parties to develop a comprehensive approach that will work for B.C.

Recognizing the complexity of this policy challenge, the ministry is engaging Indigenous organizations and First Nations, businesses, local governments, organizations, sustainability and waste managers, waste haulers, the public and other interested parties to provide feedback in a variety of ways:

- A survey for public feedback is available through EngageBC (engage.gov.bc.ca/ preventingwasteoutsidethehome).
- Written responses to the Discussion Paper questions relevant to you can be emailed as an attachment to <u>circularcommunities@gov.bc.ca</u>. We are looking for input from waste generators, waste haulers, producers and all other parties who are knowledgeable in this topic.
- Roundtables and webinars will be available for Indigenous organizations and First Nations to gain better understanding of the needs and concerns specific to First Nations.
- Info sessions and workshops will be offered to those interested in the topic to gather information on the policy approaches outlined and the identification of other potential policy opportunities.





Province of British Columbia April 2024

July 11, 2024

The Honourable George Heyman Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Gov Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Heyman,

#### Re: PREVENTING WASTE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA – NON-RESIDENTIAL PACKAGING AND PAPER PRODUCTS – SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT FEEDBACK

This letter is in response to the engagement opportunity on Preventing Waste in British Columbia – Non-Residential Packaging and Paper Products and further to the Sunshine Coast Regional District's (SCRD) letters dated June 28, 2019, and June 20, 2020, requesting an amendment to the *BC Recycling Regulation* to include industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) or non-residential packaging and paper products (PPP).

The SCRD reaffirms that it is in support of including non-residential PPP in the *BC Recycling Regulation,* including the establishment of an industry funded solution to collect, process, and recycle these materials.

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) resolutions dating back to 2018 indicate a continued need for a solution to improve the recycling and diversion of non-residential PPP in the province. To date the UBCM Resolutions Committee has endorsed six resolutions related to this, including: 2023-EB41, 2021-EB33, 2020-EB54, 2020-NR57, 2019-B146, and 2018-B68.

As stated in previous letters and past UBCM resolutions, the SCRD reaffirms that any policy solution should hold the producers of non-residential PPP fully accountable to fund the costs of collecting, processing, and recycling all materials.

A gap appeared in the *BC Recycling Regulation* when it was expanded in 2014 to include PPP. The amendment included the residential sector only and the non-residential sector was excluded. This has resulted in schools, hospitals, restaurants, grocery stores, and other businesses dependent on the private sector and local governments for access to recycling. With changes in the global commodity market over the past decade, local governments and private companies are facing challenges that include reduced access to recycling for the non-residential sector. The inclusion of non-residential PPP in the *BC Recycling Regulation* would result in a greater economy of scale in BC and improved recycling outcomes, much as it has for residential PPP.

Regional Districts, through Solid Waste Management Plans, are required to set waste diversion targets in alignment with provincial targets. This places the burden of managing materials not included in the *BC Recycling Regulation* on local governments to meet these targets. Without including non-

residential PPP in the *BC Recycling Regulation*, non-residential recyclables such as cardboard, paper, metal, plastic, and glass containers may be landfilled if they are not cost effective for businesses or local governments to recycle. This gap in services delays the ability of local governments to meet diversion targets set out in Solid Waste Management Plans and provincial waste reduction targets.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional feedback on this issue. We respectfully ask that you enact this amendment to the *BC Recycling Regulation* as quickly as possible to promote a healthy and sustainable environment in our community.

Yours truly,

#### SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

Leonard Lee SCRD Chair