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January 30, 2026

Mr. John Elvidge, City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
100 Queen Street West
12th Floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Elvidge,

Re: Administrative Inquiry Regarding Blue Bin Litter

Councillor Saxe submitted an Administrative Inquiry to seek information on Blue Bin litter since January 1, 2026. This letter provides a response to this request.

Introduction

In compliance with [O. Reg 391/21: Blue Box](#), Circular Materials, acting as the Common Collection System Administrator on behalf of producers, took financial and operational responsibility for the management of Blue Box Program across Ontario on January 1, 2026. The City of Toronto (the City) is no longer responsible for the management of the Blue Box Program from eligible sources (single family homes, multi-residential buildings, schools, long-term care homes, and retirement residences).

On January 21, 2026, Councillor Saxe submitted an administrative inquiry to Toronto's City Clerk seeking clarification on the City's "response to the large amount of litter created by poor customer service from Circular Materials in the provincial takeover of Blue Bin collection."

Response

Please find below responses to each of the questions submitted.

1. What are the City's plans to collect all this Blue Bin litter, some of which is now mixed into snowbanks?

Solid Waste Management Services delivers litter abatement and collection services across the city, specifically along major and minor arterial roads and collector roads. Waste, regardless of

what stream it belongs in (i.e. organics, garbage or recycling), that is deposited on the ground is managed as litter and is disposed of as garbage.

Solid Waste Management Services does not manage litter along local roads nor conducts litter picking in residential neighbourhoods as residential streets and adjacent boulevards are not within the Divisions' litter-picking scope of service. If a litter concern is reported in a residential area, the service request is reviewed and routed to the appropriate division based on jurisdiction.

2. How many extra taxpayer dollars does the City expect to spend collecting this extra litter?

Since Circular Materials assumed responsibility for residential recycling collection, staff have not seen a marked increase in litter-related service requests post-transition and litter operations have not been impacted. Staff will continue to monitor service requests and litter composition to determine if additional resources are required.

3. What steps will the City take to recover these extra costs from Circular Materials?

Solid Waste Management Services will continue to monitor any increase in unsecured blue box materials ending up as litter that may require additional hours or resources to manage. Staff will report back to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee in Q2 2026, as directed by Council, on this and any other operational impact the Division has seen since January 1, 2026.

Furthermore, the Division will conduct litter audits in public spaces in Fall 2026 and will compare the data against the same historical litter audits to determine if there is a measurable increase in recyclable materials. Gathering this data could prove helpful in substantiating possible cost recovery methods. Once the data is gathered and analyzed, staff will then investigate the potential to recover funding from producers to offset City costs to manage their packaging as litter.

Further information on litter abatement will be included within the staff report to be brought forward to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting on February 25, 2026.

Sincerely,



Matt Keliher
General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services

cc:

Will Johnston, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services

Annette Synowiec, Director, Collections & Litter Operations, Solid Waste Management Services

Charlotte Ueta, Acting Director, Policy, Planning & Outreach, Solid Waste Management Services