

Providing Recycling Collection for Small Businesses

Date:	April 30, 2007
To:	Public Works & Infrastructure Committee
From:	Councillor Case Ootes, Ward 29, Toronto-Danforth
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

Currently, small businesses must be registered with the City of Toronto's Yellow Bag garbage collection program, in order to be eligible for recyclables collection. The Yellow Bag program forces a business to pay for garbage collection. Many small business owners have minimal garbage in need of disposal; they would prefer to take home a minimal amount of garbage and put it out for collection at their residence (while still remaining within the maximum number of garbage bags permitted). They want to have recyclables collected from their business but they do not require garbage collection.

The City of Toronto encourages residents and businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle, but currently, small business owners are actually penalized if they want to recycle, because they must be registered for a fee-per-bag garbage collection. The City of Toronto constantly promotes the need to increase its recycling diversion rate, but it essentially thwarts small businesses from doing this. Small businesses want to be environmentally conscientious. They have enough financial worries without being compelled to participate in the City's Yellow Bag garbage collection program, should they want to recycle. Obviously, businesses that have substantial amounts of garbage and recyclables will continue to participate in the Yellow Bag program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Public Works & Infrastructure Committee consider the following recommendations:

1. The Deputy City Manager report to the Committee at its June 27, 2007 meeting on amendments to allow small businesses to be eligible for no-charge recycling collection, even if they are not registered with the City's Yellow Bag garbage collection program.

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