

## **Public Engagement Session on Solid Waste Management for the City of Dawson**

### **What We Heard Report:**

Date of Session:	Wed. April 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2024
Location:	Tr'ondek Hwech'in Hall , Front St., Dawson
Time	6pm to 8 pm
Facilitator	Neil Fletcher, Cassiar Consulting, Cassiar Creek Dawson
Number of Participants:	100 – 120 people in person, approx. 50 online

### **Introduction**

#### **The City of Dawson manages solid waste ( Garbage) in the following ways:**

1. The City operates a collection service that picks up solid waste weekly from residential and commercial sites in the urban/downtown area. “Commercial” sites include businesses, institutions, nonprofits, and multi residential properties. Collection includes garbage and cardboard. Collection is provided by two operators and the city garbage truck or the city trailer and truck.
2. The City contracts a private company to provide Neighbourhood “Bins” in areas where curbside collection is not provided. The bins are rented by the City and serviced by the private company.
3. City operates the Quigley Landfill Site , in partnership with the Yukon Government. All area residents can drop solid waste off at the site for free. One operator is in attendance. The Free store is onsite.
4. The City operates the Diversion Centre where recyclables can be dropped off for free and people can receive payment for the drop off of “refundable” drink containers. 3 operators manage the materials at the diversion centre.
5. The City employs a Waste Supervisor to oversee these services.

#### **These services are funded by.**

- Residential properties in the municipality pay an annual Waste Management Fee of \$203
- Commercial properties in the municipality pay an annual Waste Management Fee of \$318
- The Yukon Government provides annual subsidy of approx. \$70,000
- The balance of costs are covered from the annual Municipal Operating budget (which is funded by property taxes and upper government subsidies)
- Capital costs are funded by the separate Municipal Capital budget and government grants.

#### **With the implementation of tipping fees**

- the usage of the landfill by non residents will be funded to a greater extent by tipping fees and an additional \$70,000 annually from the Yukon Government
- The Yukon Government will assume 50% of the landfill closure costs ( Closure costs are currently estimated at \$3 million)

## **Landfills**

Landfill sites are expensive to set up, to operate, and to close when they are full. They pose long term environmental challenges as leachate must be monitored long after closure, they tend to be messy, and yet they are needed in every community.

As the Yukon population continues to grow, landfill sites are filling up faster, land costs continue to rise, and locating appropriate places for a landfill site increasingly difficult.

As the knowledge of the long-term costs associated with landfill sites has developed it has become increasingly clear that it is a good financial strategy for municipalities to consider policies and practices which extend the lifespan of existing landfills

The environmental cost of landfill sites is more difficult to assign a dollar figure to – Landfills produce methane which contributes to global warming. Landfills produce leachate that has to be monitored and sometimes treated as sewage for many years.

## **Tipping Fees**

The Yukon Government has been in discussions with Yukon Municipalities for several years, developing plans to rationalize the landfill sites and related practices in the Yukon. This has been driven by the need to raise all sites to the best environmental practices, reduce the environmental impact, do so in a cost-effective manner, ensure fairness with all residents paying for landfill costs, and building in a financial incentive for residents to reduce waste production.

The result is interim or final regional waste agreements with each municipality. The agreements core elements are:

- Each municipality will establish a residential tipping fee that applies to all residents or non residents who drop off residential waste. This in combination with the YG fee identified below, ensures that all residential users are paying their share of the landfill costs. The tipping fee is also a proven tool to encourage reduction and recycling.
- Each municipality will establish commercial tipping fees but it up to the municipalities discretion to determine resident or non resident or special category commercial tipping fee rates. This fee will ensure that all commercial users (in the municipality and outside the municipality) pay their share the landfill costs.
- In turn the Yukon Government will pay the municipality an annual fee based on the number of non municipal residents who live in the landfill catchment area and use the landfill site
- The Yukon Government will also assume 50% of the landfill closure liability / costs.
- The Yukon government will fund installation of infrastructure to enable tipping fees up to a cap of \$400,000.

## **Tipping Fees in Dawson**

Dawson agreed to an interim Regional Agreement in 2023, identified tipping fees in the 2023 budget and anticipated implementing tipping fees upon hiring a waste supervisor, installing weigh scales, and hiring a scale attendant in 2023.

A waste supervisor was recruited in Feb 2024, weigh scales are problematic at the Dawson landfill such that tipping fees may have to be by volume, and an attendant is yet to be hired.

