



**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

July 26, 2012

During a recent meeting of the Western Regional Waste Management Committee on June 28, 2012, the Committee passed a motion to recommend that Western Newfoundland waste would in future be taken to Central Newfoundland at Norris Arm without the stipulation that government provide a transportation solution.

More than a year ago, the Committee came to a consensus that a separate Waste Management Facility (composed of a materials recovery facility; engineered lined landfill; and modern composting facility) was not required in the Western Region and that waste from Western would instead be transported to the Central regional facility at Norris Arm. At the time, the consensus was contingent upon government providing a transportation solution to help minimize waste management costs to residents. While the Committee still wants government to consider that option, they are no longer holding this as a condition. This decision reflects analysis completed that shows the Norris Arm option as the least cost option for the Western Region.

The Committee decided that they would drop the request for a transportation subsidy to focus on regional initiatives for waste management in the Western Region. The Committee has informed government that they needed to move forward with a waste management plan that considers waste diversion infrastructure within the region where there is a business case that supports it. One example considered is to reduce the wet waste stream by local composting operations rather than transporting organic waste to a composting facility at Norris Arm. The Committee felt the wet waste stream could be significantly reduced by focusing on more local initiatives that could entail encouraging more household composting. They also felt efforts should be made to explore more community and sub-regional composting. The particular technology used could be determined with consultants' help and government financial assistance would be sought to secure the technology.

With respect to recyclable dry waste, the Committee felt that the Western Region should explore means whereby the waste stream of this material could be reduced substantially as well. This could involve encouraging private enterprise to assist with developing means whereby material would be removed from the waste stream, recycled and sold rather than transporting it to Central. One alternate possibility might be, if the business case supports this, to install local technology to remove recyclable material at strategic locations in the Western Region, with government capital financial assistance, and to recycle and sell this material.

While the Committee acknowledges that waste destined for final disposal at a landfill should definitely go to the lined landfill at Norris Arm, if there are lower costs options for local waste diversion, these should be implemented.