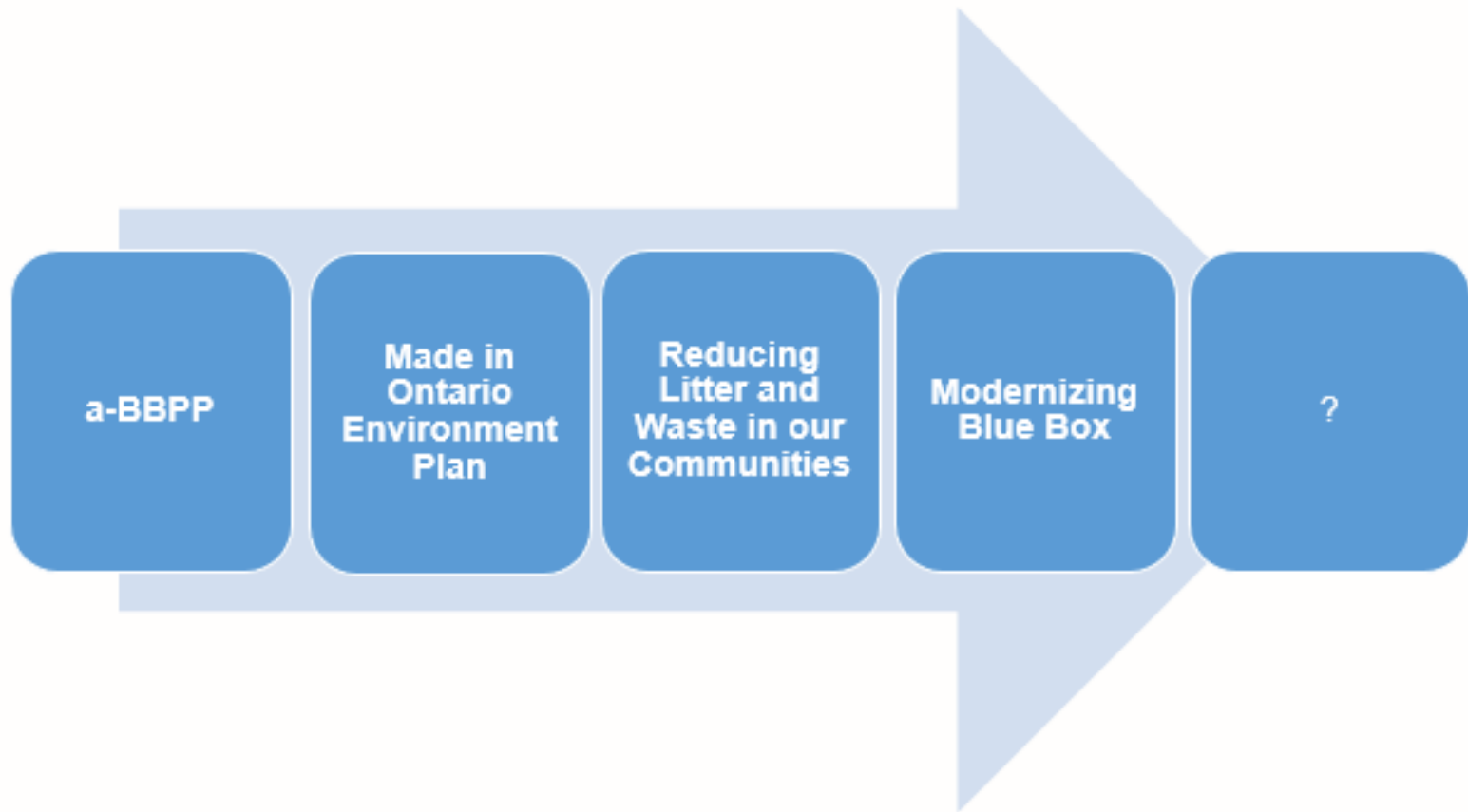


# Modernizing the Blue Box and Special Advisor's Report on the Blue Box Mediation Process

Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

August 26, 2019

# History



# A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan

- A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan was released on November 29, 2018 with a 60 day review period
- Niagara Region's response incorporated input from Planning and Development Services, Public Works, Public Health and Emergency Services, and some Local Area Municipalities
- The plan focused on:
  - Protecting our Air, Lakes and Rivers
  - Addressing Climate Change
  - Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities & Keeping Our Land and Soil Clean
  - Conserving Land and Greenspace

# Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities: Discussion Paper

- Delivering on the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan, this paper was released on March 6, 2019
- Offers commitments aimed at reducing litter and waste including:
  - Reducing and diverting food and organic waste from households and businesses
  - Reducing plastic waste
  - Reducing litter in our neighbourhoods and parks
  - Increasing opportunities for the people of Ontario to participate in waste reduction efforts

