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Recovery and Reclamation of Products by Enterprises: UMQ Welcomes Greater Responsibility for Producers

The Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ) is pleased that we are entering at new phase today with publication of the *Regulation on Recovery and Reclamation of Products by Enterprises*, under which three new product categories will be subject to extended producer responsibility (EPR): electronic products, batteries and mercury lamps. The UMQ also welcomes the Quebec government's commitment of adding at least two new products every two years to the list of products subject to EPR.

"The draft regulation is squarely in line with the positions the UMQ has maintained for over a decade. EPR helps make sure that materials put on the market will be more easily reusable or recyclable, which reduces the amount of waste material to be disposed of. Having a regulatory framework based on EPR is a major gain for municipalities, in environmental terms first of all, and in financial terms as well, because we should see a drop in actual waste management spending under the EPR system," said UMQ president Éric Forest, mayor of Rimouski.

As readers know, municipalities in the past have introduced measures to handle the huge variety of materials likely to appear in waste collection systems, including recyclable materials and organic matter, in order to preserve a quality environment for their citizens. Among other things, they have established dedicated collection systems for specific materials and opened collection points such as eco-centres or depots.

For consistency's sake, the UMQ considers it important to immediately open a dialogue between the municipal and business sectors regarding management of these new products, as is the case already for paint, paint cans, oil and oil containers. This means the specifics of collection will have to be coordinated with the depots and municipal eco-centres. The question of transportation will likewise be a key factor in producers' decision making, in terms of efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Yet another aspect to consider in achieving an optimal allocation of resources in a municipality is how to communicate with their consumers – who are also citizens.

"When businesses choose their collection and recovery networks, they must get in touch with the municipal sector as soon as possible and discuss how the materials concerned will be disposed of. This will make life easier for citizens and also make it possible for municipalities to develop adequate residual materials management plans of their own. On this heading, the UMQ is prepared to do our part in facilitating municipalities' transition toward this new mode of operation," said Denis Lapointe, mayor of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield and chair of the UMQ environment committee.

Source:

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