It is anticipated that tipping fees will be implemented within at the Dawson Landfill site by May-June 2023.

Tipping fees and the associated agreements are considered separate from these discussions.

## Recommendations

In 2023 City Staff were directed by City Council to develop recommendations to implement curbside residential recycling collection in a cost-effective manner. The goal was to increase residential recycling. The recommendations were presented to council in Nov 2023. In Feb 2024 Staff were directed to develop implementation plans for the recommendations including communication plans, timing, greater detail.

This document is a detailed version of “what we heard” from Area residents during a public engagement session focused on the recommendations and related Solid Waste Management issues. The recommendations were based on the following principles:

1. Reducing the volume of waste dumped at the Landfill is environmentally and financially beneficial to residents.
2. Residential recycling collection will reduce the volume of waste dumped at the landfill by diverting more recyclable material away from the landfill.
3. Doing so in a manner that is fiscally responsible to the municipality is critical for adoption and long-term sustainability of the additional service.
4. Attaching the cost of waste collection and disposal to waste production encourages waste reduction, recycling, and reuse .
5. Incorporating Municipal Best practices that have been tried and tested in other municipalities, where appropriate, will reduce the risks to the municipality that are inherent in change.

## Objectives

The City of Dawson was tasked with developing proposals for the following:

- Enhance sustainability
- Cost accountability to waste producers
- Fiscal accountability to the community
- Moral accountability to the environment

Solid waste management is a core municipal service that aims to reduce and eliminate adverse impacts of waste materials on human health and the environment, supporting economic development and a better quality of life. It strives to do so efficiently to minimize costs and prevent waste buildup.



# Federal and Territorial Changes

Interim Regional Waste Agreement and EPR



## O&M Funding

The Regional Waste agreement will provide an additional \$140,000 per year

EPR to be implemented in 2025 with on of the goals being reducing O&M costs to municipalities



## Capital Funding

\$400,000 for weight scale construction

½ of landfill closure costs (est. \$3.3 million in 2021)



## Requirements

Universal Residential Tipping fees (non residents incl.)

City is responsible for permits, safety, operation and maintenance of facilities

# Challenges



## Universal Tipping fees

The introduction of universal tipping fees requires the City of Dawson to ensure all residents and non-residents pay the same for their waste. Since the tipping fee will be included in the waste management fee, tracking the number of bags each household dumps per week is necessary; including households outside of the downtown core.

