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PRESENTATION TO THE  
**UNITED CONSERVATIVE  
GOVERNMENT CAUCUS**

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**EXTENDED  
PRODUCER  
RESPONSIBILITY**

# Presenting Today

ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF EPR FOR PACKAGING AND PAPER PRODUCTS





# What is Extended Producer Responsibility?

- Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle.
- Industry becomes responsible for collecting, sorting and processing their materials, and finding markets to ultimately recycle them.
- EPR enables an industry-led approach that does what government-led approaches cannot.
- EPR empowers the private sector to solve problems and innovate the most cost-effective and efficient solutions.



# Why EPR is needed now in Alberta

- **Our current system is not working**
  - Alberta disposes more PPP waste than the national average owing largely to the lack of an industry-led EPR program.
- **Shifting regulatory landscape**
  - Changing polices in Asia has reduced end-markets for municipalities and increased costs for Albertans.
  - Federal changes to ban certain single use plastics and add "plastic manufactured items" to the List of Toxic Substances under CEPA.
- **Benefits of EPR have become undeniable**
  - A broad consensus exists among Alberta's industrial, recycling, and municipal sectors that the time to act and implement EPR.



# EPR will support Alberta's Natural Gas Vision and Strategy to develop a circular economy for plastics

## Major goal:

- Become a Western North American centre of excellence for plastics recycling by 2030.

## EPR as a necessary building block:

- To achieve this goal, Alberta's petrochemical industry must establish a waste plastics feedstock supply chain. EPR enables this supply chain and creates economies of scale.

## The result:

- Rather than sending plastics and other valuable recyclables to landfills, EPR would help Alberta capture these materials as the high-value resources they are.



## EPR will improve environmental outcomes and bolster economic activity in the recycling sector

- EPR programs are proven to improve recycling outcomes, bolster jobs and create new economic activity in any jurisdiction that implements it.
- Implementing EPR would result in thousands of additional tonnes of paper and plastics being recycled and an additional 70,000 tonnes of carbon emissions avoided - the equivalent of taking 15,000 passenger vehicles off the road.
- EPR for household packaging and paper alone would add \$16 million to Alberta's GDP through increased economic activity and create 220 new jobs in Alberta's recycling industry.



## EPR will reduce costs to Alberta's municipalities and save taxpayer dollars

- Unlike consumers in other provinces, Albertans bear the brunt of recycling costs through their utility fees or municipal taxes.
- EPR can enable Alberta's communities to save money by shifting the costs and management of recycling away from municipalities and their ratepayers.
- EPR for household packaging and paper alone would save municipalities over \$100 million each year. Alberta's urban municipalities have further committed to passing on these savings to taxpayers.
- Every year that Alberta foregoes EPR is a missed opportunity. Provinces with EPR received more than a combined \$415 million in funding from producers in 2019 - while Alberta received none.



## EPR creates a better recycling system for Albertans and does not increase costs for consumers

- Alberta municipalities operate hundreds of individual recycling systems. This means there is an inefficient patchwork of programs and uneven access to recycling across the province.
- EPR creates one consistent system that has a harmonized list of recyclable materials across the province. This means recycling will be more accessible for all Albertans no matter where they live.
- Data confirms there is no correlation between EPR systems and higher costs for common consumer goods. Prices of consumer goods are driven by other economic factors.



## EPR supports the needs of small business

- 80% of Canadians live in provinces with EPR programs. These provinces support small businesses and drive investment into value-added recycling activities.
- EPR systems across Canada typically support small business by exempting those that fall below a minimum amount of annual revenue and/or weight of paper and packaging they supply to the marketplace.
- Alberta can benefit from EPR and compete for investment in value-added recycling infrastructure and technologies while supporting its small businesses.

# Summary of EPR benefits

## WHY EPR IS RIGHT FOR ALBERTA

- Supports energy diversification, drives investment and creates jobs
- Reduces municipal costs and saves taxpayer dollars
- Improves environmental outcomes and creates a better recycling system for all Albertans



## Recommendations for the Government of Alberta

- **Stay the course:**

- **Full producer responsibility:** to create a circular economy industry must have full 100% financial and operational responsibility for the system.
- **Harmonized approach:** to be most cost effective and efficient, the framework must enable industry to capitalize on economies of scale and across provinces through the implementation of a harmonized approach.
- **Small business support:** to be supportive of small businesses' unique needs and circumstances, a reasonable *de minimis* exemption should be established.
- **Municipal flexibility:** Alberta municipalities should have the flexibility to continue to provide collection services to their residents under contract to the EPR system operator if they choose, and the opportunity to exit the system as a service provider, if they choose.

# Questions and Discussion

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