



January 10, 2015

Honourable Glen Murray, MPP - Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Province of Ontario
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2T5

Dear Minister Murray,

Re: Excel-erating Waste Reduction in Ontario

As committee organizers of Ontario's 1st Zero Waste Conference we applaud you for moving forward with reviving discussions to expedite an effective Waste Reduction Act for Ontario. Although you were unable to attend Ontario's 1st Zero Waste Conference, held at Orillia's Lakehead University in August 2014, we were pleased that Melissa Evers, from Ontario's Waste Management Policy Branch, was able to attend on your behalf.

Excel-erating Zero Waste was the theme of this 1st Zero Waste Conference, which welcomed over one hundred individuals from a variety of sectors. Attendees identified action items to move forward to the Provincial level for resolving two of Ontario's waste problems - beverage containers and disposable diapers.

We understand that the Province is currently holding preliminary consultations with stakeholders regarding Ontario's waste reduction strategies and the proposed Waste Reduction Act. As public stakeholders with a keen interest in protecting public finances and our resources, we look for your leadership to make the following statements, which evolved from Ontario's 1st Zero Waste Conference, become a reality in Ontario.

1. Deposit Return System for Beverage Containers:
"That the Province of Ontario immediately mandates a deposit-return system for used beverage containers, as exists in most Canadian provinces."
2. Recovery System for Disposable Diapers:
"That the Province of Ontario establishes a system of recovery for disposable diapers, to eliminate current disposal practices of this product."

Thank you for your attention to this request.

We look forward to your reply,

Mr. Gord Joyce
Zero Waste Conference – Organizing Committee
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