



## Recycling plan stalls

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BY VANCOUVER SUN FEBRUARY 20, 2014

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To meet B.C. government requirements, producers of packaging and printed paper created a not-for-profit society called Multi Material B.C., and the province approved the society to take over management of recycling of those materials, beginning May 19.

The principle is called "extended producer responsibility," which means any business that produces waste has to be responsible for paying for recycling it.

We are used to paying deposits on our bottles and upfront fees on things such as tires. That won't happen with packaging and paper, but since the goal is to shift the burden from taxpayers to industries, the cost will ultimately have to be paid by consumers through higher prices.

Teething problems are expected, but there are still too many questions to make this program ready for prime time.

Chambers of commerce started asking questions last summer about the effects on small businesses.

One way or another, consumers will pay for the system, so it's in everyone's interest to make it work properly.

The fact that a sweeping revision of the rules was made this month shows that this is still a work in progress. **It should not be launched with so many questions unanswered.**

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