

Millet

Proud to be

Our Community Working Together

March 29, 2018

Mr. Bruce Hinkley
MLA for Wetaskiwin-Camrose
503F Legislature Building
10800 – 97th Avenue
EDMONTON, AB
T5K 2B6



Dear Bruce,

As you know, I recently attended at the 2018 AUMA Municipal Leaders' Caucus in Edmonton with our CAO Teri Pelletier. While there, I was shocked to learn that, not only is Alberta the most *wasteful* province in Canada, but our own Government is also the most "**backward**" when it comes to enacting legislation to deal with solid waste management issues.

Since returning from the Caucus, I have introduced this subject for discussion and debate within our Council. I want to tell you that, without exception, our Council members were appalled that our Government would be so deficient that we have now fallen so very far behind every other province in Canada when it comes to dealing with Solid Waste Management Regulations.

Considering that our Province was so forward in introducing a Carbon Tax Levy upon all citizens (and municipalities) long before any other province in Canada, our Council finds this situation most incongruous, given the Premier's stance and the reasons she has stated for introducing the Carbon Tax Levy in the first place!

Your Government already knows the numbers. Albertans are sending just under 1,000 kilograms (kg) of waste per person to landfills, as compared to the Canadian average of approximately 700 kg per person. Despite the success of municipal recycling programs in Alberta generally (Millet estimates that our own diversion rate is between 50%-65%), Alberta municipalities still receive little or no benefit because of Alberta's outdated recycling regulations, some of which have not been updated since 1997. No wonder we trail every other Province in our Solid Waste Management results!

Please, please, please pay attention to this, and tell your colleagues to not turn a blind eye to this any longer!

Alberta municipalities have provided input on proposed regulatory changes during consultation sessions held by the Province in 2013. We strongly supported expanding Alberta's electronics, tires, paint, and used oil recycling programs and new regulations that would make producers responsible for re-designing their products to be more recyclable-friendly. Alberta citizens are now paying the full retail price for "improved" recyclable features yet, through our Government's inaction in the corresponding

Page 2
March 29, 2018
Mr. Bruce Hinkley

legislative areas, municipalities are being denied access to these additional funds now being collected that could make these initiatives sustainable. We also supported changes that offer more flexibility to recycling programs to set fees that keep pace with the costs of maintaining these programs. Yet nothing has been done in any of these areas!!

Even with wide support from municipalities and other stakeholders, the Government of Alberta stands out as the only province that has not taken action for over 20 years. Without regulatory changes, these programs are now in danger of collapsing because the responsibility and costs have been downloaded to individual municipalities and these increasing costs have now become unsustainable to most. As a result, many municipal recycling programs are being abandoned; thus, additional solid wastes are once again being redirected back to landfills.

The Town of Millet has passed Resolutions calling on the Government of Alberta to take action in these Solid Waste Management areas; hence the reason for my corresponding with you now in this manner.

I believe that provincial and municipal partnership is needed to put Alberta back on the path to environmental leadership on waste management. This needs to be done quickly, and not ignored any longer!

I feel it is implicit upon you and your Government colleagues to listen to what all municipalities in our province are saying. As our MLA, I hope you will hear this plea and champion the need for improved Solid Waste Management in the province of Alberta. I ask you to please convey our serious concerns to your Government colleagues at the earliest possible opportunity.

Sincerely,



A.D. (Tony) Wadsworth
Mayor
Town of Millet

cc: The Honourable Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks
The Honourable Shaye Anderson, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Barry Morishita, President, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association