



MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

DEC 10 2008

Mr. Stephen Walker, President
Board of Directors
Resource Conservation Manitoba
3rd Floor, 303 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3B 2B4

Dear Mr. Walker:

Thank you for your letter of October 23, 2008 providing Resource Conservation Manitoba's (RCM) recommendations to advance Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Government shares RCM's interest in reducing waste and diverting it from landfill. We have also heard from Manitoba municipalities, which have expressed their desire for improvements to current programs and for new EPR programs to address household hazardous and electronic waste.

As you may know, the Province committed in the Throne Speech to improving Manitoba's recycling programs, reducing the amount of paper and packaging going into landfills and setting aggressive targets for the re-use of plastic bags. We intend to move forward with the new program to manage packaging waste. This will include a new regulation and guidelines for the operation of the program.

We appreciate RCM's comments on the proposed EPR regulations and guidelines and have reviewed and incorporated them where possible into our draft regulations. As I am sure you can appreciate, the department receives many submissions from a wide range of sources and it is not always possible to reflect all suggestions. On the issue of fees, however, I have indicated to the Industry Working Group on Packaging and Printed Paper that I will not approve any business plan with visible fees. We are also monitoring programs in other provinces to see how the issue of visible fees is being handled.

RCM's participation in Manitoba Conservation's regulatory review processes is important and I will ensure that you are invited to play a key role as the planning process for the new packaging program unfolds.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stan Struthers".

Stan Struthers
Minister

c.c. Premier Gary Doer