

Independent Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee to Provide Recommendations for Sustainable Solid Waste Management Solutions

The Government of Saskatchewan has established the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee, making good on its commitment at the 2018 SARM convention to establish an independent committee to lead consultations with municipalities, industry, recycling organizations and First Nations on a provincial solid waste management strategy and landfill regulation.

The new Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee will provide a comprehensive focus on measures to reduce and divert waste, enhancing landfill management and raising public awareness. This will give the province a strategic action plan to address the unique challenges posed by solid waste management

In spring 2017, Ministry of Environment officials led public engagement activities across the province to better understand what issues Saskatchewan residents, municipalities, industry leaders, recycling organizations and First Nations feel should be addressed through a provincial solid waste management strategy.

The role of the committee will be to consult on the content of a provincial solid waste management strategy and potential changes to the Municipal Refuse Management Regulations, taking into consideration the work that has already been done to date by the ministry. Information collected during these activities will be used to develop recommendations for the Minister of Environment to help guide finalization of the strategy and reduce red tape in landfill regulation.

Chaired by Richard Porter from Warman, the advisory committee includes Dan Cugnet from Weyburn, Rennie Harper from Nipawin, Randall Johnson out of Shellbrook, Gordon Barnhart from SUMA and Ray Orb from SARM. The advisory committee membership brings a broad and diverse background and understanding of solid waste management issues and solutions to the table.

The advisory committee replaces the Landfill Advisory Team, which was composed of urban and rural municipality members. With the development of a provincial strategy for solid waste management, government felt that the scope of the Landfill Advisory Team needed to be expanded to include matters related to waste reduction and diversion.

Starting in the fall, the new advisory committee will hold formal engagement with targeted urban and rural municipalities that have experienced the challenges and opportunities associated with solid waste management. The advisory committee will also be engaging industry, recycling organizations and First Nations to understand the unique challenges and opportunities they experience. Other stakeholders and municipalities will have an opportunity to provide feedback through an online survey and written submissions or can contact the committee (rholtzman@mcnair.ca) for consideration if they are interested in participating in the engagement sessions. The advisory committee will provide updates on the consultation schedule in the near future.

Information from the consultation sessions will assist the advisory committee in making final recommendations to the Minister of Environment regarding options to reduce red tape in municipal landfill rules and regulation, as well as implement innovative actions for solid waste diversion, reduction and landfilling across Saskatchewan.