



**October 17, 2024**

Honorable Andrea Khanjin, MPP  
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
College Park, 5th Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Via email: [minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

**RE: Blue Box Collection from Business Improvement Areas**

Dear Minister Khanjin,

As the Executive Director of the Downtown Whitby Business Improvement Area (DWBIA), I am reaching out to express our deep concerns regarding the exclusion of small businesses from the Blue Box Program under the new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations, particularly as it impacts our members in the downtown core.

The DWBIA represents a wide range of small businesses that have consistently participated in the Blue Box recycling program. We have recently been informed that under Regulation 391/21, businesses like those in our BIA will no longer be eligible for curbside Blue Box collection as of January 2026. This shift would leave many of our small businesses, which rely on municipal recycling services, without a viable option for managing their recyclable waste.

Our downtown businesses are critical to the local economy and already face significant financial pressures. The added cost of private recycling services is simply not feasible for many of them, particularly in a challenging post-pandemic economic climate. Without access to affordable recycling solutions, we fear that these small businesses will be forced to send recyclable materials, including significant amounts of cardboard and paper, directly to landfill—undermining the very goal of increased recycling under the new regulation.

We strongly support the Town of Whitby's request for the Province to reconsider this decision. Including small businesses within downtown cores, like those in the DWBIA, in the common Blue Box collection system would be a practical and environmentally responsible solution. It would help ease the financial burden on small businesses while ensuring that Ontario's recycling targets are met.



I urge you to review this matter carefully and take the necessary steps to include downtown business improvement areas in the Blue Box program. The DWBIA and its members are committed to sustainability, and with your support, we can continue our contributions toward reducing waste in Ontario.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I am available to provide further information or participate in discussions on how we can find a solution that supports our downtown business communities while protecting our environment.

Sincerely,

Shawna Fergus  
Executive Director  
Downtown Whitby Business Improvement Area (DWBIA)  
T: 905-431-3271  
E: [shawna@whitbybia.org](mailto:shawna@whitbybia.org)

Cc:

Jamelia Alleyne, Senior Policy Analyst  
Mayor Elizabeth Roy, Town of Whitby  
Paul Thistle, Manager, Solid Waste Services  
Diandra Persaud, DWBIA Board Chair  
Lorne Coe, MPP Whitby  
Kay Matthews, Executive Director, Ontario BIA Association