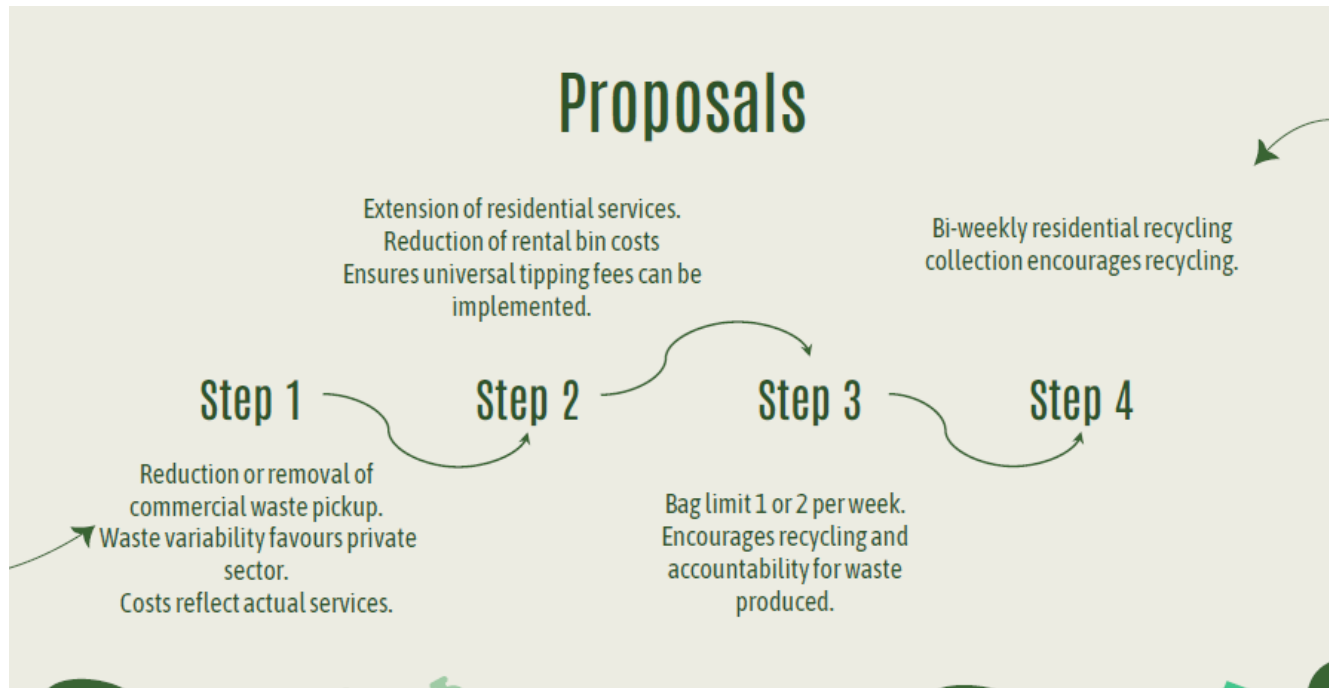


## Curbside Recycling Collection

The community, Mayor and Council are in favour of introducing Curbside recycling collection. This service will encourage recycling but is more time consuming as three separate streams will be collected at each household.

## The Recommendations

1. Transition Commercial waste collection to the private sector and eliminate the annual Commercial waste Mgt Fee. Recover lost annual Waste Management fees through tipping fees.
2. Utilize the now available municipal staff time to:
  - 2.1. Extend Residential collection services to currently unserved neighbourhoods, where viable, and mitigate loss revenues by discontinuing neighbourhood bin rentals in those locations.
  - 2.2. Add residential recycling collection with garbage pickup on week one and recycling pickup on week two.
3. Move to one bag of Garbage per Week per Household, with the option to buy additional baggage.



## Objectives of the Public Session

- Understand community perspective on current waste management practices and recommendations.
- Clarify public information around the issues of waste Management.
- Identify community priorities for future waste management initiatives.
- Use knowledge gained to inform next steps and develop or alter implementation plans.

## **What We Heard**

### **Key Themes and Insights – Community Perspective**

#### **Summary**

The municipality acknowledges the concerns and suggestions raised during the engagement session. The following list identifies key issues.

- Partnering with local organizations for educational programs on waste reduction, recycling, reuse.
- Need to increase community involvement / ownership.
- Options for extending services to currently unserved residential neighbourhoods need to address concerns over animal attraction, road maintenance, child safety.
- Commercial service options
  - need to compare the cost benefit of keeping collection services inhouse versus outsourcing.
  - Need to ensure there are viable private sector options.
  - Need to be clear on what future services might be added and can private sector accommodate.
  - Need to ensure that private sector option provide incentive to reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Salvaging is important and must be maintained.
- Illegal dumping is a concern.
  - Plans to deal with increased illegal dumping must be in place.
- Wildlife protection
- Clarity is needed on data, sources, and making it available to the public via the City website.
  - Where and how data is used in the decision-making process needs greater clarity.
- Audit of waste stream is needed to identify components.
- Goals for diversion from the landfill must be clarified, communicated, and progress tracked.
- Diversion centre needs TLC – needs to be cleaned up, organized, friendlier, better signage.
- Accessibility of diversion centre remains a problem due to its location
- Attention must be given to public garbage and recycling during summer for tourists and visitors
- There is strong support for composting in the community, there is a numerical argument that suggests composting may be the low-hanging-fruit to address diversion goals, and there is ongoing resistance amongst staff and consultants to implementing comprehensive composting collection and processing based on perceived costs and challenges - this needs to be addressed

#### **Path Forward**

##### **Next steps**

1. Release the executive summary and the detailed reports of “What We Heard.”
2. Staff will Review the feedback and discussion and
  - a. identify areas of common agreement
  - b. further research areas of uncertainty
  - c. develop a more detailed financial analysis of options.
  - d. revise recommendations based on feedback and analysis .
3. Develop small working groups on specific areas to develop recommendations.
4. Revise recommendations.
5. Review Revised recommendations with a 2<sup>nd</sup> public session likely in July / august.
6. Develop implementation plan and share for additional comment.
7. Present to Council for final approval.

