

# Managing Diaper Waste Under Every Other Week Garbage Collection

Waste Management Planning Steering Committee  
October 28, 2019

# Purpose

- At the October 17, 2019 Regional Council Special Meeting, it was requested that the Region provide residents with children in diapers, or living with a medical condition, with an option to manage their diaper or incontinence waste during the off-weeks of Every-Other-Week (EOW) garbage collection.
- The purpose of this presentation is to obtain support from WMPSC for the recommendation to be submitted to the Public Works Committee (PWC) meeting on December 3, 2019, which will provide an additional option for residents to manage this waste.

# Niagara's Current Diaper Exemption Program

- **Low-Density Residential (LDR) Properties, up to 6 Units, with Children in Diapers:**
  - One clear bag of diapers per unit collected per week, for households with two children in diapers under the age of four (without a tag).
  - Two clear bags of diapers per unit collected per week, for households with three or more children in diapers under the age of four (without a tag).
- **Daycares Operating out of LDR Properties, up to 6 Units:**
  - Two clear bags of diapers collected per week (without a tag).

# Niagara's Current Medical Exemption Program

- **LDR Properties, up to 6 Units, including Homes for Adults with Disabilities, or Individuals with a Medical Condition:**
  - Residents receive 52 free garbage tags annually.
  - Additional tags will be made available, on a case-by-case basis, subject to an annual application process and doctor's approval, every three years.
- **Group Homes, Homes for Adults with Disabilities and Homes for Assisted Living:**
  - Residents receive 52 free garbage tags annually.
  - If the home has one or more individuals with a medical condition, the medical exemption form should be used.

# Municipal Comparison of Diaper and Medical Exemption Programs – EOW Garbage Collection

## 1. Region of Durham:

- Make special consideration for residents with a medical condition or households with three children, who are younger than three years old, in diapers.
- Provide additional bag tags to these residents for EOW garbage collection.
- Do not provide free disposal of these items at their transfer stations.
- Region staff reported no issues from residents when they switched to EOW garbage collection.

# Municipal Comparison of Diaper and Medical Exemption Programs – EOW Garbage Collection (cont'd)

## 2. Region of Halton:

- Diaper bag tag program intended for households with young children using diapers.
- Healthcare bag tag program intended for households with a person(s) experiencing a medical condition.
- A household can apply to receive up to 40 diaper bag tags, or 40 healthcare bag tags, per a 12 month period, free of charge.
- Diapers must be placed in clear garbage bags with the diaper bag tag clearly visible. Solid coloured bags (even with a diaper bag tag) will not be collected.
- Medical items (e.g. incontinence products) can be placed in black garbage bags with the healthcare bag tag clearly visible.
- Diaper bags and healthcare bags collected EOW with regular garbage.
- Residents can also drop off clear diaper bags or black healthcare bags, with bag tags attached, at the Regional landfill site or transfer stations.

# **Municipal Comparison of Diaper and Medical Exemption Programs – EOW Garbage Collection (cont'd)**

## **3. Region of Waterloo:**

- Residents who receive curbside collection can drop off a clear bag containing diapers or incontinence products only to either of the Region's waste management sites.
- Residents who have a medical condition that results in waste that can't be recycled (such as incontinence products, or unrecyclable medical packaging), may be eligible for the Medical Exemption program. If approved, they receive 30 free garbage tags per year.
- Region staff reported some initial concerns from residents prior to the launch of EOW garbage collection, but this subsided shortly afterwards.

# **Municipal Comparison of Diaper and Medical Exemption Programs – EOW Garbage Collection (cont'd)**

## **4. City of Barrie:**

- City staff reported there were initial concerns for the first couple of months from residents when they switched to EOW garbage collection, but this subsided.
- Residents who receive curbside collection can drop off clear bags containing diapers or incontinence products only, at no charge, at the Region's waste management sites, from May 1 to October 31.
- City staff reported that less than 2 tonnes were dropped off this year, at a total cost to the City of approximately \$200.



# Municipal Comparison of Diaper and Medical Exemption Programs – EOW Garbage Collection (cont'd)

## 5. City of Orillia:

- Residents can place out, for curbside collection or take to the drop-off depot, clear bags of diapers or incontinence products.
- City does not require residents to place a \$2 garbage tag on the clear bag, for curbside collection, or drop-off depot.
- Clear bags of diapers or incontinence products mixed with other waste will not be collected without a \$2 garbage tag.
- City staff reported no significant issues from residents when they switched to EOW garbage collection.

# Municipal Comparison of Diaper and Medical Exemption Programs – EOW Garbage Collection (cont'd)

## 6. City of Ottawa:

- City's Special Consideration waste program was created for residents requiring collection of diapers and incontinence products on weeks without scheduled garbage collection.
- Participating households can place one bag of waste diapers and incontinence products out for collection, on the alternating week from garbage collection.
- Residents do not need to identify the garbage bag in any special way, other than ensuring it complies with the City's acceptable container requirements.
- Residents must renew their registration annually.
- City staff reported that most of the time, there is nothing out on these weeks for collection.

# Summary – Municipal Trends

In the comparator municipalities' programs (previous slides)

- Curbside collection of diapers and incontinence products remains the most commonly used method by residents.
- Most municipalities provide free bag tags to those residents with diapers or a medical condition.
- Although drop-off depots are not used very often by residents, it is another option to help manage this waste.
- Few municipalities reported initial concerns from residents, prior to the launch of EOW garbage collection, but these concerns subsided shortly afterwards.

# Recommendation

Niagara Region is continuing with the existing curbside diaper and medical exemption programs, on an EOW garbage collection basis, where curbside container limits would be doubled. Another option can be provided to residents to help manage their diaper or incontinence waste during the off-weeks of EOW garbage collection:

WMPSC recommends that the following option **BE REFERRED** to the Public Works Committee, for consideration:

**1. Provide residents with free disposal of dedicated loads of diapers and incontinence products, which are delivered to Regional landfill drop-off depots, on a year-round basis, effective the date on which the new collection contract begins.**

- Diapers need to be placed inside a clear bag, for identification purposes.
- Incontinence products need to be inside a clear bag, or in an opaque bag with a garbage bag tag (provided at no charge under the medical exemption program).
- These items can not be mixed with other household waste, in order to be eligible for free disposal.
- The estimated cost associated with providing residents with free disposal of diapers and incontinence products is \$1,150 per year. This cost is based on a total of 10 tonnes per year being received across all Regional landfill drop-off depots.

# Questions?