



**Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
**Supplementary Agenda**  
**October 09, 2025**

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**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - Updated Extended  
Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan for Mattresses  
Recommendation

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**ADJOURNMENT**



## **Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of Whole Supplementary**

**To:** Chair and Committee  
**From:** Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services  
**Date:** October 9, 2025  
**Subject:** **Updated Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan for Mattresses**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** **(all/directors/majority)**

That the Committee recommend that the Board support and add the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako to the signatory to the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen's letter to the Honourable Tamara Davidson, Minister of Environment and Parks regarding the need to include mattresses and foundations in the Recycling Regulation as identified in the 2021-2026 Five-Year Action Plan.

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**BACKGROUND**

On October 2, 2025 the Regional District received correspondence from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) requesting support to send a letter to the Honourable Tamara Davidson, Minister of Environment and Parks to add mattresses and foundations to the Recycling Regulations. Mattresses and foundations had been previously identified in the Ministry's document Advancing Recycling in B.C., Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan 2021-2026.

RDOS has received communication from Ministry of Environment and Parks staff and is of the understanding that mattresses and foundations are not anticipated to be added to the Recycling Regulation at this time although it was originally included in the EPR Five-Year Action Plan 2021-2026 document.

RDBN staff are disappointed that the Province is removing mattresses and foundations from its Five-Year EPR Action Plan. The RDBN disposes an estimated 3,000 mattresses per year. This does not include wooden box foundations. Mattresses are problematic to dispose of in the landfill as they are bulky, do not compact well and often contain wire that become entangled in Landfill equipment.

The mattress industry is well-suited for an Extended Producer Responsibility Program due to the small number of manufacturers.

Staff support the efforts of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen and recommends the RDBN Board consider providing its support to strongly encourage the Province to reconsider establishing an EPR program for mattresses.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. RDOS Letter to the Honourable Tamara Davidson, Minister of Environment and Parks
2. Draft Regional District Joint Letter to the Honourable Tamara Davidson, Minister of Environment and Parks

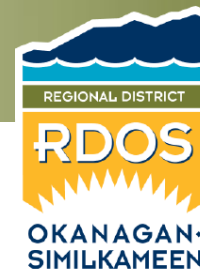
**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:

2. Advocacy with the Province

Additionally, the recommendation supports the following objective(s) related to this Focus Area(s):

- 2.2 Prioritize topics and develop strategic, consistent messaging about mutual goals.



October 3, 2025

The Honourable Tamara Davidson, M.L.A.  
Minister of Environment and Parks  
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Gov  
Rm 112, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

**Re: Updated Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan for Mattresses**

Dear Minister Davidson:

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is encouraged that the Province is considering adding new moderate risk products, such as automotive products; compressed canisters; emerging electronic products with batteries; and medical sharps used at home, to the Recycling Regulation as previously identified in Ministry's document Advancing Recycling in B.C., Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan 2021-2026.

Based on communications from Ministry of Environment and Parks staff, we understand that mattresses and foundations are not anticipated to be added to the Recycling Regulation at this time although they were included in the 2021-2026 Five-Year Action Plan. Mattresses and foundations remain a priority for the RDOS, and we continue to request that they be added to the Recycling Regulation as soon as possible.

Shifting the financial responsibility for mattress and foundation recycling to producers is a critical step forward for EPR in British Columbia. This product category is particularly well-suited for EPR due to the limited number of producers, the high recyclability of mattress components, and the costly and problematic nature of these items in the municipal waste stream. Producer responsibility would alleviate the financial burden currently borne by local governments and taxpayers, while fostering stable, longterm end markets for recyclable materials.

In 2024 alone, RDOS collected 5,864 mattresses and foundations at its regional recycling and waste centres. Customers have been charged a low fixed mattress fee of \$17.50 per unit (mattress and foundations each count as one unit) to help reduce the potential for illegal dumping. The cost of managing those mattresses and foundations has increased to nearly \$50 per unit, resulting in a subsidy by the regional solid waste system of approximately \$190,000 per year to fund the gap between the drop-off fee and the cost of recycling.

