



RECAP

July 2002

A monthly news service for members of the Recycling Council of BC.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTION ON E-WASTE

⇒ On July 10, the Board of Directors of the **Capital Regional District** (CRD) endorsed four recommendations on the management of end-of-life electronic equipment:

- The CRD will not implement a collection program for electronic equipment at its Hartland Landfill recycling depot, “at this time”;
- The CRD does not support the **Information Technology Association of Canada** (ITAC) proposed Action Plan for electronics, “in its current form”;
- The CRD supports the local government resolution prepared by the **Society Promoting Environmental Conservation** (SPEC) requesting the provincial government to implement an industry product stewardship regulation for electronics;
- The CRD will send a letter to the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection requesting the establishment of an industry product stewardship regulation for end-of-life electronic equipment. The CRD Environment Committee report can be reviewed at: www.crdinfo.crd.bc.ca/report_files/item11759%2EDOC.

⇒ On July 9, the **Greater Vancouver Regional District** (GVRD) Solid Waste Committee endorsed a report recommending that the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection should develop an industry product stewardship program for end-of-life electronic equipment. The Committee also recommended supporting the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities** position that the industry should fund all collection and management costs. The GVRD Board of Directors will consider these recommendations at its July 26 meeting.

⇒ On May 23, the Board of Directors of the **Regional District of Kootenay Boundary** also endorsed the SPEC resolution and sent a letter to the Minister requesting that she implement an industry product stewardship regulation for end-of-life electronic equipment.

⇒ Also of note, the June 2002 newsletter of the **Union of British Columbia Municipalities** (UBCM) identified some shortcomings of the ITAC Action Plan, noting: “The industry proposal illustrates the need to ensure that clear principles and clear rules are in place for undertaking stewardship programs. There is a need to ensure that industry understands that when undertaking a stewardship program it is responsible for the full costs of operating and managing the program. The role of local government is to facilitate the process through its regulatory powers if required and to participate in the industry stewardship

program where there is a clearly defined business case for doing so and where all its costs are covered.”

VANCOUVER AWARDS PROCESSING CONTRACT TO CANADIAN FIBRE, EXPANDS PROGRAM

In a routine retendering process, the City of Vancouver has awarded its processing and marketing contract for residential recyclables to CK Fibres Corp., otherwise known as Canadian Fibre. Canadian Waste Services was the previous contractor for these services. The City’s analysis of four bids received through the tender process showed that the winning bid would increase revenue to the City by over \$400,000 compared to the current contract. As part of the tender process, the City asked bidders to include the option of processing rigid plastic containers #4 and #5. The Canadian Fibre bid identified an additional cost of \$6/tonne to include these types of containers along with mixed containers already collected. As a result, the City decided to expand the residential collection program to include #4 and #5 rigid plastics. Canadian Fibre will process recyclables at the City’s newly opened recycling receiving yard on East Kent Avenue. For more information see www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/020611/a4.htm.

GERMAN GOVERNMENT IMPOSES DEPOSIT ON SOME USED BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

The German government appears set to move ahead with a March 20 Federal Cabinet decision to impose a deposit on some beverage containers, after an industry challenge in the constitutional court was dismissed in late June. The government plans to introduce the compulsory deposit of 0.25 Euros (approximately \$0.38 CDN) on beer, mineral water and carbonated soft drink containers starting January 1, 2003. The measure was taken in keeping with the Packaging Ordinance of 1991, which stipulated that beverage producers must package over 72 per cent of beverages in reusable packaging, or be subject to a deposit on one-way containers. The Ordinance was structured this way to stabilize markets for reusable packaging. Analysis of refill rates for beer, mineral water and carbonated soft drinks indicated that there was “sufficient certainty” that the reusables market share for each sector had fallen below 72 per cent since 1991. Despite the failure of the court challenge, industry groups have launched additional suits, and there is talk of reopening the debate on deposits as part of the upcoming federal election in September. For more information visit www.bmu.de/english/fset800.php.

MINISTER CREATES ADVISORY PANEL ON CONTAMINATED SITES

The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has established an Advisory Panel to review the contaminated sites provisions under the Waste Management Act and the Contaminated Sites Regulation. The review process includes public and stakeholder consultation. The Panel is expected to present recommendations to the Minister in September 2002. For more information visit wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/contam_sites/ministers_panel/ministerspanel.html.

CEO OF INTERNATIONAL BIO RECOVERY RESIGNS

The Board of Directors of International Bio Recovery Corp. (IBR) of North Vancouver, BC announced in late June that President and CEO Frank Dixon had resigned June 7. The announcement is the latest in a number of resignations at IBR in the past six months, with the Chairman, three Directors and the Chief Financial Officer, all leaving the company. A Business In Vancouver Magazine article in January 2002 reported that IBR was facing a number of challenges related to governance and management, including a lawsuit, internal dispute over ownership of the core technology, and investor complaints about regulatory improprieties.

RECYCLING COUNCIL OF ONTARIO APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On July 10, the Recycling Council of Ontario (RCO) announced the appointment of Suzanne Elston to the position of Executive Director. In a RCO press release, Elston is described as "an award-winning journalist, broadcaster and environmental educator who has had a long relationship with the RCO." She brings to the RCO a fundraising management background, as well as experience in non-profit, public advisory and public utility environments.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH RCBC

Do you want to help spread the word about waste reduction in your community? Growing landfills, wasted water and wasted energy are serious problems in BC, and the public wants to know what it can do to help. RCBC is looking for volunteers to do public outreach at community events. Volunteers will teach people about recycling and waste reduction and help them to find ways to dispose of their waste responsibly. If you are interested in environmental issues, enjoy community involvement and have weekends and/or evenings free, contact Elizabeth at 683-6009 ext. 304 or elizabeth@rcbc.bc.ca.

JOB POSTING

Wildlife Program Coordinator, Langley Environmental Partners Society

The Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS) is currently seeking a full-time Wildlife Program Coordinator to plan and supervise all aspects of its Wildlife Program. The principal project is a comprehensive wildlife habitat strategy for the Township of Langley. The application deadline is August 5. For more information contact lleith@tol.bc.ca.

Meetings and Conferences

Meetings

RCBC Board and Committee Meetings

July 25-26, 2002

BC Beverage Container Management Board

Friday, September 13, 2002

FIRST Scrap Tire Advisory Committee

Monday, September 30, 2002

Conferences, Workshops, etc.

UBCM Annual Convention

September 23-27, 2002 • Whistler, BC

Ph: 604-270-8226 • www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca

Recycling Council of Ontario Conference

September 25-27, 2002 • Belleville, ON

Ph: 416-960-1025 • www.rco.on.ca

Recycling Council of Alberta Conference

October 2-4, 2002 • Kananaskis, AB

Ph: 403-843-6563 • info@recycle.ab.ca

Coast Waste Management Association Conference

October 23-25, 2002 • Nanaimo, BC

Ph: 250-752-8293 • www.cwma.bc.ca

2002 Canadian Waste & Recycling Expo

December 4-5, 2002 • Toronto, ON

Ph: 800-787-9328 • stuart@exposition.com