##### **Contact Information**

For more information or to provide further comments, please contact: Owen Kemp-Griffin,  
[projectmanager@cityofdawson.ca](mailto:projectmanager@cityofdawson.ca), 867-993-7400 ext. 304

[pwmanager@cityofdawson.ca](mailto:pwmanager@cityofdawson.ca), 867-993-7400 ext. 301

## Summary of discussions

( we have tried to capture the essence of the comment and corresponding information where appropriate)

### Comments - / Questions

*“I am not a business owner but have talked to a number of business owners and they generally do not support the City discontinuing collection Services “*

*“A private contractor will have to pick up multiple streams, no incentive to maximize diversion - biggest part of cost will be collecting and tipping fees. Will be difficult for a private contractor to assign a fee to each customer and would just assign a flat fee”.*

- Garbage to the landfill will incur a tipping fee, waste diverted to the diversion centre will not which is anticipated to present a financial incentive to separate and divert recyclables.
- The City is approaching two area businesses to determine their interest and seek proposals.

*A lot of the business waste is essential as it is bringing in the products, we are consuming, and it comes in packaging .*

*Commercial collection includes institutions -the School, McDonald Lodge, Hospital, nonprofits such as daycare, the Museum, Government buildings, Multi unit residential . It will be onerous on some of these institutions to pay for their own pickup.*

- This is a difficult discussion and if the City is subsidizing the costs associated with the solid waste of these institutions, then municipal taxpayers are arguably picking up the cost of services that are funded by various other government bodies, nonprofits or multi residential tenants.

*If the City keeps commercial collection inhouse it could promote diversion, it could continue to pick up cardboard, it could continue to pick up compostables or not - could start picking up compostables separately – Businesses could pay for each bag of solid waste separately.*

- The City will be promoting diversion whether it is inhouse or outsourced. It is believed that if the City collects refundable (and potentially composting) while businesses pay for garbage pickup services, this will maximize diversion goals.
- If Commercial collection is kept in-house the City could add additional service levels if the community accepts additional costs. It may also be true that if Commercial collection is outsourced the City could add additional service levels if the community accepts additional costs
- Utilizing a bag tag system, requiring payment for each bag of garbage, may be an alternative way of providing commercial collection service, with either inhouse service or outsourced service.

*“In the past we calculated that 75% of municipal solid waste is coming from Commercial sites, thus, extending landfill life requires diverting material from commercial waste.*

- True and thus the need to align the volume of waste produced with the cost of disposing of waste while making the diversion of recyclables out of the waste stream cheaper. Together these provide a strong incentive for commercial properties to reduce and recycle.

*If costs are transferred to business, stores, hardware etc., then its just transferred back to us (businesses) and we put prices up and people get mad and that’s not fair.*

- One of the premises of waste management is attaching true disposal costs to the volume of waste produced which then affects choices that people and business make. It provides an incentive to reduce and recycle.

*Is there a private sector supplier?*

- Implementation plans are to be developed over 4-5 months including talks with potential private sectors – there are two indicating interest - if neither works out, we would have to go to an alternate plan – Plan B – which has not yet been defined.

*We heard that Commercial collection is 75% of waste - if we remove 75% of business of collection service and we don't lay off staff its impossible to save money - so if we already have the staff, infrastructure charge , appropriate fee for commercial pickup then it's a win /win - doesn't make sense to cut services and not reduce expenses - and going to biweekly pickup is not logical*

- A significant proportion of the commercial waste will continue to be collected by the City of Dawson including: Recyclables and potentially composting.
- The potential to save money is based on reallocating the available staff to neighbourhoods currently served by bins with a potential savings from replacing the bins of \$40,000 annually.
- The current commercial charges are a flat rate unrelated to the volume of waste produced.
- The recommendations cut the commercial collection service provided by the municipality and add residential collection services to unserved neighbourhoods and add Residential recycling collection every other week.
- Biweekly refers to waste collection on week one, recycling collection week two. This is an increase in service which should increase residential recycling and access to the diversion facility.

*Can we look at other municipalities and learn from them - Vancouver uses private companies - can we do that – and have private sector do all the services and bill people directly – no need for bag limits - no need for deciding who gets the service – if you want the service you pay for it - it reduces garbage because people don't want to pay for too many bags – and this works – people reduce.*

- Having a look at what has worked or not worked at other municipalities is referred to as reviewing municipal waste management “best practices” and is one tool used by municipal staff. Information gained has to be viewed in a local context to understand if it is applicable locally or not.
- There are examples of “outsourcing” municipal waste collection including requiring each property owner to contract individually with a private collection company, the municipality contracting with a single private collection company that collects all solid waste, and the municipality contracting a private collection company for the collection of residential waste.
- This line of thought is often applied to commercial collection because of the wide range of service required in the commercial sector and has been considered in the development of the recommendation before city council.

