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## Newsletter for Western Regional Waste Management

September 2014

Much has happened with Western Regional Waste Management (WRWM) during the past few months. The operational responsibility of the Wild Cove and St. George's waste sites has taken place since January 2014 and is going quite well. Long term plans for implementation of the solid waste strategy are also continuing and on schedule.

### **Survey of Communities on Solid Waste Management**

A one-page waste collections survey (attached) was emailed out on September 4, 2014 to all communities in the Western Region accessible by email. We are seeking information on the details of each community's curbside collection program and we also wished to inform areas that WRWM suggests that communities attempt continued month to month agreements or sign short-term contracts. If this is not an option, then we recommend including provisions to allow transfer of the contracts to other bodies such as WRWM when we have reached that stage in development.

Unfortunately, WRWM has received back very few of the information-gathering surveys. Areas and communities are strongly encouraged to return the completed surveys to assist in the future planning of curbside collection services in the Western Region.

### **Wild Cove & St. George's**

The Wild Cove and St. George's waste sites are being operated via contracts by WRWM as of January 1, 2014. With regards to the Wild Cove site, WRWM accepted the operations contract with Edward Collins Contracting and introduced a new RFID card system on May 5 that enables all waste to be weighed and recorded. The same RFID card system was also introduced at the St. George's site on August 5 and WRWM recently tendered and signed a new waste management contract for operations of this site.

### **Closure of Remaining Waste Sites**

Mclvers community waste site, shared by the communities of Mclvers and Cox's Cove, was closed during the spring. This was the last smaller waste site to be operationally closed in the Western Region with the two communities now hauling waste to Wild Cove. While operational closure of this waste site has occurred, full decommissioning of the site is expected to occur by spring/summer 2015. The Guidance Document produced by the Department of Environment and Conservation, *Guidelines for Closure of Non-Containment Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Sites*, governs all actions on this and all such sites. Also, Environmental Protection Officers at Service NL, Sir Richard Squires Building, Corner Brook, A2H 6J8, can assist municipalities in this endeavour. Any future site closures will be of the current sub-regional consolidated waste sites once they are replaced by modern waste management transfer stations and the solid waste management strategy is implemented.

### **Provincial Organics Report**

The *Study of Options for Organic Waste Processing in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador (Revised Final Report)* produced by Dillon Consulting has now been released by government and it appears on the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs (MIGA) web site. This report will also be placed on the WRWM web site. A meeting of representatives from government and the various regional service boards in the province will take place during October to look at different composting options and to discuss the Dillon report. We are quite interested to determine what recommendations and funds will be provided by the provincial government to deal with the organics/composting issue in the Western Region.

### **Burgeo/Grey River Pilot Project**

This project is ongoing while waste is being brought from Grey River to the Burgeo waste site with apparently few complaints. The Grey River incinerator has been closed but the Francois and Ramea incinerators continue to operate for the short term.

### **Decommissioning/Environmental Closures**

Two packages of decommissioning/environmental closures will take place this summer and fall. Contracts have been awarded for closure at Rose Blanche, Bay St. George South, South Branch and Codroy. Next will come four sites in the Bay St. George area: Stephenville, Gallants, Lourdes and Fox Island River (Cooks Harbour, in the NorPen region is also included) will be included with this package. Trout River, Howley, Rocky Harbour/Norris Point and McIvers will come next spring/summer. The Jackson's Arm and Hampden sites, have already been decommissioned and the locations now look remarkable.

### **Solid Waste Management Strategy Implementation at Western**

Implementation of the provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy is proceeding on schedule provincially and in Western is scheduled for completion in 2016. WRWM is evaluating all waste streams to determine what material, i.e. recyclables, can be more economically processed within the western region rather than being transported to Norris Arm. Our prime consultant/owner's engineer, CBCL Limited, is working closely with WRWM in finalizing the long-term plan for Western Newfoundland during the next few months. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Request for Proposals (RFP) documents currently being finalized to engage the design-build company will be made public by early winter of 2015 and we expect to have the selection of the design-builder made before late winter. This means we expect to see construction of the transfer stations begin as early as spring of the 2015 construction season.