In addition, RDOS and member municipalities spend tens of thousands of dollars annually on illegal dumping clean-up and bulky item pick-up programs, with mattresses representing a key product



category in both initiatives. The cost of managing end-of-life mattresses should not be borne by the regional solid waste system, member jurisdictions, or others cleaning up illegal dumping on public and private lands.

Several jurisdictions in North America, including California, Connecticut, Oregon and Rhode Island, have already enacted regulations and implemented extended producer responsibility programs for mattresses. Lessons learned from these jurisdictions, which include some long-standing programs spanning over a decade, could help inform the development of a new, best-in-class mattress program in British Columbia.

RDOS, along with many local governments across the province, are united in calling for producers to begin the successful implementation of a mattress program, consistent with models applied to electronics, packaging, tires, and other product categories.

RDOS sincerely appreciates the Ministry's efforts to expand extended producer responsibility programs to include automotive products, compressed canisters, emerging electronic products with batteries, and medical sharps used at home. However, to build upon these important efforts, we continue to request that mattresses and foundations be included in the Recycling Regulation as soon as possible.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and would be pleased to discuss any aspect of our letter with you at your convenience. Ministry staff are welcome to contact Kyle Gabelhei, Solid Waste Operations Manager, by phone at 250-490-4381 or by email at [kgabelhei@rdos.bc.ca](mailto:kgabelhei@rdos.bc.ca) to discuss this matter in more detail.

Yours truly,

Mark Pendergraft  
Chair, RDOS Board

Cc: J. Zaffino, CAO

October 3, 2025

The Honourable Tamara Davidson, M.L.A.  
Minister of Environment and Parks  
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Gov  
Rm 112, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

**Re: Updated Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan for Mattresses**

Dear Minister Davidson:

This letter is written by the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in conjunction with the following regional districts:

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Regional Districts across British Columbia are encouraged that the Province is considering adding new moderate risk products, such as automotive products; compressed canisters; emerging electronic products with batteries; and medical sharps used at home, to the Recycling Regulation as previously identified in Ministry's document Advancing Recycling in B.C., Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan 2021-2026.

Based on communications from Ministry of Environment and Parks staff, we understand that mattresses and foundations are not anticipated to be added to the Recycling Regulation at this time although they were included in the 2021-2026 Five-Year Action Plan. Mattresses and foundations remain a priority for Regional Districts, and we continue to request that they be added to the Recycling Regulation as soon as possible.

Shifting the financial responsibility for mattress and foundation recycling to producers is a critical step forward for EPR in British Columbia. This product category is particularly well-suited for EPR due to the limited number of producers, the high recyclability of mattress components, and the costly and problematic nature of these items in the municipal waste stream. Producer responsibility would alleviate the financial burden currently borne by local governments and taxpayers, while fostering stable, long term end markets for recyclable materials.

The cost of managing mattresses and foundations has increased, resulting in a subsidy by the regional solid waste systems to fund the gap between the drop-off fee and the cost of recycling.

In addition, Regional Districts spend hundreds of thousands of dollars annually on illegal dumping clean-up and bulky item pick-up programs, with mattresses representing a key product category in both

initiatives. The cost of managing end-of-life mattresses should not be borne by the regional solid waste system, member jurisdictions, or others cleaning up illegal dumping on public and private lands.

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Regional Districts, along with many other local governments across the province, are united in calling for producers to begin the successful implementation of a mattress program, consistent with models applied to electronics, packaging, tires, and other product categories.

Regional Districts sincerely appreciate the Ministry's efforts to expand extended producer responsibility programs to include automotive products, compressed canisters, emerging electronic products with batteries, and medical sharps used at home. However, to build upon these important efforts, we continue to request that mattresses and foundations be included in the Recycling Regulation as soon as possible.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and would be pleased to discuss any aspect of our letter with you at your convenience.

Yours truly,