CAUTION: EXTERNAL MAIL. DO NOT CLICK ON LINKS OR OPEN ATTACHMENTS YOU DO NOT TRUST.

Good afternoon,

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding the Provincial Day of Action on Litter on May 12, 2020.

Nothing is more important than protecting the health and well-being of Ontarians. Since first learning of COVID-19, Ontario has taken decisive action to contain the spread of this new virus.

We have now reached a critical time in our fight against COVID-19. Every step taken by the province and every effort made by each of us to practice physical distancing are the key to our success as a province to stop the spread of this virus. We know that following the COVID-19 outbreak Ontarians will be eager to return outdoors; this will be a great opportunity to reconnect with nature.

In support of the effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 and help keep Ontarians safe, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will be postponing public and corporate cleanups until later in the year during Waste Reduction Week, which takes place October 19-25, 2020.

Of course, May 12, 2020 will continue to be the first official Day of Action on Litter. To mark this occasion this year, we will be focusing on raising awareness of the impacts of waste in the environment, and what actions each and every Ontarian can take to prevent, reduce and divert waste, right at home.

We ask that your municipality join this effort by sharing content on social media to profile what your city or town is doing now even during the COVID-19 outbreak to prevent, reduce or divert waste in your communities, and what local residents can do to get involved.

To help get you started, in the coming weeks we will provide a communications toolkit including photos and other resources to support educational activities and inspire individual actions on litter and waste now. A dedicated web page will also be available by May 12, 2020 to provide additional resources for the public.

If you have not already done so, please provide a contact in your municipality that ministry staff can reach out to with this information by <u>completing this form</u> by April 30, 2020.

REFERRAL TO
RECOMMENDED
DIRECTION REQUIRED

In the coming months, as we approach Waste Reduction Week in October, we will connect with you again to obtain your support with:

- Υ organizing a municipal-led cleanup event
- Υ providing permits as needed to the public who want to do their own cleanup
- Υ identifying drop-off locations for collected litter

If you have any questions, please reach out to ActONLitter@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your support during this time.

Jeff Yurek Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Andrea Khanjin

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks