



June 17, 2016

Toronto City Council  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street W  
Toronto, ON, M5G 1P5

Dear Toronto City Councillors:

RE: Letter of support for an Organics First approach to Toronto's Waste- PW 14.2

Toronto is about to choose a path for dealing with our waste for the next 50 years. Toronto's Waste Strategy is a time for us to declare our goals and vision for the future, and to take decisive, strategic action.

We want a zero waste Toronto. We support a Waste Strategy that works with Toronto residents, community groups and businesses for zero waste solutions that help our environment, our communities and our economy.

In 30 years, Second Harvest has rescued and delivered over 100 million pounds of good fresh food , offsetting landfill and preventing 50 million pounds of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere.

**The most important step the City must take is to choose a Waste Strategy that tackles food waste first and gets organics out of the garbage bag.** Otherwise, we will be dumping valuable compostable materials in landfills in communities that don't want our waste.

**We need a zero food waste strategy that:**

- Make education and effective communications a priority to help residents use their Green Bins properly and get organics out of the garbage bag.
- Ensure all residents have equal access to organics collection no matter where they live.
- Require all businesses to have organics collection and plans to prevent food waste.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Lawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Debra Lawson  
Executive Director