

For Immediate Release
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**MINISTER COMMENDS REGIONS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO MADE-IN-
ONTARIO SOLUTIONS FOR WASTE DISPOSAL**
Work Plan For Environmental Assessment Approved

TORONTO – The regional municipalities of Durham and York have approval to proceed with the development of a 35-year plan that will mean local solutions for the wastes they currently ship to Michigan, Environment Minister Laurel Broten announced today.

“I congratulate the regions for having the foresight to develop a long-term waste management plan and for seeking local solutions,” Broten said. “Sending waste to Michigan or anywhere else outside Ontario is not an acceptable long term solution.”

The minister has approved the regions’ terms of reference, which will serve as a work plan for an environmental assessment (EA) to look at a number of options for dealing with their wastes.

The EA will consider a range of processing technologies and treatments, including the latest thermal technologies, to identify a preferred system for managing wastes that remain after diversion.

“We are very pleased to have the government's support on this environmental assessment,” said Durham Regional Chair Roger Anderson. “Thanks to the leadership of the Honourable Minister Broten, we can now move forward with the Durham/York Residual Waste Study. With this work plan approval, the regions can now work towards a plan that delivers a made-in-Ontario solution for waste disposal.

“The Residual Waste Study allows us to continue building upon the programs which complement our waste diversion strategy, including the new Green Bin program being launched in Pickering, Ajax, Whitby and Oshawa,” Anderson added.

“Getting to 60 per cent waste diversion by 2011 is a critical component of the regions’ long-term waste management plans as it should be,” Broten said. “With their residents help, I am certain they will achieve their goal.”

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Contacts:
Lindsay Mack
Minister’s Office
416-325-5809

John Steele
Communications Branch
416-314-6666