

**TO:** CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 1993 07 20  
**FROM:** DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 65-00-01  
**SUBJECT:** PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS FOR PACKAGING MATERIALS  
**PURPOSE:** To provide Council information on the status of Provincial Regulations on packaging.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks supporting continued emphasis on control of excessive packaging.

**REPORT**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

At its Regular meeting of 1993 June 07 Council received correspondence from the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks regarding Provincial Regulations for packaging materials and referred the same back to staff for a status report.

**2.0 WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMS**

In the past, designers, manufacturers and distributors of products that became waste had few constraints placed on their impacts on public sector waste management systems. Concerns have been raised at local levels and brought forward to both the UBCM and FCM.

**SENIOR GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES:**

- (a) A multi-stakeholder group, the *National Packaging Task Force*, was convened by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment in 1989. This group represents packaging related industries, governments and interest groups.

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This group developed a strategy, referred to as NAPP, outlining a "*Canadian Code of Preferred Packaging Practices*" that was clear in ranking source reduction as the first priority in waste management. The affected industries made voluntary commitment to achieve source reduction through various means including total elimination, elimination of components, weight/volume reduction and redesign of products themselves. Examples include refill pouches and concentrates.

- (b) As part of the NAPP process it was agreed that federal and provincial governments would enact uniform regulations across the country specifying performance requirements, targets and deadlines. *Enabling legislation has been passed in B.C. and Manitoba. The potential powers of the B.C. legislation were outlined in the Ministers letter on the Waste Management Amendment Act (Bill 29) where control of packaging and waste materials is made possible.*
- (c) The provincial government has set up a special task force on plastics, addressing container standardization and coding of plastic containers with a view to increasing the recyclability of the containers entering the market place.

**3.0 CONCLUSION**

Staff, through continued City of Burnaby membership in the Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC) have access to the most current information on packaging and trends in legislation both provincially, nationally and internationally.

Information from RCBC and the Environmentally Sound Packaging Coalition (ESP) indicates that the Province is in a consultative approach working towards negotiated agreements with industry. Although the Province has passed enabling legislation it has not yet mandated reductions in packaging requirements.

Staff will keep the Environment and Waste Management Committee informed of developments in this particular area of waste reduction.

  
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

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