

CITY OF WHITEHORSE
SPECIAL Council Meeting #2014-09

DATE: Monday, April 14, 2014
TIME: 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Dan Curtis
Deputy Mayor Mike Gladish
Reserve Deputy Mayor Betty Irwin

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA: Adoption

PROCLAMATION:

MINUTES:

DELEGATIONS:

PUBLIC HEARING:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORTS:

NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS Resolutions for AYC Annual General Meeting

BUSINESS:

BYLAWS:

ADJOURNMENT:

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Administration
DATE: April 14, 2014
RE: Resolutions for Association Yukon Communities Annual General Meeting

ISSUE

Authorization to submit resolutions to be considered at the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) Annual General Meeting in May

HISTORY

As part of the Annual General Meeting, the Association of Yukon Communities invites communities to submit resolutions they feel to be relevant and require support of the AYC membership. Resolutions are formal presentations of a call for action on the part of the organization passing the resolution, or on some other body, organization or government. The City of Whitehorse is proposing that resolutions with respect to the following issues be considered by the Association membership:

- Revision of the Yukon Government Beverage Container Regulation
- Revision of the Yukon Government Designated Materials Regulation
- Encouraging a broader discussion with the Yukon Government, business community, and stakeholder groups regarding the development of an Extended Producer Regulation in Yukon

ALTERNATIVES

1. Authorize the resolutions
2. Deny the resolutions
3. Amend the resolutions submitted

ANALYSIS

Municipalities are responsible for solid waste management. Given the increasing quantities of waste produced over the past decade, all municipalities across the country are under increasing pressure to fund waste management. Extending the life of the landfill alleviates pressure on funding closure of the landfill (\$13.5 million in Whitehorse); for this reason waste diversion is a good investment.

Whitehorse City Council has adopted a goal of 50% waste diversion by 2015. In order to achieve this goal and reduce the pressure on funding waste management, City Council is proposing resolutions to AYC regarding expanding the Beverage Container and Designated Materials Regulations, as well as implementing an Extended Producer Responsibility program.

In order for the resolutions and nominations to be to be accepted by AYC they must first be supported by a Council resolution.

Revision of the Yukon Government Beverage Container Regulation

The Yukon *Environment Act* contains the Beverage Container Regulation that requires consumers to pay a surcharge (deposit) on eligible products. This surcharge is used to fund recycling of the product and refund the customer when the product is returned to a designated recycler. The program is very effective in promoting recycling.

Products currently eligible under the program include liquor, soft drink, and juice containers. It is proposed that AYC work with the Yukon Government and partners to review the Beverage Container Regulation with the intent to expand the range of materials designated under the regulation.

Revision of the Yukon Government Designated Materials Regulation

The Yukon *Environment Act* contains a Designated Materials Regulation under which consumers pay a required surcharge at the time of purchase. Funds collected through the surcharge are used to provide for the appropriate transport and processing of eligible materials. Products currently eligible only include tires of 24.5 inches or less.

The accumulation of electronic waste and hazardous waste is an increasing problem for Yukon landfills as they contain products that can be harmful to the environment. The costs associated with transporting and processing these wastes can be significant, and as a result these types of waste are not being properly disposed of in the Yukon. It is proposed that AYC work with the Yukon Government and partners to review the Designated Materials Regulation with the intent to expand the range of designated materials to include large tires, electronic waste, and hazardous waste.

Inclusion of Extended Producer Regulations in the *Environment Act*

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) prepared a Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) that commits all jurisdictions to work towards the establishment of EPR programs. EPR means an environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle. Nationally, communities are relying on and expanding stewardship and EPR systems to ensure that the user, rather than the taxpayer, is funding the processing and/or disposal of various products.

Phase 1 of the CCME Action Plan lists top priority commodities (including electronic waste, hazardous waste and automotive products) and provinces must have EPR programs for these products by October 2015. It is proposed that AYC resolve to work with the Yukon Government, local businesses, waste management groups, and community partners to develop and implement an EPR system in Yukon.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

THAT the following three resolutions be forwarded to the Association of Yukon Communities for consideration at the 2014 Annual General Meeting:

1. Beverage Container Regulations

WHEREAS the Yukon *Environment Act* contains a Beverage Container Regulation that is very effective in promoting recycling in the Territory; and

WHEREAS the Association of Yukon Communities applauds the Government of Yukon's review and proposed amendment of the Beverage Container Regulation, and
WHEREAS revenue generated via the Beverage Container Regulation supports the diversion of non-refundable recyclable materials in the Yukon, but products currently eligible under the Regulation do not include all recyclable beverage containers,
BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Yukon Communities engage with the Yukon Government, Yukon businesses, and stakeholder groups to review and expand the range of materials under the Beverage Container Regulations in a timely fashion.

2. Designated Materials Regulation

WHEREAS the Yukon *Environment Act* contains a Designated Materials Regulation to provide for the appropriate transportation and processing of specific materials; and
WHEREAS the Association of Yukon Communities applauds the Government of Yukon's review and proposed amendment of the Designated Materials Regulation; and
WHEREAS there is a demonstrated need for the Designated Materials Regulation to accommodate large tires, electronic waste and hazardous waste; and
WHEREAS a variety of hazardous wastes have been successfully and appropriately handled via product stewardship or extended producer responsibility programs in many Canadian provinces,
BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Yukon Communities engage with the Yukon Government to review and expand the Designated Materials Regulation to include Phase 1 hazardous waste materials listed in the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility through a collaborative process involving community and business partners and waste management stakeholder groups.

3. Extended Producer Responsibility (ERP)

WHEREAS a Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility prepared by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment commits all jurisdictions to work towards the establishment of extended producer responsibility programs; and
WHEREAS the recycling of non-refundable items is a critical element of the increased community diversion goals of the Government of Yukon's Solid Waste Action Plan; and
WHEREAS revenue from non-refundable recycling commodities is not sufficient to continue or expand recycling diversion in the Yukon; and
WHEREAS communities throughout Canada are relying on and expanding stewardship and EPR systems in order to ensure that the user, rather than the taxpayer, is funding the processing and/or disposal of different products,
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Yukon Communities engage in a collaborative process involving the Yukon Government, waste industry representatives, business partners and stakeholder groups regarding the drafting, development, and implementation of an Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation in a timely fashion.