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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Abbotsford to Join Multi-Material BC Recycling Program**

**ABBOTSFORD – February 1, 2017** - The City of Abbotsford will now be a participating member of the provincial Multi-Material BC (MMBC) recycling program in 2017 announced Mayor Henry Braun today.

“Council is very pleased that Abbotsford is now able to join this provincial recycling management program and that this service will now be available for our residents,” said Mayor Braun. “Abbotsford residents have been paying fees from producers of packaging and printed paper since it started in 2014 without receiving any of the recycling service.”

MMBC began operating in 2014, as a non-profit organization financed by the businesses that produce packaging and printed paper and is responsible for residential recycling programs in many areas across BC, either directly, or by working with local governments, First Nations, private companies and non-profit organizations.

With the signing of the service agreement, the City of Abbotsford becomes a recipient of the provincial recycling program with revenue returns of about \$1 million a year.

“The City essentially becomes a contractor. The fact that we could actually generate revenue that goes back into our recycling and solid waste programming was an added benefit for joining the program,” added Braun. “The MMBC program has a proven track record in other municipalities and their approach is streamlined and will enable us to reach our waste diversion targets while improving our recycling service to Abbotsford residents.”

Residents will see some changes to how material is picked up and sorted. Under the MMBC program, no glass or film plastics like plastic bags, will be accepted in the curbside recycling, but instead can be dropped off at a local recycling depot. Plastic bags can also be taken to local retailers who have a bag recycling program. Residents have until April 3 to remove this material from the blue bags, or the City could be penalized.

Other material; paper, cardboard, tin, aluminum, milk cartons and plastics will continue to be collected in the curbside recycling collection program. Certain new materials will also be collected such as coffee cups and lids, paper pet food bags, and an expanded list of plastic containers. The curbside limits of three cans of garbage, 10 compostable waste cans and unlimited recycling bags remain the same, and the recent 2017 Curbside Collection Schedule mailed out by the City in December does not change.



“We know it will be a bit of a challenge to change habits, but we have confidence our residents will be able to adapt. They embraced curbside compost collection as well as the CurbCollect app introduced last year,” said Braun.

Residents can find further information on glass and film plastics recycling under the MMBC program at their website at [www.recyclinginbc.ca](http://www.recyclinginbc.ca). More information about these changes and what residents need to know will be posted to the City website at [www.abbotsford.ca](http://www.abbotsford.ca).

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