

PW11.2 - Attachment 4

Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change

Ministère de l'Environnement
et de l'Action en matière de
changement climatique

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

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Mr. Rob Orpin
Acting Deputy General Manager
Solid Waste Management Services
City of Toronto, City Hall
100 Queen Street West, 25th Floor, East Tower
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Attachment 4 - P:\2016\Cluster B\SWM
\February\001PW (AFS#21674)

Dear Mr. Orpin:

Thank you for the June 2, 2015 letter sent by Beth Goodger requesting that the ministry consider supporting all municipalities regarding potential impacts the new beer sales agreements may have on local integrated waste management and diversion systems. I understand that you are acting as Deputy General Manager at this time.

Municipalities are an important partner in our goal to reduce waste and increase resource productivity in Ontario. I can assure you that my ministry supports the diversion goals of both the Ontario Beer Store deposit return program and the Ontario Deposit Return Program (ODRP) for alcohol beverage containers. I recognize your desire to have all beverage alcohol containers, including beer containers, returned to The Beer Store to keep them out of municipal collection systems. A recent amendment to Ontario Regulation 17/07 under the *Environmental Protection Act* enables consumers to return beer containers that were purchased from retail grocery stores for a deposit refund. I expect that environmental impacts from the expansion of beer sales will be taken into consideration as the initiative proceeds.

Responsibility for the ODRP, along with the expansion of beer sales in Ontario, falls under the mandate of the Ministry of Finance. Accordingly, I have provided a copy of your letter to the Honourable Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance, so he will be aware of your interest in these matters.

The ministry is committed to taking action to make products and packaging that are more durable or reusable while using less packaging and fewer hazardous materials. This includes developing new laws to make producers responsible for the products and packaging they sell in Ontario. As we move forward, we will examine every tool available to control costs and, most importantly, maximize the amount of waste we keep out of our lands and waterways.

Again, thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention, and for the city's ongoing contribution to increasing waste diversion in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen Murray".

Glen Murray
Minister

c: The Honourable Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance
Mr. Paul Evans, Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change