*If we charge more, couldn't we hire more people?*

- The discussion started with a goal of adding more residential recycling collection service - doing so means we either find capacity in the system or start charging more and building additional capacity (hiring more people). Many people in the room are hesitant for city to start charging more or hiring more people but that's an option.
- If we add service, and do not raise charges it is likely that we will have to raise taxes.
- Biweekly residential pickup is adding service, and we need more resources to do so - we either reallocate or hire more - and that's the kind of thing the community needs to consider

*Recycling has become complicated – I keep doing it –I cannot pay an employee to do it –we have lots of compost material – we should be talking about tools to reduce.*

*Incentive should be to produce less waste so that we don't have all the costs associated with recycling – we could outlaw plastic bottles, bags like Europe. Instead of discontinuing Commercial service – use what we have more effectively and add a small premium.*

- By associating the cost of waste disposal and collection with waste produced there is a financial incentive to reduce the volume of waste produced.
- The Federal Government has prohibited the usage of single use plastics. The City of Dawson has enacted a similar bylaw.

- Maintaining commercial collection and aligning costs with volume of waste is an option to consider.

*People like the current bins and have concerns about eliminating them— but when we understand that tipping fees are coming, and unmonitored bins pose a problem as everyone will want to dump in our bin and it doesn't promote diversion -it is good that we now have a waste supervisor – she should drive around these neighbourhoods and understand the challenges – bears - speak to the CO's*

- From CO - your current system is just about the best system for wildlife management.

*There are concerns if permanent boxes are required at each driveway - -ditching - grading – brushing – snowplowing – we think this needs Gannon's feedback –*

*2 suggestions – card lock bins if such an option exists – or an opt out – people drop off and cart their own waste to the landfill using a bag tag – 26 per year.*

- City staff are thinking along similar lines – considering nodal setup with a bin per road with key access.
- The issues cited are challenges to services in some of the unserved areas.
- The opt out and usage of a bag tag system needs to be considered.

*Concerned about tipping fees – makes it easier to dump in the river – or on other people's property – must be cautious in implementing such programs.*

- Examples of how this issue has been dealt with will be sought from other municipalities and how it can best be handled locally with local agencies and resources.
- Input from the community will be sought on how to best manage this issue.

*I am concerned about your lack of recent data – is the 2018 report the most recent data you have - how do we measure success with no baseline - do we know volume of waste going into the landfill - how much is construction and demolition vs household - what is our diversion rate - - what is our goal.*

- The city needs to clarify, organize, and make available data and sources.
- The current landfill 10-year permit application has data, largely estimates based on various techs and reports.
- There is a wide range of documents from consultant reports, permit applications, diversion volumes. Estimates utilize 2009 work, 2018 updated reports, known dimensions and capacity of the landfill site, previous CKS work, recyclable shipping data.
- The current estimate in the 10-year application before Yesab is that we divert approx. 18% now and the goal for 2033 is 40%.
- A physical audit of waste stream composition would be beneficial.

*People seem to have lost interest in recycling since CKS closed – people are putting recyclables in the garbage. The new diversion centre looks bad, staff are grumpy , committed volunteer's vs a paycheque. I think we should go back to private service.*

- There have been startup challenges with the new diversion centre. We believe it is improving but it will take time.
- Equipment better suited for higher volume is being sourced currently.
- Options for greater community ownership and involvement are needed.

*If animal issues mean extending residential service is not a viable option would discontinuing commercial collection be reconsidered?*

- A few items to consider with this question: The City will continue to collect recyclables (and potentially compost) from commercial properties (likely at a reduced frequency), there are important distinctions between different “extended” neighborhoods (C4 vs the Dome), there are two new land developments that will add approximately 60 to 70 lots in the near future, there are going to be more stops for the refuse truck as each household will require their own bin or box.

- The extended service recommendation allowed cost savings by cancelling bins - so that's part of the consideration -
- the second consideration is the goal of increasing service to residential properties by adding recycling collection every other week.
- if commercial collection is maintained and additional residential services are added, the city will have to hire additional staff and either increase the collection charges or increase property taxes.

