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625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

## Media Release

For Immediate Release

March 11, 2015

### CRD Board Votes to Subsidize Funding for Electoral Area Recycling Depots

**Victoria, BC-** The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board voted today to cover the Multi Material BC (MMBC) funding shortfall for depot collection of packaging and printed paper (PPP) in the region's Electoral Areas until April 30, 2019, and endorsed the Board Chair sending a letter to the BC Ministry of Environment requesting full compliance by MMBC with the BC Recycling Regulation to ensure reasonable access for the collection of residential PPP in British Columbia. "Supporting communities across the region and helping them meet their recycling needs is something this Board sees as a priority," said CRD Board Chair Nils Jensen.

In 2011, the Ministry of Environment amended the BC Recycling Regulation to shift the responsibility for collecting and recycling residential packaging and printed paper (PPP) from local governments to producers, effective May 19, 2014. Producers subsequently formed a not for profit stewardship agency called MMBC.

In July 2014, the CRD Board approved contracts with MMBC and Emterra to provide curbside collection of residential PPP from May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2019. The CRD currently contracts with MMBC to provide residential PPP depot collection services at Hartland, Port Renfrew transfer station, the Gulf Islands and the Oak Bay public works yard. Funding being offered by MMBC for PPP collection beyond April 2015 at the region's depots only covers an estimated 12% of the cost of providing the services. The total funding shortfall for the electoral areas that will be paid by the CRD is projected to be approximately \$450,000 annually.

"We are very pleased with this decision that will positively impact the lives of residents serviced by recycling depots on our islands," said Director David Howe from the Southern Gulf Islands. "This sends the right message to our constituents that we want to continue to support them in their recycling and waste diversion efforts," added Director Wayne McIntyre from Salt Spring Island.

In 1989, the CRD started its residential recycling program with blue box curbside collection in urban areas, drop boxes in rural areas, and totes at multi-family buildings. The Board adopted the policy of providing equivalent level of recycling service throughout the region. Over time, the curbside program expanded almost region-wide, with rural areas being serviced by depots. "This decision reinforces the

CRD's commitment to providing equity in recycling services between urban areas and electoral areas," adds Director Mike Hicks from the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

On Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands, the CRD provides depot collection services through contracts with local recycling or community services societies. In the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, residents receive curbside service, except in Port Renfrew, where the CRD owns and operates a transfer station/depot to collect refuse and recyclables.

*The CRD is a local government that delivers 200+ regional, sub-regional and local services for residents of the region which includes 13 municipalities and three electoral areas within 2370 square kilometres on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Governed by a 24 member Board of Directors, the CRD is working to serve the public, and build a vibrant, livable and sustainable region.*

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