

Public Consultation on Industry Funding of Ontario Municipal Blue Box Programs Coming to Kingston, Toronto, London and Sudbury in March

February 12, 2004 // Waste Diversion Ontario and Stewardship Ontario, in collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, are pleased to announce the hosting of a series of public consultation workshops on industry funding of Ontario's municipal Blue Box recycling programs. Workshops are planned for Kingston, Toronto, London and Sudbury during the week of March 8, *with the workshop in London to be webcast and archived* on the Stewardship Ontario website for those unable to attend a workshop. Discussion papers will also be posted on the website for discussion at the workshops and written comment following.

New provincial regulations require printed paper and packaging stewards to fund a 50% share of the net cost of operating residential recycling programs. The objective of the workshops is to present and discuss with the general public, environmental and consumer non-government organizations, municipal officials and affected stakeholders, a recent request from the Ontario Minister of the Environment for new measures and enhancements to the newly approved Blue Box Program Plan. Workshop dates, times and locations are:

Monday, March 8 – Kingston

Kingston City Hall – Memorial Hall
216 Ontario Street
Kingston, Ontario K7L 2Z3
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Tuesday, March 9 – Toronto

Toronto City Hall – Committee Room II
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Thursday, March 11 – London

London Convention Centre – Boardroom II
300 York Street
London, Ontario N6B 1P8
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Friday, March 12 – Sudbury

Sudbury City Hall – Committee Room C11
200 Brady Street
Sudbury, Ontario P3A 5P3
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Discussion papers on key issues to be presented at the workshops will be available for review on March 1 at Waste Diversion Ontario and Stewardship Ontario websites – key issues include:

- **Targets and municipal benchmarks** for Blue Box materials;
- **Cost containment** principles, policies and practices, and policies and practices to encourage **effectiveness and efficiency** of blue box programs;
- Impacts of the Blue Box Program Plan on **small business** and incentives for this sector to increase diversion of Blue Box wastes.

Workshops will provide opportunities for questions, comments and discussions. Interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend the workshops to comment in person, and/or listen to the archived webcast and comment in writing. A summary of input received will be presented to the Board of Directors of Waste Diversion Ontario.

For more information, please visit www.wdo.ca or www.stewardshipontario.ca, e-mail wdo@wdo.ca or info@stewardshipontario.ca, or call Anne Mathewson (WDO) at 416-226-5113 or Donald Wiedman (Stewardship Ontario) at 416-466-3627.