

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022**

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**SUBJECT**     **Disposal of International Cruise Ship Waste at Hartland Landfill**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To provide the Environmental Services Committee (ESC) with information regarding the disposal of international cruise ship waste at Hartland Landfill.

**BACKGROUND**

At its April 20, 2022 meeting, the ESC, while considering the 2021 Solid Waste Annual Report, discussed the matter of the disposal of international cruise ship waste at Hartland Landfill and directed staff to provide information with respect to the quantity of cruise ship waste being received at Hartland.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no cruise ships called into the port of Victoria in 2020 and 2021, so no cruise ship waste was received in those two years. In 2019, Hartland Landfill received approximately 2,100 tonnes of cruise ship waste, representing about 1.3% of all solid waste landfilled for that year. Between 2016 and 2018, cruise ship waste represented less than one half of 1% of all solid waste landfilled annually. In 2022, a total of 10 loads of cruise ship waste, totaling 20 tonnes, have been received at Hartland up to the end of April.

In Canada, solid waste from cruise ships is managed according to the International Waste Directive under the authority of the Canada Border Services Agency and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Solid waste is designated as either high risk or low risk, and is managed according to that designation. High-risk waste must be treated as controlled waste and requires immediate deep burial in trenches at Hartland Landfill. Low-risk waste can be managed as general refuse and disposed of along with other regular garbage being received at the landfill. Of the 2,100 tonnes of cruise ship waste received at Hartland in 2019, approximately 1,500 tonnes, or 71%, was classified as low risk and about 600 tonnes, or 29%, was classified as high risk. All ten loads of cruise ship waste received so far in 2022 have been classified as high risk.

The International Waste Directive does not require cruise ships to offload their waste upon docking at the first or any port of call in Canada, and the decision whether to offload is at the discretion of the ship. However, given the limited storage space on cruise ships, regular offloading of waste is a logistical necessity, including in Victoria. This is particularly true when considering that Victoria is often the only Canadian port of call for Alaska cruises.

The company contracted to receive and manage waste from cruise ships docking in Victoria is Tymac Launch Service Limited. Tymac maintains a comprehensive set of waste handling guidelines for cruise ship staff to use to manage waste when they are in the port of Victoria. These guidelines include procedures for diverting recyclable materials, managing hazardous waste and segregating banned items. Tymac prepared a Cruise Ship Waste Overview presentation for the May 6 Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting (see Appendix A).

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Financial Implications*

At Hartland Landfill, international waste is currently charged at the controlled waste fee of \$157 per tonne, not the general refuse fee of \$110 per tonne.

**CONCLUSION**

At its meeting of April 20, 2022, the Environmental Services Committee directed staff to provide information with respect to the quantity of cruise ship waste being received at Hartland Landfill. Cruise ship waste typically represents less than 1% of all solid waste annually landfilled in the region. The firm managing cruise ship waste reports that approximately 85% of all cruise ship waste being received in Victoria is recycled, with only residuals being sent to the landfill. Offloading of waste is typically a logistical necessity for most cruise ships, particularly when Victoria is the only Canadian port of call for Alaska cruises.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

Submitted by:	Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management
Concurrence:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., RP.Bio., Acting GM, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: Tymac Presentation to CRD Solid Waste Advisory Committee: Cruise Ship Waste Overview (May 6, 2022)