

March 6, 2026

On February 26, 2026 Regional Council adopted the following motion:

Whereas the Province of Ontario has implemented the Blue Box Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework, transferring responsibility for municipal recycling to producer responsibility organizations and their contractors, including Circular Materials Ontario;

And Whereas Circular Materials Ontario has engaged multiple private collection contractors to deliver recycling services to municipalities across Ontario, including those within the Regional Municipality of York;

And Whereas municipalities throughout Ontario are experiencing inconsistent recycling collection service levels under the new EPR model, including differences in collection frequency, missed collections, accepted materials, cart provision, contamination management, customer service response times, and contractor accountability;

And Whereas residents in some municipalities are receiving reduced or inferior recycling collection services compared to others, despite participating in the same provincial Blue Box program;

And Whereas these service level inequities have resulted in increased resident complaints, confusion, reduced participation in recycling programs, and declining public confidence in Ontario's recycling system;

And Whereas upper- and lower-tier municipalities, including York Region, no longer have direct operational control over Blue Box recycling collection, yet continue to experience the impacts of service disruptions and resident dissatisfaction;

And Whereas the intent of Extended Producer Responsibility was to improve environmental outcomes, efficiency, and accountability, not to create unequal treatment of Ontario residents based on municipal boundaries;

And Whereas access to reliable and effective recycling collection is an essential public service and should be fair, consistent, and equitable for all residents of Ontario, regardless of where they live;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of The Regional Municipality of York calls upon the Province of Ontario to intervene to ensure that Circular Materials Ontario and its contractors provide fair, consistent, and equitable recycling collection service levels across all municipalities in Ontario;

And That the Province be requested to establish, enforce, and publicly report on consistent province-wide service standards for Blue Box recycling, including collection frequency, missed-collection recovery, accepted materials, cart provision, customer service response times, and contractor performance;

And That the Province require Circular Materials Ontario to promptly address collection service level inequities and performance gaps between municipalities, including those impacting York Region;

And That this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, all Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and Circular Materials Ontario and all Mayors of Ontario

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services
Department

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