*I like current bins – don't like driving to the recycling centre- not open much – shambles – and you have to self sort. I would rather have more recycling drop off locations.*

*I live in the Dredge pond, and I like the bins – people don't always put it in the bins – would prefer curbside pickup especially if recycling pickup is added.*

*As a Dredge Pond resident, I'd like to keep the bin system – it's a shit show around bins now - - all kinds of littering now/illegal dumping and will get worse. No incentive for recycling - Cardboard goes to landfill. System we had 4 years ago worked well – now our costs have shot up.*

- Cardboard has been a problem with some of it contaminated and we currently have small bailers – when the Diversion centre is overwhelmed with cardboard the incoming cardboard shipments are diverted to the landfill. We are getting a larger industrial baler but its not in yet.
- Ideally the combination of bag limits, tipping fees, and free drop off of recyclables at the diversion centre represent a financial incentive to recycle and messaging campaigns will support a moral incentive to recycle.

*How well does the city understand what we are collecting now – if we go to bag tags and a one bag per household per week limit does it work out to encourage reduction / recycling etc based on the bag size.- what are the goals and what are the current numbers –how will that work if your cutting commercial collection?*

- Bag limits will encourage a portion of properties to increase recycling. Most households will be able to manage their waste within the one bag limit.
- The current 10-year landfill application estimates that we are diverting approx. 18% now and the goal in 10 years is 40%. The application report is available now on the Yesab website.
- The recommendation is for Commercial collection to be outsourced to the private sector. Applying collection and disposal costs to waste volume and a reduced charge to divert recyclables is anticipated to be an incentive for commercial properties to reduce and recycle.

*What you're saying is that prior to CKS stopping services we were recycling 95% of commercial waste - and here your saying that people are putting their recycling in the garbage because they cant get to the depot - so same question – how will this support diversion - not just people in town but out of town, anyone who cant get to the depot - so is it being considered – what about people who cant get travel out to do this for waste and disposable divergence.*

- This question may be misquoted – CKS or related bodies were supplying a fee-for-collection-service at one point which is no longer provided.
- The Diversion center is located outside of the town core. This location was chosen due to the need for space and CKS assisted in choosing the site. Now the City has assumed operation of the recycling program, and the challenge is how to increase services while limiting the increase in costs to the municipality and the taxpayer.
- The effort to move to curbside residential recycling is partly an effort to address this question by reducing the need for residents in the serviced areas to go to the diversion centre.

*The CKS depot was doing well and running smoothly – now it is sitting empty – and no downtown recycling centre - no place to go.*

- CKS was running downtown, they needed more capacity, they helped identify the current location, asked for a new facility - the relationship between CKS and the City deteriorated, there were cost and funding issues - the city assumed recycling operations and the new facility opened - you would have to ask CKS for details but maybe they needed additional funding - now the new centre is operating, we now have a supervisor onboard, but the challenge of the location being outside of town remains.

*As a CKS board members for 10 plus years - non refundables were always a challenge - we increased diversion rates - with diversion credits capped we were putting ourselves out of business by increasing our business and we were overwhelmed - we had old equipment, and it was becoming unsafe. The building needed work, we started bouncing paycheques - we did not want to go bankrupt and have staff unpaid, we did not want staff hurt, we told the city we needed to change.*

*If the City is responsible for waste - it is absurd to depend on volunteers.*

*I am most concerned that garbage doesn't end up on the ground. Tourists and visitors need a place to put their garbage, we need public bins.*

- The city has approx. 50 bins in public space currently, we may need to add more, place some differently and review how often they are cleared.

*Have City Staff consulted with CKS or other Environmental agencies directly on these questions - have they consulted the Conservation officers to see the impacts of tipping fees, expanded pickup, ?*

- From CO - As I am filling in for your regular CO this evening I can't say - but I can't imagine extra driving can save money .
  - The expanded service recommendation projects a cost savings by eliminating large bin rentals at approx. \$40,000 annually versus the additional fuel of the collection vehicle circulating through the affected neighbourhoods one time per week.
- Additional consultations were expected to take place in the development of implementation plans which would address specific questions and planning.

