

Key Questions

Question 1: Do you have any questions regarding the role of the Authority?

Response:

- a. Niagara Region has no concerns at this time provided that the transition of the windup plan submitted by Stewardship Ontario meets the Minister's Directive, the process is transparent and the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (Authority) fulfills its mandate as required.
- b. As part of its role following windup plan completion, the Authority needs to ensure the market is fair to all parties and that no single Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) has a major monopoly of agreements with producers (i.e. no more than XX percent of the market). Niagara experienced this issue during the tire transition during the first half of 2019 i.e. a PRO indicated that one specific tire PRO had agreements with 85% of the market which caused operational issues for Niagara Region resulting in reduced service and tires not being collected.
- c. That all parties involved with the process of MHSW are compensated properly according to the Minister's Direction.

Question 2: Do you have any questions or comments regarding the wind-up plan's evaluation criteria, its timelines or the Minister's direction?

Response:

- a. The timelines seem reasonable
- b. Niagara Region has concerns about the transition occurring in the middle of the summer (busy time of year for MHSW) while the collection sites try to maintain a high level of service for residents. As an example, during the transition of the tire program it took several months for the PROs to have agreements in place and coordination of haulage which would be critical during a busy time of the year such as summer.

Question 3: Do you have any feedback on the proposed Conflict of Interest Plan contained within SO's MHSW Wind Up Plan? Does it support competition and prevent conflict of interest?

Response:

- a. The changes to the various boards appears to have eliminated any potential conflict of interest. That being said, the process must be transparent.

Question 4: Do you have any feedback on the plan for the management of MHSW program data leading up to and following the wind up?

Response:

- a. The management of data is appropriate based on the information provided.

Question 5: The proposal to return surplus funds to MHSM consumers through the implementation of a fee reduction to SO stewards and ISO members?

Response:

- a. The Authority will need to clearly and transparently demonstrate that through this process there is a fee reduction passed down through the stewards and Industry Stewardship Organizations (ISO) members to the consumers. The Authority needs to ensure that stewards do not increase the cost and then reduce the cost by the same amount and claim that consumers are receiving a rebate.
- b. The fee reduction methodology needs to be clearly and easily communicated to consumers so that they are aware of the fee reduction program.

Question 6: The proposal to transfer remaining MHSW residual funds to the Authority to offset registry-related expenses and ultimately lower producer registry fees?

Response:

- a. The process of transferring residual funds needs to be transparent. Similar to response 5 a., the Authority must ensure that any savings are passed onto consumers.

Question 7: Are the service provider cut-off dates proposed by Stewardship Ontario reasonable?

Response:

- a. The timelines seem reasonable.

Question 8: Does Stewardship Ontario's proposed final steward reporting schedule and process align with your business operations?

Response:

- a. It is not anticipated that the reporting schedule will have an impact on our business operations. The Authority has provided sufficient notice in order for Niagara Region to plan and meet requirements in advance of the deadlines.

Question 9: Do you support the transfer of the ownership of the Orange Drop website and branding to the Authority?

Response:

- a. Yes, an independent organization should oversee the Orange Drop site to ensure that the public's interest is maintained.

Question 10: Would you support the Orange Drop branding being made available to Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) and producers?

Response:

- a. The PROs and producers should work through the Authority for any changes that are required to the Orange Drop site.

Question 11: Do you feel that PROs may need access to the Orange Drop website and branding prior to the wind-up dates?

Response:

- a. Please see response to Question 10.