

# ISSUE IN FOCUS



*Celebrating 100 Years*

SASKATCHEWAN  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

## Saskatchewan Solid Waste Management Strategy

### Background:

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce submitted comments on the Saskatchewan Solid Waste Management Strategy discussion paper that was released in March 2017.

Upon reviewing the discussion paper, it is evident that it was intended to be a high-level and open-ended overview of the issue, as well as an opportunity for the Ministry of Environment to re-engage with key stakeholders given the changes made to the landfills and transfer station sections contained in the environmental code.

### Issue:

The Chamber recognizes the need for the Government of Saskatchewan to take the necessary steps to improve upon the province's current solid waste management practices. To this extent, the Chamber is supportive of these efforts. At the chamber level, we encourage our members to reduce the amount of waste they generate and to reuse raw materials whenever possible. This makes sense both from an economical and environmental standpoint.

Given the fact that Saskatchewan has more landfills per capita than any other province and has both the second highest waste disposal rate and the lowest rate of waste diversion nationally, there is considerable room for streamlining the solid waste management system throughout the province.

### Recommendations:

1. The Chamber tentatively supports the idea of municipalities forming regional landfill and waste management systems to reduce duplication and to achieve economies of scale. However, the Chamber is of the view that while there may be certain advantages to the regionalization of waste management, it is equally important that the Ministry of Environment not dictate this and let

municipalities form such arrangements on a voluntary basis.

2. The Chamber is encouraged by the Ministry of Environment being open to the idea of municipalities being able to outsource their waste management activities to private companies as an alternative arrangement when appropriate.
3. The Chamber agrees with the Discussion Paper's focus on creating a public awareness strategy that brings attention to improper waste disposal methods as a good first step toward ensuring both consumers and businesses fully understand their role in the waste management system. Also noteworthy is the declaration that the province should lead by example by reducing solid waste in its own business operations, as well as implementing best practices to set the standard moving forward.

## **History:**

Letter to Ministry of Environment 2017