



Reference: 395205

*March 8, 2023*

His Worship Mayor Jack Crompton  
And Councillors  
Resort Municipality of Whistler  
4325 Blackcomb Way  
Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

Sent via email: [jcrompton@whistler.ca](mailto:jcrompton@whistler.ca)

Dear Mayor Crompton and Council:

Thank you for your letter of January 9, 2023, regarding the exemption of newsprint from the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program.

B.C. regulates both packaging and paper products, with newspapers captured under the Recycling Regulation as a paper product. This regulation aims to capture many sources of single-use paper entering the waste stream. Including newspapers in B.C.'s EPR program shifts the responsibility and significant net-costs of collection and recycling from local governments and taxpayers to the producers and users of these products.

Any fees applied to regulated products are set by the EPR agency overseeing that product. All producers pay based on the full volume of the material they introduce into the B.C. market. As the producer of newspapers in B.C., News Media Canada relies on Recycle BC to collect and manage the recycling of their newspapers. The annual fees are determined by the Recycle BC board, which includes retailers that produce newsprint advertising flyers and pay the same rate as newspapers, based on an approach that was consulted on in 2020. As with newsprint, annual fees of many plastic materials have likewise increased because of factors such as rising program costs and changing commodity values.

The Province has provided temporary financial support to News Media Canada since 2016, covering approximately 60 percent of their fees, to meet their regulatory obligations while other cost-saving measures were pursued. This is a unique arrangement that has been extended to no other producer subject to EPR requirements. The Province has provided millions of dollars of support with the expectation that News Media Canada would pursue a means to meet their regulatory obligations. The Province is also aware of developments in other jurisdictions and that Ontario has exempted newspapers from its recycling regulation.

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The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy continues to work with the newspaper industry on a sustainable path forward. The recognition of the continued financial situation that the industry faces, and the concerns you have noted regarding local jobs, remain central to these discussions.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G. Heyman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'G' being particularly large and stylized.

George Heyman  
Minister