

**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023**

SUBJECT **Household Hazardous Waste Pickup in Electoral Areas**

ISSUE SUMMARY

At the June 14, 2023 Capital Regional District (CRD) Board meeting, staff were asked to investigate the cost and feasibility of Hartland funding a one-time household hazardous waste (HHW) pickup on the four islands in the Southern Gulf Islands, Juan de Fuca and also on Salt Spring Island.

BACKGROUND

In 2004, the CRD launched a HHW collection program at the Hartland Depot to support residents of the region with safe end-of-life management of their unwanted and expired HHW products. This no-charge program includes both products covered under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) through the *BC Recycling Regulation*, such as paint and motor oil, as well as non-EPR products (orphans) like propane tanks and pool chemicals.

Subsequently, the HHW collection area at the Hartland Depot was retrofitted in 2009 to support this growing service, with a focus on safety for the public, staff and contractors and improvements for receipt, sorting, storage and subsequent transport of material. The ability to receive and manage orphan materials at the Hartland Depot is a unique service our region provides to residents and is heavily reliant on the infrastructure investment, staffing and contractor services to support this operation. The cost for delivery of this service is approximately \$800,000 per year (2023 numbers) net of revenue from the services agreements for products covered under EPR. A complete list of HHW items currently accepted at the Hartland Depot is included as Appendix A.

In addition to the Hartland Depot program, and in support of a proactive strategy to remove additional residual HHW products from the waste stream, the CRD had also facilitated and funded collection of HHW from municipal yards, non-profit reuse organizations and gulf island recycling depots. Between 2006 and 2015, the CRD provided 26 mobile round-up events in Electoral Area communities. These ancillary collection programs were discontinued in 2016. This decision was made due to a number of factors, including: concerns around safety at these collection sites; decreasing volumes collected; a decision to focus resources towards the collection infrastructure available for residents region-wide at the Hartland Depot; and expansion of provincial EPR programs providing collection for many HHW products in Electoral Area communities, making the mobile round-up events somewhat redundant.

Education materials were developed and distributed in 2016 to communities impacted by the discontinuation of the biennial mobile HHW round-up events on the Gulf Islands. Residents were encouraged to take a “pack-in, pack-out” approach to managing their unwanted HHW products, as most of these items would have been purchased from off-island locations. This communication also included information about allowances and restrictions for both regular and dangerous goods sailings on the BC Ferries.

The range of products included in provincial EPR programs, and the associated collection of these materials within Electoral Areas, has expanded over the years, as well as the number of collection points throughout the province and in our region. A list of locations within Electoral Area

communities that accept this material on an ongoing basis can be found in Appendix B. Through expansion of the *BC Recycling Regulation*, it is expected that by 2025, collection programs will be operational in the province for orphan items such as compressed canisters (fuel, adhesives, bear spray) propane tanks, fire extinguishers and more aerosols, battery types and electronic accessories, providing additional return opportunities for consumers.

Reinstatement of mobile HHW collection service within the Electoral Area communities would involve the following key items:

- securing locations and dates for events
- hiring a contractor to manage the events including all aspects of collection, packaging, transportation and processing as well as site safety
- advertising and promotion

Preliminary estimates provided by a qualified third party to conduct mobile collection events in these communities range from \$20,000 to \$50,000 per community, depending on volume and type of products received, as well travel logistics and subsequent transport of material to sorting and processing facilities. The Environmental Resource Management (ERM) budget for the HHW service is limited to the Hartland Depot operation and community education; costs for mobile collection events are not currently included in the ERM budget. The total cost to provide one-time HHW events in the six Electoral Area communities is estimated to be \$200,000.

CONCLUSION

The acceptance of both provincially-regulated (Extended Producer Responsibility) and non-regulated household hazardous waste at the Hartland Depot offers residents a one-stop drop for their unwanted products, and provides for safe and efficient collection, consolidation and packaging for transportation to processing. Cost for delivery of the service is approximately \$800,000 per year. Off-site Capital Regional District collection programs were conducted between 2006 and 2015, but discontinued due to concerns around site safety, reducing volumes and a renewed focus on the centralized collection infrastructure at the Hartland Depot. Through expansion of the *BC Recycling Regulation*, it is expected that by 2025, collection programs will be operational for items such as compressed canisters (fuel, adhesives, bear spray) propane tanks, fire extinguishers and more aerosols, battery types and electronic accessories.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Hartland Depot – Accepted Household Hazardous Waste Products
Appendix B: Household Hazardous Waste Collection Locations within Electoral Areas
Appendix C: BC Ferries – Dangerous Goods Information