# Renewing the Blue Box: Final Report on the Blue Box Mediation Process

- New regulations needed to move the blue box program to producer responsibility
- Outstanding issues need to be addressed for an effective transition
- Mediation process
  - Seven key issues were identified for discussion
  - Modernizing Blue Box Stakeholder Webinar
  - After a six-week mediation, the message was clear – all participants want to begin the transition process

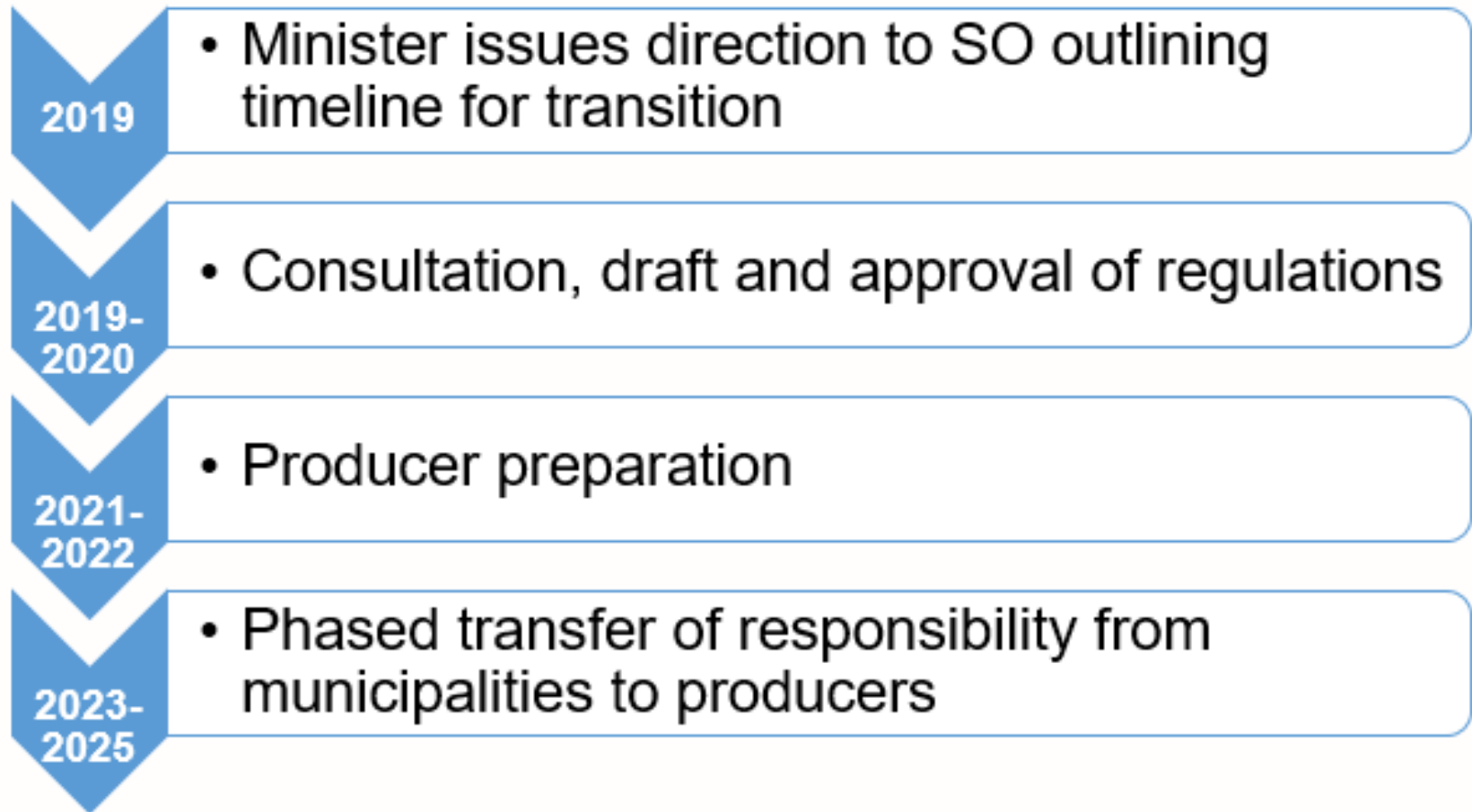
# Modernizing Blue Box Stakeholder Webinar

- Presented on June 20, 2019
- Drivers for Change
  - (i) Improving recycling rates in Ontario – citizens and consumers are confused about what can or cannot be recycled
  - (ii) Taking control of escalating Blue Box costs
  - (iii) Both municipalities and producers desire change and support a shift to full producer responsibility
  - (iv) Providing certainty to support new investments and innovation
- Where is Ontario Heading?
  - (i) Mediation
  - (ii) Transition Direction and Regulation Making
  - (iii) Orderly Transition
  - (iv) Modernized Blue Box

