

# COMMUNIQUÉ

## FINANCING CURBSIDE RECYCLING INDUSTRY TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY

**MONTREAL, JUNE 22, 2004** - *Éco Entreprises Québec* supports the Minister of Environment, Mr. Thomas J. Mulcair for implementing a program to compensate the municipalities for the services provided by the municipalities to ensure that the materials designated by the Government are recovered and reclaimed.

As in Ontario, target companies will assume 50% of the net cost for municipal curbside recycling programs in each of the three categories of designated material "containers and packaging," "printed material" and "printed media." As recalled, Bill 102 was adopted unanimously on December 12, 2002, and establishes that the percentage of the total net cost subject to compensation cannot exceed 50%.

On behalf of the organization, the Chair, Mr. Alain Brisebois, forwarded comments and suggestions to the Ministry of Environment aimed at improving the draft regulation pre-published last March 24. As the future Industry Funding Organization, *Éco Entreprises Québec* wishes above all else, that the system of compensation for municipal services be simple, functional, efficient and transparent, permitting minimal implementation cost.

As its mission, *ÉEQ* will notably represent the target companies in terms of negotiation with the municipal associations to identify the net cost for curbside recycling and the criteria for the transfer of funds to the municipalities. The organization will need to develop the consultation process for target companies, adopt a fee schedule along with the exemptions and have them approved by the government. Finally, *ÉEQ* will collect the amounts from the target companies and turn it over in trust to *Recyc-Québec*. Mr. Brisebois used this opportunity to reiterate the industry's position regarding the financing of curbside recycling. *"We support the principle of shared responsibility between the municipalities and the industry established by Bill 102."*

Comments by *Éco Entreprises Québec* are available (in French) on the *Collecte sélective Québec* website which assumes its secretariat on a temporary basis. Grouping the companies who put on the Québec market the vast majority of containers and packaging and close to a third of printed material, *Éco Entreprises Québec* was incorporated in April 2003 and will request certification in due course. *"Therefore, the industry is prepared to assume its responsibilities,"* concluded Mr. Brisebois.

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