



**Electronics Product
Stewardship Canada**

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**Recyclage des produits
électroniques Canada**

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***Welcome comments - e-waste town hall
Andre Hudon, Vice Chair, EPS Canada
November 14, 2003***

Good morning.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Toronto and to thank you, on behalf of all EPS Canada members for joining us today. More than anything else your participation demonstrates the high level of interest in product stewardship for electronics and the commitment of all parties to deal with this challenge in Canada.

Today's theme is moving from talk to action. With recent provincial announcements on their plans for e-waste stewardship, it is clear that the time for rolling up our sleeves and dealing with the details of program implementation is upon us.

EPS has long championed the need for a "level competitive playing field". Today's objective is to level the "knowledge playing field" of electronics stewardship activities in Canada. You have a wonderful opportunity today to meet with, and hear from, representatives of government, industry, recyclers, and environmental organizations. I encourage you to take full advantage of it.

EPS Canada was established a little over a year ago and we made our first mark by issuing a road map for electronics stewardship. It was both a positive and yet a not so positive beginning. While we were applauded for stepping up to the challenge we were also criticized, in some quarters, for the positions we had taken. We learned from this experience and adopted a policy of not asking for regulation, of working with regulators to stay abreast of developments, and of preparing to work with the first provinces to indicate readiness to move forward. We decided our next implementation plan would not come until we had a province or region to work with. With the first provinces now coming forward, the time has come to move from talk to action.

Nevertheless, we have been very active. Let me take a moment to share with you a few of our key activities that are in addition to our efforts to continue the consultation process with stakeholders:

- We have heard the concerns raised about municipal collection of e-waste. You will hear later this morning about a Canada Post option for e-waste collection. And we are talking to other potential service providers both regionally and nationally in an effort to find the best model.
- We have responded to questions about the end destination of our waste products. We are developing a comprehensive vendor qualification process for recyclers that will soon be



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ready for use. And you will hear very shortly from representatives of the recycling industry on their capability and their capacity to deal with this waste both in the short and long term.

- The President of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment has embraced e-waste stewardship as an issue for the council. This is something many people told us would never happen. We look forward to the council agreeing on a set of common principles for Canada that will provide guidance to both government and industry.
- We are carrying out a comprehensive review of our member company positions in a number of key stewardship policy areas. We have found that stewardship is an evolutionary issue and positions change as we become more knowledgeable. Flexibility will be a core issue as we move forward with implementation planning.
- We are working directly with the provinces of Alberta, Quebec, and the four Atlantic provinces as these move forward with public consultations and studies.
- This past summer we led a delegation of Canadians to Europe to review the e-waste programs in Holland, Belgium, and Sweden. We have kept abreast of the United States' NEPSI process, the developments in California, and we are finding our advice and guidance is being sought by other countries.
- We are working with Computers for Schools on a pilot project to recycle electronics waste from their national facility, which will give us experience in creating a recycling RFP, evaluating recyclers, monitoring the process, and we will share the lessons learned with all stakeholders.

These activities have positioned us well and we have learned many lessons.

Let me conclude my comments this morning by making a few statements on the role we would like to see for industry in the implementation of an electronics stewardship program.

While we believe that any product stewardship program must be industry-led we also believe there are responsibilities for all the players involved. Consumers, government, industry, recyclers, and supporting organizations all have a role to play that must be clearly defined in any program.

We represent over 90 percent of the lap top computer, printer, and television market. We represent all desktop manufacturers with significant market share. We see EPS Canada as the industry organization to be called upon to work with the regulating authority for program implementation.



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We understand the need to work within the requirements of ten provinces and three territories—all of whom must answer to their local constituents. And we believe we can deliver a solution that will meet individual provincial needs and meet our desire for a harmonized program.

Finally, I would like to introduce my colleagues from industry who are here with us today.

In closing I would once again like to welcome you on behalf of all of our member companies. We have an opportunity to work together to do the right thing for our industry and for Canadians. Industry stands ready to work with you to make this happen.

Thank you.

- 30 -