

Part 1 – Mayor's Update – Curbside Recycling Initiative Clarified

I recently read the Mayor's Update, with interest, regarding curbside recycling and wanted to provide residents with some additional information from **Circular Materials**, the organization responsible for implementing Ontario's producer-led Blue Box program.

Like many residents, I'm pleased to see Iroquois Falls moving toward curbside recycling. This is a positive step for our community. However, it's also important that residents understand where we are in the process and the history behind this initiative.

The Mayor's Update stated that:

- The Town has spent **over two years coordinating and planning** for curbside recycling;
- The Town is in the **advanced/final stages of coordinating the transition**; and
- "This transition began on July 1, 2023, and by the end of 2026 producers will be fully responsible for managing and funding Blue Box recycling."

The first part of that statement is correct—the provincial transition began on **July 1, 2023**.

However, according to **Circular Materials and Ontario Regulation 391/21**, the Province's original **Blue Box Transition Schedule** was completed by December 31, 2025, **with 395 municipal Blue Box programs** transitioning to producer responsibility.

Municipalities across Ontario were to have transitioned to the producer-led Blue Box program between **July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2025**, under the Province's original Blue Box Transition Schedule.

Because Iroquois Falls was not transitioned during the Province's original Blue Box Transition Schedule, it is now participating—along with several other Ontario municipalities—through the "Outside Transition Schedule" established under Section 56 of Ontario Regulation 391/21.

Communities on the Outside Transition Schedule must complete a four-step onboarding process before producer-run curbside recycling services can begin. Circular Materials advises that service commencement dates for these communities are determined once the onboarding process has been completed and coordinated within Ontario's Common Collection System.

According to Circular Materials, municipalities on the Outside Transition Schedule move through four onboarding steps:

- Step 1: Data Gathering and Validation
- Step 2: Procurement of Collection and Consolidation Services
- Step 3: Operationalization of Contracts
- Step 4: Resident Engagement and Education

At the **June 15, 2026, Council meeting**, the Public Works Departmental Report indicated that the Town was **providing data to Circular Materials**. Based on Circular Materials' published onboarding process, this corresponds to **Step 1 – Data Gathering and Validation**, which is the **first step**, not the final stages of the transition.

Only after this step is completed and validated can Circular Materials move forward with procuring collection services, operational implementation by contractors, and resident education before curbside recycling can begin.

I also searched the Town's website for publicly available information regarding curbside recycling. The earliest Council document I located was a **Public Works Waste Management Update dated November 16, 2015**. That report shows the Town was already actively exploring curbside recycling as part of its long-term waste management strategy.

At that time, the initiative was led by the **Public Works Manager in consultation with the Clerk-Administrator**. The Council at that time also directed staff to proceed with the transition to curbside recycling.

After that report, the Clerk-Administrator as well as the Public Works Manager left the Municipality for other employment. I was unable to locate publicly available Council reports, resolutions, or updates documenting how the initiative progressed until the June 15, 2026, Public Works **Department Information Report**.

I also did not locate a publicly available Council resolution authorizing staff to proceed with the current curbside recycling initiative.

If additional publicly available records exist—including Council resolutions, staff reports, or project updates documenting the work completed between 2015 and 2026—I would welcome seeing them.

Transparency and access to information help residents better understand how municipal initiatives evolve over time. It is imperative to be accountable and factual when information is communicated to the public.

The timeline surrounding this issue is also worth noting.

- **November 16, 2015** – Public Works presents a Waste Management Update identifying curbside recycling as a future initiative and Council authorizes staff to proceed with a program to transition to curbside recycling and report back on timelines, the program, and implementation costs.
- **July 1, 2023** – Ontario begins transitioning Blue Box programs to producer responsibility.
- **May 15, 2026** – I published a campaign Q&A explaining the Blue Box transition and discussed the opportunity for Iroquois Falls to move to curbside recycling, which was long overdue.
- **June 15, 2026** – Public Works reports to Council that the Town is providing data to Circular Materials, corresponding to **Step 1** of the onboarding process.
- **July 10, 2026** – The Mayor issues a public update on curbside recycling.

