

November 20, 2019

Province Launches Consultations on the Blue Box Regulation

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has officially launched a multi-stage public consultation process with municipal governments, producers, waste management industries, and non-profit organizations, on the transition of the Blue Box program to full producer responsibility.

The first consultation will be held by webinar on Wednesday, November 27, 2019. The Ministry will be explaining how stakeholders can take part in the development of a new regulation for the Blue Box under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act*, 2016.

To participate in the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks webinar, register by Friday, November 22, 2019, with Marc Peverini, Senior Policy Analyst, Resource Recovery Policy Branch at Marc.Peverini@ontario.ca or 416-908-1528.

This is welcomed news for municipal governments as this process will define how the producer-run Blue Box system will work, and determine the regulatory amendments necessary to end municipalities' obligation to provide Blue Box services between 2023 and 2025. A great deal of work has already been done by all stakeholders and this is the opportunity to make progress on moving waste diversion in Ontario into a circular economy once and for all.

It will be important to be engaged in this process, as your input will help inform the key elements and proposed approach for a producer responsibility regulation. This includes maintaining a convenient and accessible collection system, identifying a standardized list of materials to be collected (including considering how best to deal with single use plastics), and setting targets or other performance targets.

AMO is well-positioned for these discussions, as staff just concluded a series of consultations across the Province with municipal staff. We will continue to work with our members and the Ministry throughout the process to advocate for a Blue Box regulation that creates a seamless experience for residents, and ensures that producers are held responsible for managing plastic and other packaging at end-of-life.