



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 10, 2016

Auditor General reports on recycling in B.C.

VICTORIA – The latest report from the Office of the Auditor General of B.C. is now available: *Product Stewardship: An overview of recycling in B.C.*

Through its work, the office saw indicators that the recycling system in B.C. is performing well in some areas. Government regulates recycling in B.C., but collection and recycling is carried out by producers and stewardship agencies like Multi-Material BC.

The team identified opportunities for improvement such as expanding access to recycling services throughout the province, ensuring compliance and greater financial transparency, but government was aware of them and working on improvements.

As such, “we decided that a full audit wouldn’t add value at this time,” said Auditor General Carol Bellringer. “Government has components of a well-managed program in place, but we want to give them time to pursue and implement their planned improvements. We’ll watch government’s progress to determine if we need to do further work in this area in the future.”

B.C. makes those who manufacture, distribute, or sell products responsible for recycling them. This shifts costs from taxpayers and local governments to producers, and creates a financial incentive for producers to be more sustainable with the materials they make. This recycling program covers many products, from paper and paint, to batteries, tires, and beverage containers.

While not an audit, the report summarizes the team’s research into B.C. recycling programs. The office issued the report to help legislators and interested parties better understand B.C.’s recycling program, and to fulfill its public commitment to examine this topic.

The full report is available on the Office of the Auditor General website at: www.bcauditor.com/pubs

Bellringer will answer questions pertaining to the report via a teleconference.

Teleconference Date: Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016

Time: 11 a.m. (Pacific time)

Dial-in Information:

From Vancouver: 604 681-0260



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Auditor General
of British Columbia

From elsewhere in Canada and the USA: 1 877 353-9184

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About the Office of the Auditor General of BC

The Auditor General is a non-partisan, independent Officer of the Legislature who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The *Auditor General Act* empowers the Auditor General and staff to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

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