

TO: CITY MANAGER

DATE: 2001 07 04

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 65-06-02

SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE DATED JUNE 26, 2001 FROM ROBERT A. LEE ON THE "LIGHTEN UP" PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To respond to the email from Mr. Lee regarding garbage container size and weight and recycling

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to Robert A. Lee.

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Appearing elsewhere on the agenda is a correspondence dated June 26, 2001 from Mr. Robert Lee pertaining to City's "Lighten Up" program and recycling collection. This report is to address the issue raised in Mr. Lee's letter.

DISCUSSION

A City program "Lighten Up" was implemented on June 1, 2001 in an effort to minimize worker injuries. The program provides new direction on container size (up to 77 l) and weight (up to 20 kg or 45 lbs) and alternate yard waste collection using 77 l container labelled with "Yard Trimmings" sticker.

The new program was developed following extensive research and review of collection practices and discussion with CUPE Local 23. In recent years, there has been a growing consumer trend to purchase large containers. The 121 l containers on wheels that are available at many local retail stores are designed for maximum consumer convenience. However, due to its large capacity and height, repetitive lifting and emptying of these containers have become one of the main causes of worker injuries. Therefore, under the new practice, the 121 l wheeled containers are no longer acceptable at the curbside. For residents who prefer wheeled containers, there are 77 l containers on wheels available locally and the City has purchased a small quantity for sale to Burnaby residents.

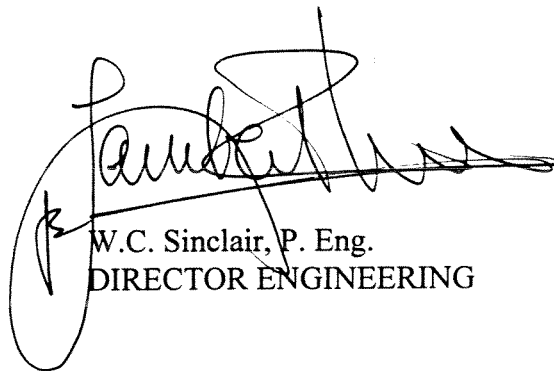
The wheeled containers may be purchased at the Recycling Depot while quantities last. Staff have also contacted local retail stores to encourage them to stock up on these standard-size wheeled containers.

With respect to the Blue Box program, Burnaby has enjoyed great success in the delivery of the program due to increasing participation by Burnaby residents. In the last decade, Burnaby's Box/Bags program has also become the model for member municipalities in the region. The blue and yellow bags are designed to separate different materials for processing. Cardboard can be placed in or beside the yellow bag for collection.

CONCLUSION

The City collects yard waste, recyclables and garbage from 34,000 single/two family homes every week. The repetitive lifting of oversized and overweight containers and bags is a major cause of worker injuries.

Experience has shown that reducing the weight and size of the containers and bags can help save back and other injuries. The City has adopted this simple idea of "Lighten Up" and believes that the program will offer long term benefit and cost savings to the City and residents. The new program is not intended to prohibit wheeled containers. For residents who prefer the standard size containers on wheels, they are available locally and at the City Recycling Depot.



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