Residents can see the timeline for themselves and draw their own conclusions. Regardless of what prompted the recent focus, I welcome any progress that moves curbside recycling forward for our community.

The good news is that **Iroquois Falls is eligible** for producer-funded curbside recycling, not under the original program as the deadline was not met to transition but under the new program regulations as they pertain to the “Outside Transition Schedule”. Once the onboarding process is complete, the responsibility for managing and funding the Blue Box program will rest with the producers rather than municipal taxpayers.

Had Iroquois Falls transitioned during the Province's original Blue Box Transition Schedule in a timely manner, eligible recycling costs would have shifted to producers sooner. The extent of any savings to municipal taxpayers would depend on the Town's recycling expenditures during those years. From what I could determine, if the Town had transitioned when neighbouring communities did, there would have been operating budget savings of approximately \$180,000 (based on the 2025 and 2026 budgets thus far). This represents a significant financial impact that could have been avoided had the program transitioned earlier.

Having successfully helped transition other Ontario municipalities through significant municipal service changes, I know these projects require planning, collaboration and clear communication.

My goal is not to criticize the program or diminish anyone's efforts. It is to ensure residents receive accurate information, understand the process, and have access to the facts.

Curbside recycling will be a welcome addition to our community. I support moving it forward and look forward to seeing the transition completed successfully.

Sources

- Town of Iroquois Falls – Public Works Waste Management Update (PW.2015.02.GG.INF), November 16, 2015
[https://iroquoisfalls.civicweb.net/filepro/document/4225/8.%20\(B\)%202\)%20Waste%20Management%20Update%20\(PW.2015.02.GG.INF\).pdf](https://iroquoisfalls.civicweb.net/filepro/document/4225/8.%20(B)%202)%20Waste%20Management%20Update%20(PW.2015.02.GG.INF).pdf)
- Circular Materials – Outside Transition Schedule Overview
<https://www.circularmaterials.ca/>
- Ontario Regulation 391/21 (Blue Box)
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/210391>
- Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/16r12>
- Town of Iroquois Falls Council Meeting – June 15, 2026 (Public Works Staff Monthly Report)
<https://iroquoisfalls.civicweb.net/document/16129>
- Mayor's Update – July 10, 2026 (Facebook post)



Tory Delaurier

July 10 at 9:59 AM · 🌐

...



Mayor's Update: Residential Curbside Recycling in Iroquois Falls

I am happy to communicate that following over two years of coordination and planning, The Town of Iroquois Falls is preparing for an important change to residential recycling services.

Under Ontario's Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016, responsibility for the Blue Box Program is moving from municipalities to the producers of products and packaging. Through this **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** model, producers—not taxpayers—will fund and operate Ontario's recycling system.

This transition began on July 1, 2023, and by the end of 2026 producers will be fully responsible for managing and funding Blue Box recycling.

I am pleased to share that the Town of Iroquois Falls is in the advanced stages of coordinating this transition with Circular Materials.

This program will be provided at no cost to residential households, giving residents convenient curbside recycling while reducing the financial burden on our municipality.

As implementation approaches, the Town will share updates on collection schedules, education & logistics, accepted materials, and any changes residents need to know.

Thank you for your continued commitment to recycling and to building a cleaner, more sustainable Iroquois Falls.

Sincerely,
Tory Delaurier
Mayor of Iroquois Falls

ADDRESS
253 Main Street, PO Box 230
Iroquois Falls, Ontario P0K1G0

iroquoisfalls.com



The Town Of Iroquois Falls

July 10 at 9:57 AM · 🌐

Mayor Delaurier is pleased to share an important update regarding the future of residential curbside recycling.

[Recycling in Ontario | Circular Materials](#)

Overview

Ontario Regulation 391/21 (Blue Box) (the Regulation) made under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016, makes producers responsible for the Blue Box Program, including providing collection services to local municipal and First Nations communities and managing blue box materials. The “Blue Box Transition Schedule” ([the Schedule](#)) identified the dates on which each eligible community with Blue Box programs would be transitioned to producer-run blue box services.

The Regulation transitioned 395 existing blue box services to producer responsibility in three groups between 2023 and 2025. Communities not on the Blue Box Transition Schedule were placed on the ‘Outside Transition Schedule.’