

**District of Barriere**  
**REPORT TO COUNCIL**

<b>Date:</b> February 12, 2024	<b>File:</b> 530.20/Rpts
<b>To:</b> Council	<b>From:</b> T. Buchanan, Acting CAO
<b>Re: TNRD Solid Waste &amp; Recycling Collection Changes &amp; Proposed Equipment Purchase</b>	

**Background:** As Council is aware, the TNRD has initiated their ‘Mandatory Recyclables’ bylaw. Unfortunately, until recently, it had been misunderstood that the banned materials doesn’t just include corrugated cardboard and the two currently collected curbside streams of paper/printed packaging and containers as initially believed. It *also* includes other Recycle BC eligible materials such as glass, Styrofoam and flexible plastics. These are materials the District is not able to collect, nor are permitted by Recycle BC to collect under its contract. Until the adoption of TNRD’s Mandatory Recyclables Bylaw No. 2743, the options for Barriere residents to dispose of these items, were to personally bring them up to the Louis Creek Eco-Depot, or dispose of them in the residential garbage that is placed curbside for municipal collection.

As Barriere’s recycling collection contractor for Recycle BC, the District is compensated approximately \$39,000 per year. Upon the District’s onboarding as this contractor, Council resolved to save and utilize these funds to support its current and future curbside collection service needs as they arise. Currently, after some additional tote inventory was purchased last year, the District has roughly \$103,200 in the Solid Waste Budget that came from Recycle BC compensation.

A good portion of the first payment from Recycle BC in 2020 was used to purchase and distribute introductory, clear totes for all curbside residents to utilize. This came with the option for residents to purchase additional and/or replacement totes from the District at cost (\$17/each) or procure a substitute on their own such as they do with their garbage can which is not provided by the District. Residents are also permitted to use other containers of a similar size as long as they are either clear, or contain a clear bag liner that our collector can see through to ensure material compliance. This un-tied liner is then placed back in the resident’s substitute container to be re-used as Recycle BC does not permit their contractors to collect recyclables from single use bags.

Traditional blue bin recycling totes of a similar size, are significantly more expensive. In order to commit to providing residents with recycling totes at no-charge, and to provide traditional blue totes, it would come at a cost of approximately \$40,000-45,000 for the totes themselves, plus shipping, and plus distribution. Residents would need to purchase clear bag liners to use with these totes. A second round of no-charge tote distribution could also set a precedence that the District is responsible for providing recycling receptacles. Therefore, in the discussion regarding the possible expansion of collection to include glass, Styrofoam and flexible plastics, consideration for the purchase of additional totes to accommodate these materials would also need to be factored.

However, while options continue to be actively discussed with both the TNRD and with Recycle BC, staff are proposing a possible solution that could not only address this new challenge on how to comply with both TNRD Bylaw No. 2743, and with our Recycle BC contract, but also streamline some operational matters that arise from time to time in a more cost-effective manner.

**Discussion:** First, below are some of the questions and answers that staff have been working through with the TNRD's Environmental Services Dept. as well as with Recycle BC:

Q: "Can the District collect glass, Styrofoam and flexible plastics curbside from their residents along with the other two streams currently collected?"

A: "No. Under the District's Recycle BC Contract, only the two streams may be collected curbside as Recycle BC's contracted hauler."

Q: "How are residents supposed to dispose of these items if they can't put them in their household garbage that is collected curbside?"

A: "They must bring the material to an approved Recycle BC collection facility (the Louis Creek Eco-Depot or another approved pop-up site) themselves."

Q: "If a resident does not drive or have the means to bring the material to an approved site themselves, can they hire someone to bring the material up for them?"

A: "No. Material not brought up by the resident themselves, is considered ICI material and not eligible for collection at the facility under Recycle BC."

Q: "Is there any way for someone to bring the material up to the Eco-Depot for residents who need the service, even if it is ICI?"

A: "ICI material is accepted by the TNRD outside of the Recycle BC program. However, ICI material is subject to disposal fees whereas eligible Recycle BC material is not. Therefore, there would be a tipping fee cost in addition to the cost of curbside collection. However, this is a service the District could consider providing, or residents could hire a private contractor/entrepreneur with a truck to provide this service.

Q: "If the District were to consider providing this curbside service (collection of these materials as ICI), outside of the Recycle BC contract, how would that work?"

A: "The District would need to collect the material with another vehicle that could accommodate the isolation of glass from the other two material streams. This could be accomplished by utilizing the current dual bin collection truck when it is replaced in October. Alternatively, the staff are proposing the purchase of a dump box with a roller tarp that could be affixed to a standard pick-up truck bed. However, this arrangement would not fall under the District's current Recycle BC contract and would be a separate ICI collection service that would be brought to the TNRD Eco-Depot under their ICI acceptance program. This program charges tipping fees by weight in an amount similar to the residential garbage fee structure.

Q: "What about the collection schedule and what would it cost residents?"

A: "Those details are not yet determined as staff are in the initial feasibility research of this as a potential solution but also are still in consultation with both the TNRD and Recycle BC on other potential options.

#### Proposed Vehicle & Dump Box Purchase:

The District owns a 2009 F350 pick-up truck that is used from time to time by the Utilities Department to respond to emergency call-outs. A new engine was recently installed in this truck, as were new tires, thus increasing its life expectancy. The minimal use of this truck since the upgrades were completed could be better utilized in other departments.

The District also owns a 1997 F-350 (old red) that was converted from its previous life as a garbage truck, to a dump truck. This truck, while useful, is not capable of highway speeds and its longevity is limited.

The 2008 F-550 dual-bin garbage truck is scheduled to be replaced in October of this year; however, it is prone to breaking down and is out of service with it being down at least one to two times per month lately. When this happens, single bin garbage truck collects the route's household garbage and then goes around a second time to collect the curbside recycling. This has a significant impact on staff time and confusion for our residents.

Staff are proposing that the 2009 F350 mentioned above, be converted to provide a means of collecting recycling simultaneously as garbage is picked up in these instances, since the District has staffing levels capable of assisting in the event the truck is out of service. By collecting garbage and recycling at the same time vs having to complete each route twice, it would cut down on over-time and complete the garbage route in a timely fashion, preventing any delays in service. The truck has an 8-ft bed and can haul heavier loads than it does presently and with the addition of a dump box and roller tarp the F-350 service truck would provide another dependable collection truck with the potential to expand the recycling program as previously mentioned in this report. It can also be utilized in all other departments creating the ability to complete other public works tasks, transporting materials as required and hauling away branches with the spring cleanup etc. when its not being used in the Solid Waste department.

*Example of the dump box (\*roller tarp not shown):*



Should the 2009 F350 be converted for the Solid Waste department as described, the Utility Department will still require a vehicle to respond to emergency situations and for day to day utility tasks. A smaller half-ton pick-up truck would be better suited for staff to drive daily and could haul equipment and tools necessary for them to perform their tasks and respond to emergencies. At this time, utility staff are using their personal vehicles to conduct day to day District business and as such the District paid out \$9288.00 in mileage allowance in 2023. The cost to operate a District owned vehicle is anticipated to be less than this amount, including insurance and fuel in addition to reducing wear and tear on staff's personal vehicles.

**Recommendations: That a dump box with roller tarp be purchased for the 2009 F-350 service truck at a cost not to exceed \$12,000; and THAT Council approve the purchase of a used half ton pick-up truck and accessories for less than \$24,000 with funding for both purchases to come from the Solid Waste budget.**

Prepared by: T. Buchanan, Acting CAO