



Region of Queens Municipality Staff Report For the Regular Meeting of November 12, 2025

Date: November 13, 2025
File No: 10350-50-2511-06
To: Mayor and Council
From: Willa Thorpe, CAO
Subject: Bylaw No. 13 – Solid Waste Management

Prepared by: A A. Grant A. Grant, Director of Infrastructure	Supervisor: <u>W. Thorpe</u> Chief Administrative Officer	CAO Concurrence: _____ W. Thorpe, CAO
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RECOMMENDATION

THAT Bylaw No. 13 Solid Waste Management be now introduced and read a first time.

PURPOSE

To update the municipal bylaw respecting management of solid waste in Queens County to reflect changes in waste collection regulations across Nova Scotia.

BACKGROUND

Bylaw 13 has been presented to Council for first reading at the Regular Meetings on September 9, 2025, and October 28, 2025. At the October 28, 2025 Regular Meeting Council defeated the motion to introduce and read the bylaw a first time.

A subsequent motion was approved:

That Council directs staff to revise the draft of bylaw number 13, solid waste management and to incorporate Council's suggested changes and bring the revised draft forward for first reading at a future meeting.

At that meeting, feedback from Council during the discussion of the bylaw included:

Councillor Amirault

- Proposing a 4-bag limit while neighboring municipalities permit 6 to 8 bags
- An increase of issues at grey boxes
- Only one kitchen catcher per pickup, not per bag which limits large families
- Recommends a 6-bag limit, one of which is a full-size black privacy bag

Deputy Mayor Charlton

- 4-bag limit is not consistent with other municipalities
- Not aware of other municipalities changing their bylaw
- Her household requires more than 4 bags and is concerned this limit will lead to illegal dumping
- Concerned with people putting waste at the curb which is not collected because it exceeds the limit and will lead to increase in the racoon population
- Residents use kitchen bags in their bathrooms, and we need to provide more allowance for privacy bags
- Recommends one clear bag be permitted full of kitchen bags or one black bag for privacy per pickup

Councillor Wentzell

- Agrees with Councillor Amirault's position that 4 bags is inadequate and we need one black privacy bag.
- Recommends 5 clear and 1 black bag

Mayor Christian

- Concerned with clauses 47 through 50 and the responsibilities of landowners on private roads, similar to his personal home
- He received feedback from interest groups with respect to grey box collection:
 - Commitment from Council that we do not invite in any affirmative obligations on the owners of the lot owners' associations about

- maintenance and the state of grey box sites prior to RQM engaging in broad-based consultation and exploring solutions for those sites
- The language from the current bylaw does not align with Council's vision which is that RQM is not implying that private road residents or groups have any obligation to grey boxes sites until consultation is completed
 - Will defeat the motion until staff revise the language in this section of the bylaw which is “property owners who rely on grey boxes are not party to this language”

Councillor Jenkins

- Full support with the Mayor and would like to see clause 50 removed until the consultation is complete

ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

- 1) Council introduces Bylaw No. 13 Solid Waste Management and reads the Bylaw a first time.
- 2) Council directs staff to gather additional information before introducing Bylaw No. 13 Solid Waste Management.

ANALYSIS

Staff have incorporated feedback from Council into the latest draft of Bylaw 13. Consensus from Council feedback on the bag limit has been adjusted in the bylaw to describe a limit of 6 bags, including 1 black bag. The Regional Coordinator's group has provided a summary of the parameters implemented in all other Nova Scotia Municipalities regarding collection of solid waste. Clause 50 in the draft bylaw has been revised to include the exemption in subclause 50 (a) which is to confirm that residents of private roads who are collected by grey boxes collection sites are not required to maintain the grey boxes or the grey box sites.

IMPLICATIONS

Should Council elect not to implement the proposed draft bylaw by December 1, 2025, Region of Queens Municipality would be in contravention of provincial regulations.

Delays in the production of the '2026 Waste Sorting Guide' are expected as changes in the bylaw will impact the language within the sorting guide. Though digital communications can be deployed prior to December 1, 2025, residents will likely receive print copies in early 2026. This delay in distribution of the print copies may result in non-compliance at curbside, as the contractor responsible for blue bag collection and transfer has the potential to place the Municipality in contravention of the Environment Act.

COMMUNICATIONS

Staff are developing a communications plan to educate residents and members of the public on all corresponding changes to managing solid waste in Queens County.

BYLAWS/PLANS/POLICIES

2025 - Draft Bylaw 13 Solid Waste Management

SUMMARY

Region of Queens Municipality collects and handles solid waste throughout Queens County. To ensure alignment with evolving provincial regulations, an updated bylaw must be adopted prior to December 1, 2025. Staff recommend that Council introduces and reads Bylaw No. 13 Solid Waste Management.

ATTACHMENTS/REFERENCE MATERIALS

- 2025 - Draft Bylaw 13 Solid Waste Management
- Nova Scotia Municipal Solid Waste Collection Details
- [Region of Queens Regular Council Meeting – October 28, 2025 – First Reading – Solid Waste Bylaw No. 13](#)
- [Region of Queens Regular Council Meeting – September 9, 2025 - Bylaw #13 - Solid Waste Management](#)
- [Operational Policy No. 17 Private Road Solid Waste Collection Boxes](#)
- [Bylaw No. 13 “Proper Separation, Storage, Placement for Pick-Up, Collection of Solid Waste”](#)