# Renewing the Blue Box: Final Report on the Blue Box Mediation Process

## Recommendations

# TOPIC 1: A measured timeframe for transition





# TOPIC 2: Ensuring a common collection system

- Uninterrupted service for residents
- Blue Box collection must be maintained but producers need flexibility to collect some packaging through other methods
- Regulation-making process will be a critical step

# TOPIC 3: Transitioning municipal assets

- Parties agreed that producers will have control when deciding which assets will be used
- Parties agreed that municipalities must be able to bid fairly on future services for producers and to decide whether, and how, their existing assets may be used as part of bids

# TOPIC 4: Standardizing what's in the Blue Box

- Producers should have some flexibility in determining best way to achieve diversion goals, while maintaining responsibility for all printed paper and packaging
- Regulations should identify standard list of Blue Box materials

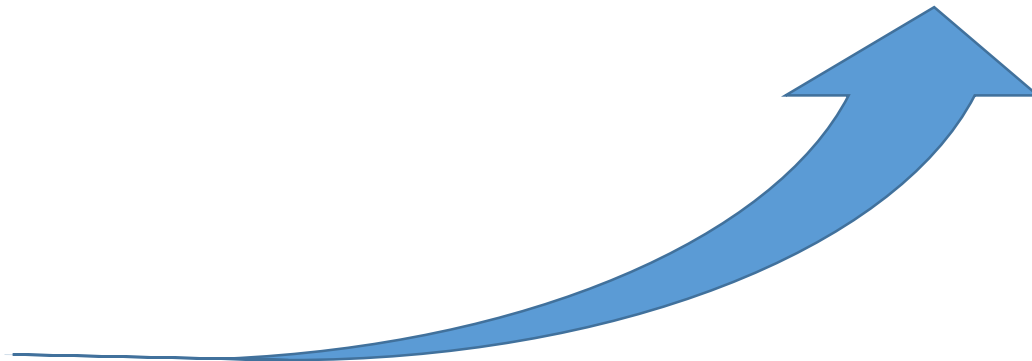


# TOPIC 5: Determining eligible sources for Blue Box materials

- Confirmation of scope:
  - Through transition: Every Low-Density Residential (and similar) property with existing curbside service
  - After transition: Expand to Multi-Residential properties, parks and public spaces
  - Excluded: Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Properties

# TOPIC 6: Setting effective diversion targets

- Province should consult to identify specific targets for different types of printed paper and packaging material
- Targets should progressively increase over time



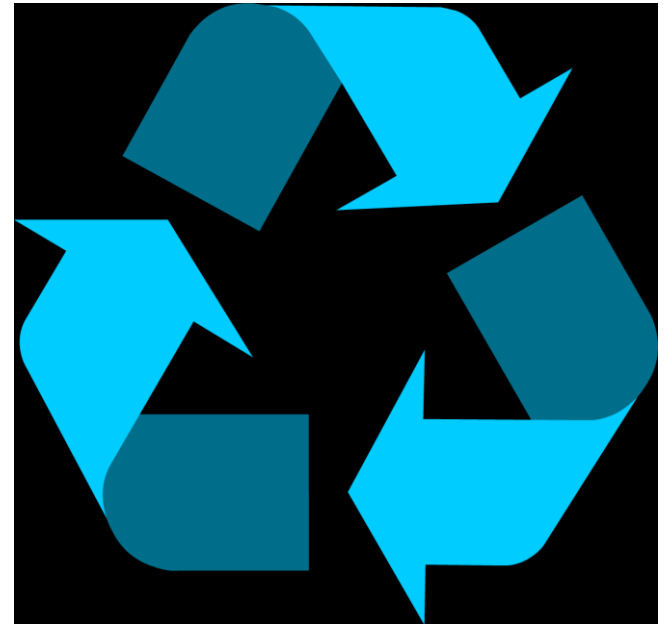
# TOPIC 7: Promoting increased diversion from landfill

- Diversion: Reduce, reuse, recycle

“Processes that continue to make materials available as a resource for new products or packaging”

- The Importance of Reduction:  
The first “R”

“Where feasible, producer responsibility regulations should recognize and reward producers for reducing waste and improving their environmental performance”



# TOPIC 8: Thinking bigger than the Blue Box

- Co-ordinated province-wide promotion and education is critical to make waste reduction part of everyday life
- Action is required at multiple levels of government and across ministries
- Strong action to reduce plastic pollution

# Next Steps

- Stewardship Ontario must submit a plan to Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority by June 30, 2020
- The Blue Box Program will begin preparing for transition once the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority approves the plan, no later than December 31, 2020



# Questions?