*I want to go back to the question of cost changes when collection services were previously brought inhouse - the City website shows that in 2021 waste management cost 494 k and in 2024 it shows 692k*

*Has the City thought of renting the CKS downtown location?*

- We have the challenge of the new location which was picked for practical reasons - this is a community discussion - renting and operating the downtown location would mean additional costs - we heard some discussion tonight about not wanting additional costs - additional services means additional costs.

*I like the idea of looking at other municipalities to see what works and what doesn't - The city of Guelph has trucks that pickup 3 streams - garbage - recycling - compost - using 3 different coloured bags -*

- This is one approach City staff are looking at.

*How will we manage visitors - tourists, miners, truck drivers?*

- Currently we have roughly 50 public bins - we may have to increase the number - strategically place them, evaluate how to monitor, and adjust how this is managed. We may need additional input.

*Composting is important - recycling full so going to garbage - I support the use of volunteers as we need to balance taxes and services. The Diversion centre is a nightmare and has been messy, bags are full. We could use volunteers and possibly the downtown depot could be run by volunteers as a collection point.*

- The diversion centre has been messy and not operating as it could be. We have seen improvements with the recent hiring of the Waste Supervisor which is what we were hoping/expecting to see.
- The possibility of involving volunteers in the system needs to be further explored.

*Illegal dumping - does that go to the CO – do the CO's have additional manpower needed?*

- From the CO - people who call in to the tip line to report illegal dumping will reach the CO
- From the CO – We have not planned for or been advised of additional manpower - we haven't thought of it.

*We operate the Thrift store - will this affect the end of year disposals where we send unwanted items to the landfill?*

- As it stands now, with tipping fees , yes – but there is some flexibility by the city as programs get developed and put in place - those might be discussions around helping charities but there are a lot of charities and council would have to find the right balance.

*My experience suggests that when tipping fees get too high illegal dumping increases.*

*Would the biweekly pickup of residential garbage and recyclables help the problem of the diversion centre being out of town ?*

- yes – residential collection of recyclables would presumably mitigate the problem of the Diversion Centre being out of town and people having to travel by vehicle to get there.
- It's a good point about tipping fees – there will definitely be a learning curve.

*In our work previously it was determined that Compostables/organics made up 40 – 50% of a domestic landfill and the easiest diversion stream. The City has put forward various reasons from consultants to not compost - Too much work – contaminated – wait until processing facility is available.*

*In 2009 our Compost Pilot project worked – compostable bags disappeared – composted material worked.*

*If the city has a new Landfill attendant to cover the tipping fees that same person could cover the compost process and the free store.*

*several participants on chat are hot on composting including a few of the larger commercial organic waste producers.*

- The work plan development for the attendant has been considering responsibilities in addition to tipping fees management, including composting and the free store.
- The City does currently utilize 4 composting community bins and the composting pad at the landfill – the program needs to be reviewed and reenergized.
- The city has adopted the tabletop food processor program which has proven popular – the results of this program should be considered a composting plan are further developed – acknowledging that the tabletop units do not actually compost, they grind and dehydrate

*Our household is multigenerational, and we have 7 kids - we produce far more than one bag of garbage per week, and it seems unfair that we may be facing increased costs.*

*Biweekly pickup means that diapers, fem products, dog poop, and such waste products may be sitting for two weeks in the summer heat causing odour problems and attracting animals.*

*Identifying what is recyclable is currently a problem – the city website still has CKS list which is 2-3 years old Styrofoam is not being recycled.*

*Will there be limits on how much we recycle ?*

*How many separate bins will we need?*

- Unfortunately, large households do face additional costs under most scenarios where waste collection and disposal costs are attached to waste volumes.
- Potential problems arising from a two-week storage of household waste on site will have to be further investigated.
- The feedback about the need for accurate information is good – we have seen improvements in the Diversion centre recently and this type of feedback is great for staff.
- Styrofoam is generally considered not recyclable – plastic wrapping is also considered not recyclable -
- We cannot guarantee that there will not be limits on recycling at some point in the future as the situation is always evolving but we can say that there is a lot of investment in resources currently in the Yukon, Canada and around the world to encourage reduce, reuse, recycle instead of dumping in a landfill.
- The number of separate bins is still to be determined. Many factors will be involved to try and identify the sweet spot balancing effectiveness, cost ,practicality...

