

WHEREAS the amount of single-use plastics leaking into our lakes, rivers, waterways is a growing area of public concern;

WHEREAS reducing the waste we generate and reincorporating valuable resources from our waste stream into new goods can reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) significantly;

WHEREAS the transition to full producer responsibility for packaging, paper and paper products is critical to reducing waste, improving recycling and driving better economic and environmental outcomes;

WHEREAS the move to a circular economy is a global movement, and that the transition of Blue Box programs would go a long way toward this outcome;

WHEREAS The Regional Municipality of Niagara is supportive of a timely, seamless and successful transition of Blue Box programs to full financial and operational responsibility by producers of packaging, paper and paper products; and

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has requested municipal governments with Blue Box programs to provide an indication of the best date to transition our Blue Box program to full producer responsibility;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That The Regional Municipality of Niagara **PREFERS** the date to transition the residential Blue Box program to full producer responsibility to be as early as possible in the transition period, which is on January 1, 2023, subject to final cost benefit analysis when the Blue Box regulation is finalized based on the following rationale:

Maximizing the estimated cost savings for taxpayers of The Regional Municipality of Niagara based on preliminary cost-benefit analysis considering:

- Opt-out clauses that are included in collection and haulage contracts and the estimated termination costs;
- Estimated costs for the residential portion of the Blue Box program in each of 2023, 2024, and 2025; and
- Estimated funding from Stewardship Ontario in each of 2023, 2024, and 2025.

That The Regional Municipality of Niagara **EXPRESSES** interest in providing curbside and depot Blue Box collection and haulage services on behalf of producers, subject to mutually agreeable commercial terms, including service duration, beginning on January 1, 2023.

That The Regional Municipality of Niagara **ANTICIPATES** completion of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Phase 4 Opportunity Review in late 2020, which will inform how or if the MRF asset will be potentially divested and The Regional Municipality of Niagara's potential role in processing services.

and

That this resolution, **BE SENT** to the Association of the Municipalities of Ontario and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.