

**Overview:**

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) hosted a webinar for municipalities regarding the transition of the Blue Box program to full producer responsibility. As per the direction of special advisor David Lindsay, this transition will occur across the province starting on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 with all municipalities transitioned by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2025.

One third of the municipalities will transition each year and official direction has been given to Stewardship Ontario to publish a wind-up plan for the current Blue Box program by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Further direction was given to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) to provide a draft regulation by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. No draft regulation or wind-up plan for the current program has been issued at this time, however the webinar on June 9<sup>th</sup> presented a troubling proposal by the MECP. The proposal states that only municipalities with populations over 5000 continue to receive blue box services.

The County of Peterborough discussed this proposal's impact on the three County townships that would be impacted (Asphodel-Norwood, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen, North Kawartha) with AMO and no clarification was provided at this time. At the direction of AMO, municipalities across the province have been sending resolution letters to the Ministry with resolutions to support the continuation of service in the future Blue Box program for these municipalities.

**Conclusion:**

The County of Peterborough provides essential blue box service to the residents of the Township of Douro-Dummer. While we welcome the changes to have producers bear the cost of service, the transition needs to be well planned and responsive to urban and rural needs. The Township of Douro-Dummer will not be affected by the 5000-person population minimum for service but our neighbours will be. Should blue box service not be available to them, not only will their residents not have access to this service but as a County we will see reduced waste diversion and a shortening of the lifespan of the Bensford Road Landfill which is a valuable resource that needs to be managed sustainably.

**Recommendation:**

That the C.A.O.-2020-39 report, dated July 27, 2020 regarding the transition of the blue box to full producer responsibility be received;

That Council for the Township of Douro-Dummer is concerned about a recent proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks that could jeopardize over 135 small rural, remote, and Northern community Blue Box programs across the Province as well as servicing to schools and public spaces; and

That Council for the Township of Douro-Dummer strongly advocates for language to be included in the regulation that ensures municipalities under 5,000 continue to receive Blue Box servicing as was agreed as part of the Provincial government's Blue Box mediation as well as schools and public spaces; and

Further that Council directs Staff to forward this resolution to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

**Financial Impact:**

None at this time but could have long term implications.

**Strategic Plan Applicability:**

To preserve and enhance the natural heritage features and resources of the Township.

**Sustainability Plan Applicability:**

We will reduce the amount of waste we generate by using resources wisely.