*Id like to focus on salvaging at the landfill – I love the dump and don't think tipping fees have any waste management benefit. People don't want to pay to drop things off at the free store. You haven't addressed how tipping fees will affect how people salvage.*

- We can only say that tipping fees have become a standard at landfills as they put a price on waste – it is no longer "free" to produce unlimited amounts of waste and people then have an incentive to separate out recyclables which can be dropped off at the diversion centre for free.
- Dropping items at the free store will have to be considered going forward – we would not want to discourage such activity.
- We are assuming that salvaging will still be encouraged and facilitated.

*Will salvaging be allowed with tipping fees?*

- City staff are under the impression that salvaging will still be encouraged and facilitated.

*Would you consider crediting someone if they take something out of the dump?*

- We would consider it. We would look to other municipalities to see if someone has done it, how they did it, did it work. It would have to be practical - scales might help but they are posing a challenge due to the physical setup of the landfill site.

*In Ontario tipping fees stopped salvaging - have we looked into that here*

- We think tipping fees and salvaging are 2 different animals – tipping fees are about assigning a cost to waste. Stopping salvaging is usually about worker safety and people safety and liability – rusty nails, unsanitary conditions, etc. - and there's no guarantee that health and safety regulations or Insurance requirements wont one day say that we can't allow salvaging at the landfill, but we have seen no indication that tipping fees would stop salvaging

*Noted that YG allows salvaging in Whitehorse – Salvaging appears to be heavily supported by those in attendance and attending online today.*

*I have concerns about wildlife, bears and kids, and composting.*

*Grads used to collect recyclables - now not so much – how can we get back to that.*

### **Next steps - Staff oral Summary**

- Staff were tasked by council to develop implementation plans on these proposals and bring them back to council. We targeted about 4 to 5 months to implement changes, likely after the 2024 summer season. The bag tag limit was to come back to council for a separate discussion, So now

we've got a lot of information here. We identified that we would try to capture this in a summary document, key points, and issues.

- We will try to identify what some of the challenges might be with some of the issues, and we've identified a few of them. A lot of them are trade-offs between costs and services. How we do add services. Should it be kept in house, or should it be outsourced to the private sector. We've heard some different views on this tonight.
- We've got to try and capture the feedback, summarize it and try to explain to council where we're at. As we develop these plans, we will try to incorporate what we've heard here. We've probably heard most about extending the service. We've heard some diverse comments about the commercial service question.
- We will define a path forward and identify additional public sessions of some form - we will reach out to Cud and Justine about that.
- Tipping fees are different. We have an interim agreement with the territory on that. That is \$140,000 of annual funding contingent on the tipping fees being in place and YG takes over half the liability of the closure of the dump, which is right now estimated to be 3 million dollars. This is a big thing that the Territory is agreeing to. The funding from YG, in conjunction with the tipping fees, ensures that all area residents are paying their share of the Landfill costs as opposed to just City of Dawson residents. The tipping fees also attach a cost to waste so the more we produce the more we pay - which is an incentive to reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- The tipping fee, unless Council directs us that it's not going to happen, are going to happen soon. Originally it was supposed to happen last year, we were waiting for a supervisor to be hired to put them in place. We were also waiting for scales to be put in place, but it's looking less and less like that's going to happen because of the geotechnical problems of the area so tipping fees will be based on volume.

When will the municipality have a "what we heard" document available?

- It's quite time consuming but 3 - 4 weeks. We would hope to get it out quicker, but we have a number of other tasks on the deck. So, in a month's time there'll be something out to the community, and the challenge is, as Neil identified, trying to get it to everybody that's here. We don't have everybody's contact info. That's one thing we have missed on.

*This meeting didn't happen before, because I received that comment a lot that nobody has been consulted, neither the businesses nor the citizens. So why?*

*I think that the big thing is that waste management is only one of many issues that people don't feel like they're consulted on so part of the next steps would be ongoing consultation like this about many topics, not just waste management. So, when you're thinking about what's going on, and what you want to do next. I think that's a thing to consider from the city's point of view. How will you allow these kinds of consultations for other issues going forward. Thank you.*

- City staff and council must find the appropriate degree of consultation and input on many different issues - for some issues the normal council process of public meetings, delegations, correspondence, public questions, councillor interaction with members of the community, are sufficient.
- The trade-off of additional consultation steps is time and resources that are required the more you consult which means additional costs and fewer projects or less work completed. A common concern of dealing with government agencies is the time it takes to get things done and thus finding the "sweet spot" that balances sufficient consulting with the issue under discussion is important and can be subjective.