

Three Faces of EPR

An Update on Recent Developments in Ontario, Quebec and Alberta

Each of the three provinces at the focus of this webinar is in the process of evolving or, in the case of Alberta, launching its own unique approach to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The provinces are at various stages of revising their policies, all with targets for completion by 2025.

Presented on April 27, 2021

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1 Alberta plans to adopt EPR as part of its transition to a circular plastics economy**

Alberta is currently seeking stakeholder input on three key policy shifts with respect to EPR: 1. The creation of an overarching EPR framework; 2. The development of an EPR approach for packaging, paper products and single-use plastics (and other plastics in consultation with industry), and 3. The development of an EPR approach for Hazardous and Special Products.
- 2 Quebec is modernizing its curbside recycling system**

After more than fifteen years, Québec is transitioning from a basic financing model to one designed to optimize the entire value chain. Creating direct links between producers and the collection system will ensure proper alignment between products put on the market and the recovery, sorting and processing of materials as well as the development of local or nearby end uses. The new, collaborative model will see EEQ serve as the Designated Stewardship Organization through a transitional period of approximately three years starting in early 2022.
- 3 Ontario's reform of its waste diversion system makes producers individually responsible for meeting regulatory requirements**

Through Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, individual producers have the freedom to decide how to comply with their stewardship obligations in a competitive environment, where services may be purchased from the marketplace rather than through monopoly IFOs. Under the Act, RPRA is empowered to oversee the wind-up of existing programs/IFOs and transition to RRCEA. Tires, batteries and EEE have been or are being transitioned, with Municipal Hazardous or Special waste expected this year and Blue Box waste to take place between 2023 and 2025.
- 4 All systems are evolving toward 100% producer funding and operating responsibility, multiple PROs, competitive markets for services and service providers, defined performance targets and more rigorous program oversight, reporting requirements and data management.**
- 5 From the audience, questions revolved around common themes about performance targets (how are they administered and whether are they realistic), the prospects for harmonization across provinces to improve efficiency and general concerns about containing system costs.**

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CPSC is a not-for-profit association of leading stewardship organizations whose principal mandate is to facilitate greater understanding, enhancement and promotion of producer stewardship in Canada. Its main activity is to organize, manage and host the Canadian Stewardship Conference, typically every two years.

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