March 3, 2010

The Honourable John Gerretsen
Minister of the Environment
77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto, ON
M7A 2T5

Dear Minister:

**Driver to Improve Residential Diversion Rate**

As part of the Ministry’s commitment to waste diversion in this province, specific drivers that are known to increase participation in diversion programs should become part of mandatory municipal service provision.

The Niagara Region Waste Management Advisory Committee at its meeting on February 9, 2010 passed the following Motion:

**Request that the Ministry of the Environment mandate municipalities to collect organics and recyclables weekly and collect garbage every other week.**

The Motion was tabled following discussion on the 2008 Waste Diversion Ontario Residential Diversion Rates for Large and Medium-Sized Municipalities. The data clearly show the best residential diversion rates are achieved by those municipalities who have organics and recyclables collected weekly and garbage collected every other week. (York Region, Halton Region and Durham Region are those municipalities.)

The success of these collection frequencies suggest that your Ministry should consider making them mandatory for all municipalities.
Our Committee is hopeful that Niagara Region will adopt this measure when it awards its new waste collection services contract, scheduled to come into effect in March 2011.

Yours truly,

Doug Symington
Chair, Waste Management Advisory Committee

Cc:
Alena Grunwald
Project Manager
Ministry of the Environment
Integrated Environmental Policy Division
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7-135 St Clair Avenue West
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Committee Members:

Mr. Frank Adamson
Dr. John Bacher
Mr. Ken Baigent
Mr. Dean Cruikshank
Ms. Joan Cunnington
Mr. Kevin Diamond
Mr. David Hall
Mr. Peter Howes
Ms. Gracia Janes
Mr. Colin Macfarlane
Mr. Bryant Prosser
Ms. Heather Verrier
Mr. Albert Witteveen

c. Waste Management Planning Steering Committee
Andy Pollock, Niagara Region Public Works
Lydia Torbicki, Niagara Region Public Works
Brad Whitelaw, Niagara Region Public Works
Cheryl Crawley, Niagara Region Public Works