

# MUNICIPAL PERSPECTIVE ON MANAGING TOXINS IN ONTARIO



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# WHO WE ARE



- ❑ The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is a non-profit organization representing 400 municipalities.
- ❑ Provides a variety of services and products to members and non-members.
- ❑ The governing body of the Association is the Board of Directors, elected at the Association's Annual Meeting.

# WHAT WE DO



- ❑ AMO develops policy positions and reports on a wide range of issues of general interest to municipal governments, such as governance, financial structure, environment, labour, planning, emergency services and human services;
- ❑ Conducts ongoing liaison with provincial government, elected and non-elected representatives;
- ❑ Provides education and training to municipal elected officials;
- ❑ MOU Process – principle of consultation between Province and AMO, whenever Province proposes statutory or regulatory changes having significant impact on municipal budgets;

- ❑ Collects, manages and communicates information to members;
- ❑ Informs and educates governments, the media and the public on municipal issues;
- ❑ Markets innovative and beneficial services to the municipal sector;
- ❑ Maintains a resource centre on issues of municipal interest.

# AMO'S INITIATIVES



## **AMO Report on the Non-Essential Use of Pesticides**

- In response to urban municipal requests to provide a common approach and recommendations to the non-essential use of pesticides on lawns and gardens.
- Intent was to provide assistance on the legislative/regulatory regime of pesticide use, to pass on information to inform Councils with the local discussions on pesticide use.
- It did not advocate a particular approach, each community was to decide on the best approach for that community's needs.
- AMO provided options and reflections that could be used as a guide in the debate and decision making.

## Activity at the Municipal Level



- There is a lack of consistency and uniformity of addressing this issue across the province.
- Some municipalities passed by-laws to limit the use of non-essential pesticides on municipal and private properties, allowing for some exemptions. (i.e. no use of pesticides in July and August, or exempting certain uses such as golf courses).
- Others have banned use of pesticides on municipal properties only (boulevards, parks).
- Many are currently considering their options.
- Some provide education only.
- Many have not yet considered the matter.

## How can senior levels of government help?

- ❑ Province needs to provide clear, consistent direction to address this issue – this is a matter of provincial interest in terms of public health and environment.

- Regulate product labeling to ensure informed purchase and use.
  
- Province establish standards for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in regulations under the *Pesticides Act* and provide that IPM certification be required for landscape service providers.
  
- That Federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) proceed expeditiously in re-evaluating and re-registering remaining pesticides to determine that products are acceptable in terms of safety, merit and value.



## **Province and the federal Government need to expedite and expand the programs underway to:**

- Increase public access to reduced risk pesticides
- Restrict public access to high risk pesticides
- Improve access to information about the safe use of pesticides
- Regulate the sale of pesticides at licensed vendor outlets with certified and trained persons

# BIOSOLIDS

## Legislative/Regulatory requirements under which municipalities operate:

- Environmental Protection Act/Reg. 347*
- Ontario Water Resources Act*
- Nutrient Management Act/Regulations*
- MOE System Certificate of Approval
- MOE Site Certificate of Approval (fields)
- Pre-Approval Site Inspection

# Municipal Due Diligence

- Sewer Use By-law
- Regular Biosolids Sampling and Analyses
- Soil Sampling and Analyses
- Daily Land Application Site Inspections
- Post Application Site Inspections/Reports
- Yearly Summary Program Reports to MOE

## **Additionally, municipalities undertake the following In-Field Precautionary Measures:**

- Pre-application soil sampling and analysis
- Set-back distances to wells, watercourses, slopes, houses
- Use of pre-tillage of spreading boundaries
- Project signage at every site
- No applications in wet weather conditions
- Regular daily inspections of field activities
- Minimum soil depth requirements
- Immediate response to concerns

## Municipal Sewer Use By-law

- Under the *Municipal Act*, municipalities pass by-laws relevant to the collection and treatment of sewage.
- Under the same *Act*, municipalities have a right to prohibit or regulate any matter from being discharged into the sewage system.
- The municipality may also enter onto any land to inspect the discharge of any matter into the sewage system.

- *Ontario Water Resources Act*, stipulates that municipalities must not impair any stream, spring, reservoir or other water or watercourses into which they may discharge.
- Most municipal sewage plants discharging into the Great Lakes use secondary treatment (some tertiary treatment on streams).
- Most municipalities have sewer use by-laws.
- Identifying potential source of contaminant is difficult and may take considerable time, and is challenging to enforce.

## Other Issues

- No matter the system used, soluble toxics can't be captured.
- Logical approach of reduction must be at the source to prevent dilution.
- Need for sampling/monitoring at the source.
- New contaminants in the system, personal care products and pharmaceuticals.
- Need for concrete information to measure impact.
- Research of the effects of these new contaminants urgently needed.
- Enforcement under-funded.

Copy of a sample Sewer  
By-law is available.



The most critical components that need addressing are infrastructure and enforcement, both requiring a great deal of funds. Unfortunately, this is an area where Ontario municipalities are at a disadvantage.

Municipal governments in Ontario subsidize provincial programs by more than \$3 billion dollars a year.

Only province in the country where municipal property taxes used to subsidize provincial health and social services.

As a result, municipalities in Ontario have the highest property taxes in the country and a \$5 billion a year municipal infrastructure deficit.

# SOURCE WATER PROTECTION



- ❑ The Province is about to table legislation to address the protection of municipal drinking water sources (ground water and surface water).
- ❑ The intent is to prepare source water plans on a watershed basis which will deal with categories of risks, from significant risks to low or negligible risks.
- ❑ Municipalities support the Province's goal of making drinking water safer and are willing to partner with the Province to strengthen the environmental protection of water in Ontario.
- ❑ Municipalities do have many concerns with the model, not least of which is funding in relation to the implementation of the source water plans. It all goes back to the ability to provide the infrastructure (relocation, land purchases, clean up) and adequate enforcement.

# TIRES, ELECTRONICS AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES (HHW)

- ❑ *Waste Diversion Act* enacted in 2002 to “promote the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste” through programs that reduce or divert waste.
- ❑ The *Act* also created Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO), a non-Crown corporation, established to develop, implement and operate waste diversion programs for a wide range of materials.
- ❑ The Minister of the Environment has designated tires and electronics to develop their respective diversion programs.
- ❑ The Tire Plan has been developed but not yet approved.
- ❑ Municipalities wish to see it approved; have been helpful in identifying tire storage areas, and are anxious to have the program in place.

## **The Electronics Program is currently under development:**

- Municipalities are supportive of the Program's completion.
- Wish to have the product stewards responsible for complete management of their product.
- Currently, municipalities accept and manage these materials in as safe a manner as possible. (i.e. removal of mercury, leachate treatment)

- Municipalities are urging the Province to designate HHW to remove these materials from the waste stream, to ensure proper management, recycling, reuse or disposal.
- Currently managed by municipalities at disposal sites.
- Provide education on proper disposal (i.e. don't pour paint or solvent into storm sewer).
- Use of Sewer Use By-laws.