

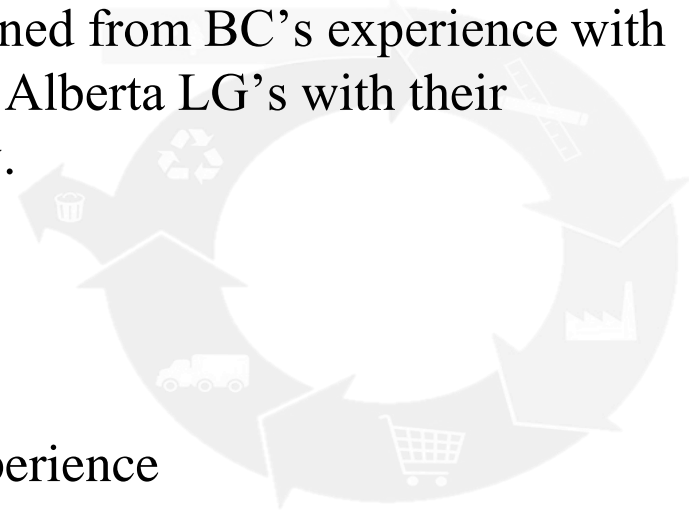


**Alda Nicmans / BC Product Stewardship Council**

**EPR 101 – Back to Basics Webinar / January 26, 2021**

# Background & Outline

- We are a coalition of 27 Regional Districts that are responsible for solid waste management and waste reduction, recycling and reuse initiatives within their jurisdictions.
- Purpose today is to provide lessons learned from BC's experience with EPR for residential PPP, in order to aid Alberta LG's with their transition to full producer responsibility.
- Background & the Current System
- **Top Five Takeaways** from the BC Experience
  - 1) What did not change
  - 2) What did change
  - 3) Key implications for LGs as contractors
  - 4) Where Recycle BC service is suboptimal
  - 5) What BC should have done differently



# British Columbia

- 27 Regional Districts (RD)
  - 190 Local Governments (LG) & approximately 240 First Nations (FN)
- 5.1 M population
- 1.88 M households
- Encorp Pacific deposit return program in place since 1994
- EPR Program for residential PPP launched May 2014
- Second round of contract negotiations complete with most contracts set to renew in 2023



# BC PPP Collection System at 2014 Recycle BC Start-up

- 170 LGs & FN accepted incentive to provide collection services
  - Approximately 3.6 M residents
- 28 LGs transitioned to direct collection services delivered by Recycle BC
  - Approximately 465,000 residents
- 15 LGs declined both incentive & direct service choosing to continue with status quo
  - Approximately 545,000 residents



# Key Reasons for LG Concerns

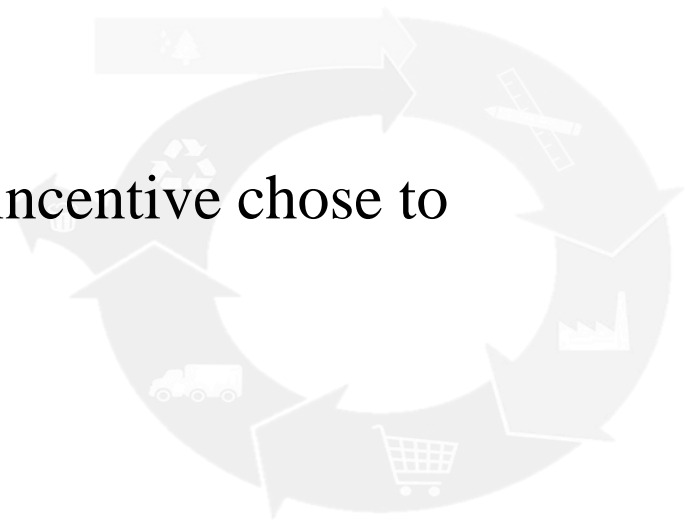
- New to the concept of being a contractor to private industry
  - Letter of Offer stated terms were non-negotiable
- Would the incentive offers cover full cost of collection service delivery?
- Could the 3% non-PPP contamination level be met?



# Expansion of Recycle BC Collection System Since 2014

- 15 LGs that previously opted out chose to accept incentive or direct service
  - Approximately 543,000 residents
- 10 LGs that previously accepted incentive chose to transition to direct service
  - Approximately 958,000 residents

***Today 1.85 M households of the 1.88M in the province are serviced either through curbside, MF or depots funded by Recycle BC***



# Positive Outcomes that Drive Program Growth

- High level of customer satisfaction with the program
  - Recycle BC conducts annual surveys of the residential sector
- Participating LGs can divert funds saved into other programs like organics collection, illegal dumping etc.
- A level of trust & confidence has developed between LGs & Recycle BC
  - Hold annual collector conferences & a good support system is in place
- More PPP product is being collected & increased environmental reporting taking place

# Top 5 Takeaways from the BC Experience

## *#1 - What did not change*

- Activities to deliver collection services & provide P&E in those LGs and FNs with existing PPP service that contracted with Recycle BC
  - With some minor initial adjustments to accommodate standardized PPP
- Resident access to, & general satisfaction with PPP collection services





# Top 5 Takeaways from the BC Experience

## #2 - *What did change*

- Standardized list of collected materials supported by province-wide P&E campaign implemented by Recycle BC
- LGs and FNs not responsible for post-collection including
  - Transfer & processing of collected material
  - Disputes with processors
  - Commodity marketing
  - Commodity revenue risk



# Top 5 Takeaways from the BC Experience

## #3 – Key implications for LGs as contractors

- Meeting 3% non-PPP contamination threshold in contract
  - Can be achieved in multi-stream systems but challenging for single-stream systems
  - Contamination is declining but with substantial effort
- Recycle BC payments vs LG costs
  - Curbside (per household) incentives generally cover costs
    - Payments exceed costs in higher density areas but can fall short in lower density areas
  - Depot (weight-based) incentives generally cover costs
    - Payments cover costs at higher throughput depots but fall short at smaller depots
  - Defined Recycle BC payments make budgeting more predictable



# Top 5 Takeaways from the BC Experience

## #4 – *Where Recycle BC service is suboptimal*

- Multi-family
  - Private sector has been slow to accept MF collection incentive with the result that some MF buildings are not included in Recycle BC collection system
  - Where LGs have mandated MF collection service &/or banned PPP from disposal, take up by private sector is higher
- Streetscapes
  - Recycle BC has implemented pilot projects but has not moved to full scale implementation
  - High contamination rates likely a factor in slow implementation



# Top 5 Takeaways from the BC Experience

## 5 – *What BC should have done differently*

- In addition to standardized list of collected PPP, collection system should have been standardized across BC at start up
  - Type of collection container & degree of commingling
- BC MOE should have regulated collection of PPP from ICI sector
  - Segregating residential PPP from ICI PPP creates logistical & marketing challenges in rural/remote areas where the LG is sole service provider



# In Closing

- Some aspects of PPP system are determined by provincial government
  - e.g. Types of PPP regulated, service standards (including household eligibility), performance targets
  - LGs should work with the provincial government to get best service for residents & clear producer requirements
- Some aspects of collection service are determined in contract between producers (represented by a PRO) & LGs
  - e.g. Quality control, insurance, disputes, failures
  - LGs need to negotiate with PRO(s) to get reasonable contract that shares risk
- Government needs to ensure producers deliver required services & performance
  - LGs should watch to be sure this occurs



Thank You

Alda Nicmans, Executive Director  
[aldanicmans@shaw.ca](mailto:aldanicmans@shaw.ca)