



*Recycling Council
of Alberta*

January 19, 2006

Hon. Guy Boutilier
Minister of Alberta Environment
423 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Boutilier:

Alberta has been a leader in developing world-class stewardship programs to target and divert some key problem waste materials including beverage containers, used oil materials, scrap tires and e-waste. While these programs have been successful in diverting specific waste materials, the Recycling Council of Alberta believes that there is a need to look at expanding stewardship into additional areas of concern, including fast food packaging.

Where business benefits from the manufacture of products or materials that place an undo burden on the environment and public waste management systems, it is in the public interest to ensure that these producers contribute to the responsible management of their products. Fast food companies fall into this category, as their packaging appears throughout the province, both in the form of litter, and as a contributor to the municipal waste stream. To date, fast food packaging has not been captured under existing waste stewardship programs, and it is the Recycling Council of Alberta's opinion that this situation needs to be addressed.

A number of potential solutions exist that could address the issue of fast food packaging waste. Specific areas that we would like to see explored include the following:

- Increasing requirements for stewardship of overall fast food packaging waste.
- Developing standards for recyclability or compostability of packaging to provide additional management options for this material.
- Adding fast food beverage containers, such as coffee and soft drink cups, as a designated material under existing beverage container regulations.

The RCA feels it is time to address the impacts of fast food packaging waste in Alberta, and would be pleased to work with Alberta Environment to develop a plan in this regard.

Yours truly,

Guy West
President