

**From:** Soares, Elizabeth (MECP) [<mailto:Elizabeth.Soares@ontario.ca>] **On Behalf Of** O'Hara, Charles (MECP)

**Sent:** June 7, 2019 11:57 AM

**Subject:** Ontario Appoints Special Advisor on Recycling and Plastic Waste

Good afternoon,

As you are aware, the government's [Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#) committed to moving Ontario's waste diversion programs to a full producer responsibility model and to tackling the serious problem of plastic pollution.

I am writing today to let you know that the government is taking its next step in delivering on this commitment by engaging Mr. David Lindsay as a Special Advisor on Recycling and Plastic Waste to foster discussion and help develop a path forward for transition of the Blue Box Program to full producer responsibility (see attached).

The government recognizes that extensive discussions are necessary to ensure that the transition to the new producer responsibility approach empowers producers and respects taxpayers. Cooperation among municipalities, producers and others in the waste industry is essential to ensure a smooth transition of the Blue Box Program.

The people of Ontario take pride in being early adopters of curbside recycling programs. Residents across the province have come to adopt the Blue Box Program as a part of their everyday life. The work of Mr. Lindsay is part of the government's commitment to ensure that transition occurs in a way that maintains or improves on Blue Box collection in Ontario.

Mr. Lindsay has extensive experience in the public, private and institutional sectors. As current President and CEO of the Council of Ontario Universities, former Deputy Minister in the Ontario Public Service, and past president and CEO of the Forest Products Association of Canada, Mr. Lindsay has experience in bringing people together to find mutually beneficial solutions to complex policy problems.

The ministry has identified representatives from the municipal sector and producer stakeholders who have a strong interest and operational role in the Blue Box Program's transition. We will be contacting them on behalf of Mr. Lindsay to invite them to mediation sessions taking place over the next month or so to discuss critical issues, understand sector perspectives, and help establish common ground on transition of the Blue Box Program.

Mr. Lindsay will also host a webinar to provide an overview of the issues under discussion and invite feedback from the broader stakeholder community that will inform his deliberations. [An invitation for this webinar will be sent out shortly.](#)

Mr. Lindsay will submit a report to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks no later than July 31, 2019 that will outline where the parties reached agreement and his recommendation on how to address any outstanding issues. This will then be considered as part of the government's deliberations on the next steps for Blue Box transition.

Any submissions or letters for Mr. Lindsay's consideration should be submitted to [RRPB.Mail@ontario.ca](mailto:RRPB.Mail@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your continued interest in waste diversion and resource recovery in Ontario. We look forward to hearing from you as we move forward on this important initiative. I am confident that Mr. Lindsay's work will be vital to developing an effective and sustainable Blue Box Program for years to come.

Sincerely,

Charles O'Hara  
Director, Resource Recovery Policy Branch  
Environmental Policy Division  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks