

June 3, 2021

## Media Release

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) would like to commend the Province of Ontario for taking a giant step forward in improving waste diversion and protecting the environment.

Today, Ontario's Environment Minister Jeff Yurek formally announced the final regulation to transition the Blue Box program from municipalities to producers. When fully implemented, this regulation will go a long way in addressing litter in our communities, reducing single-use plastics making their way into watercourses and expanding the Blue Box program into new communities in Northern Ontario.

“This regulation has been looked at by three consecutive governments. I would like to recognize Premier Ford and Minister Yurek for having the courage to introduce this regulation, which will not only benefit our environment but will remove the cost of the Blue Box program from property taxes,” stated FONOM President Danny Whalen

FONOM has been actively working for nearly a decade with AMO, M3RC, OWMA, and municipal staff from across the province on the framework for this regulation. Additionally, FONOM's membership has been instrumental in ensuring that all Northern and Rural Ontario (excluding those in the far north) is included in the transition.

"I would like to applaud the team that AMO assembled from across the province," stated President Whalen. "Staff from the City of Toronto and other regions within southern Ontario were instrumental in ensuring Northern Ontario is included in the regulation."

The FONOM Board would like to thank AMO's Board and Staff for the advocacy on this file on behalf of our members. Monika Turner, Dave Gordon, and Amber Crawford have worked tirelessly on this issue with Stewards and the Government, along with FONOM's own Councillor Mac Bain.

Some of the highlights of the Regulation are:

- Staggered transition from municipalities from 2023 to 2025
- Expanding collection to all communities outside the Far North by 2026;
- Standardizes what can be recycled across Ontario;
- Includes municipalities under 5,000 population
- Accepting common single-use and packaging-like products such as paper and plastic cups, foils, trays, bags, and boxes sold for home use;
- Collecting single-use items that are distributed or sold to consume food and beverage products, like stir sticks, straws, cutlery, and plates;

- Expanding services to more facilities such as apartment buildings, municipally run or non-profit long-term care homes and retirement homes, and schools;
- Expanding collection to more parks, playgrounds, and transit stations, more than tripling the number of public space recycling bins funded under the current program so there are more opportunities to recycle at home and on the go.
- Ensures existing deposit return programs such as The Beer Store will continue.

FONOM is an association of some 110 districts/municipalities/cities/towns in northeastern Ontario mandated to work for the betterment of municipal government in Northern Ontario and to strive for improved legislation respecting local government in the north. It is a membership-based association that draws its members from northeastern Ontario and is governed by an 11-member board.

Sincerely



President Danny Whalen  
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