

Speaking Notes

Honourable Rochelle Squires

Minister of Sustainable Development

2017 Manitoba Association of Regional Recyclers (MARR) Community
Recycling & Waste Reduction Forum

Thursday, October 19, 2017

4:10 pm – 4:30 pm (Minister's closing remarks)

Best Western Plus Airport Hotel (Greenwood Ballroom)

1715 Wellington Avenue,

Winnipeg MB

- Bonjour. J'ai le grand plaisir d'être ici avec vous aujourd'hui, au nom du premier ministre du Manitoba, M. Brian Pallister et du gouvernement du Manitoba.
- Je tiens à profiter de l'occasion pour reconnaître que nous sommes sur le territoire du Traité n° 1 et sur les terres ancestrales des peuples anishinaabeg (ah-nish-naabek), cri, oji-cri, dakota et déné et de la nation métisse.
- Thank you inviting me to speak at this annual forum.
- As the Minister of Sustainable Development, Premier Pallister has provided me with a strong mandate to take the lead on sustainable development issues including a made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan.
- Waste reduction and recycling is a key component of our Climate and Green Plan
- Here in Manitoba, we have excellent stewardship programs for recycling blue box materials, beverage containers, electronic waste, household hazardous waste, tires, used oil and antifreeze, batteries, pesticide containers, thermostats and pharmaceuticals.

- Thanks to the Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) who operate these stewardship programs as well as Manitoba municipalities and residents who participate in these programs, the province's waste diversion practices are consistently improving.
- Over 130 million kilograms of materials were diverted from Manitoba landfills in 2016. 42 million dollars of annual revenue generated through extended producer responsibility programs support the recycling and diversion programs in communities across the province.
- Through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support Levy, the province is supporting commercial-scale, high-quality composting in Manitoba through the Manitoba Compost Program. In 2016, ten compost facilities registered with the program and committed to processing over 56 thousand tonnes of organic waste.
- Given that approximately 30 to 50 percent of the waste ending up in the landfills is organic waste, we need to step up our efforts to divert more organics from landfills to achieve any future significant waste diversion targets.

- This is particularly important as organic waste is a major contributor to our GHG emissions, which we will commit to reducing under our Climate and Green Plan.
- A lot is going on regarding waste diversion and recycling in the province. Last year, nine out of the twelve stewardship programs expired and new plans were submitted by the Producer Responsibility Organizations. The province conducted public consultations on those plans and provided feedback to the PROs for incorporation in the revised plans.
- This year, my department will conduct public consultations on three additional stewardship program plans (for beverage containers, used oil, filters and antifreeze, and cell phones). I encourage all of you to review these plans and provide your constructive feedback to the department. The notice of public consultation will soon be published in all leading newspapers and posted on the departmental public registry and it will have information on where to find the new plans and how to provide feedback.
- My staff and I are fully committed to continuously improving the waste diversion and recycling efforts in the province. As representatives from the industry, service providers, municipalities and communities, your

inputs and ideas in this regard are always welcome.

- As our government reviews these stewardship plans, I want to challenge our programs:
 - They must continue to evolve and adapt to the challenges in all regions of the province, particularly in the North, where additional challenges are present including lack of reliable road access and distance to markets. We need to find ways to overcome these obstacles.
- They must also continue to grow their programs in urban areas and divert even more waste from landfills.
- Despite all our good work, Manitoba generates one of the highest levels of waste per capita in Canada. Given that new stewardship plans are being reviewed and the City of Winnipeg is planning for a new material recovery facility, we have an opportunity to introduce new measures that will increase the level of recycling and divert waste from our landfills.
- So let's keep the conversations going. We are looking forward to the continued expansion of these programs across the province.

- One other thing I wanted to highlight further is that waste diversion and recycling not only helps to conserve resources, save landfill spaces and improve environmental quality, but it also reduces the emission of greenhouse gases, and thereby, helps to mitigate the unfolding impacts of climate change.
- In fact, waste accounts for about 3% of Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions. Of Canada's total methane emissions, about 26 per cent comes from landfill gas produced at municipal landfill sites. This is why some of our waste and diversion efforts have also been highlighted in the coming made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan that provides a roadmap for achieving sustained economic growth while protecting our environment.
- The last point I would like make is that we also need to do more to influence a shift in public attitudes and behaviour towards adopting sustainable waste management practices. It is critically important to ensure that information pertinent to the waste and recycling programs are conveniently available to members of the public.
- We also need to do a better job of explaining that recycling programs are not government programs but that industries have taken on this task as good stewards of the environment.

- In this regard, I am happy to announce that the province is relaunching its waste and recycling website as “Waste-Wise”. Among other things, this site will provide information on the waste and recycling levy, host an A-Z directory on recycling, and share links to all stewardship programs operating in Manitoba. Further, we will continue to provide access to the “Eco-depot” locator as a convenient tool for finding drop-off locations for various designated materials.
- This highlights the role the programs play.
- I am certain that as Manitobans, we will continue to embrace and participate in recycling and waste diversion efforts but we still have a long way to go. This will require the combined efforts of government, industry, municipalities and the public.
- Before concluding, I want to extend a very special thank you to Dany Robidoux, Chair of the Manitoba Association of Regional Recyclers for giving me this opportunity to speak this afternoon and for organizing this Forum.
- Keep up the good work. Make the best of this amazing opportunity to continue talking and learning from each other so that we can turn our vision for a zero-waste society a reality.
- Thank you - Merci – Meegwetch.