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**MEMORANDUM**

**WMPSC-C 22-2021**

**Subject:** Ontario Waste Management Association State of Waste in Ontario - Landfill Report

**Date:** Monday, June 28, 2021

**To:** Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

**From:** Andrew Winters, Program Manager, Waste Disposal Operations

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This memorandum is intended to provide Committee members with an update on the Ontario Waste Management Association (OWMA) report on the status of landfills and waste generated in Ontario.

**Background**

The OWMA is the largest waste/resource management trade association in Canada, representing members from both the private and public sector including municipalities. The OWMA embarked on a major data collection and analysis initiative in 2015 to better understand data related to waste management in the province and issued the first State of Waste Report in February 2016. The OWMA completed a subsequent report in 2018 and recently issued its third state of waste report in 2021. The purpose of these reports is to examine Ontario's remaining landfill capacity in order to allow for more informed policy decisions for the waste management sector.

**Report**

The OWMA's 2021 State of Waste - Landfill Report in Ontario is based on data from 2019 and is focused on two key factors - the amount of waste generated in Ontario and the remaining available landfill capacity in the province based on current practices. In 2019, 11.986 million tonnes of Ontario's waste was disposed in landfills (note: this does not include waste sent to open industrial landfills or small / remote landfills). Of that amount, 73% was disposed in Ontario landfills, while 27% was exported to landfills in the United States, primarily in Michigan. It is worth noting that Ontario is generating 6.2% more waste compared to 2018.

As of 2019, Ontario landfill capacity was 144.5 million tonnes or an increase of 21.5 million tonnes compared to 2018. The increase is mainly attributed to the approval of new landfill capacity since the last report. The capacity increase since 2018 represents an additional 2.5 years of landfill capacity in Ontario. Overall, the capacity as per the report, translates to an estimated 14.5 years of landfill capacity in Ontario (depleted in 2036) if Ontario continues to rely on exporting approximately 27% of waste to landfills in the United States. Ontario will exhaust its landfill capacity in 2032 if 27% of waste is no longer exported.

Of the remaining landfill capacity in Ontario, private landfills account for 53% (36% in 2018) of available capacity while the remaining 47% (64% in 2018) resides in public landfills. Additionally, 60% of the remaining capacity is contained in seven sites across the province. Furthermore, 85% of Ontario's remaining capacity is contained in fifteen sites (both public and private) across the province.

As a point of reference, Niagara Region delivered 39,400 tonnes of curbside collected waste to Walker's Landfill (a privately owned facility) in 2020 and 74,000 tonnes of total waste material was landfilled at Niagara Region landfill sites (Humberstone and Niagara Regional Road 12). In 2019, the Humberstone site received approval from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks for a vertical expansion adding approximately 1.6 million tonnes of capacity.

Niagara Region is well positioned in terms of landfill capacity over the next 25 years. Niagara Region operates two municipally owned landfills - Humberstone (Welland) and Niagara Road 12 (Grimsby). As of January 2021, Humberstone has 25 years of capacity remaining after receiving approval from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks for a vertical expansion of the landfill. The Niagara Road 12 landfill site has approximately 40 years of remaining capacity as of January 1, 2021 based on the current landfill practices.

Additionally, Niagara Region has a contract with Walker's Environmental Group that allows for the landfilling of up to 100,000 tonnes of Niagara Region curbside collected waste annually. The contract with Walker's is scheduled to expire in 2031.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Andrew Winters  
Program Manager, Waste Disposal Operations