

Annual General Report: PPEA-B.C. 2007-2008

Sept. 5, 2008

After a relatively peaceful few years in the plastic packaging industry, the past twelve months have seen a growing level of activity at all levels of government throughout Canada. Here in B.C. we can consider ourselves fortunate that punitive, ad-hoc regulation and legislation has not been evident. However, other jurisdictions have seen renewed attacks on our industry and we should be alert to these influences creeping into British Columbia.

Through our consultant and advisor, Jim Cairns, we have continued our consistent policy to support responsible management of waste resources, recycling and source reduction. Our Outreach Program has been enhanced thanks to the development of our website by Director James Davidson. It has been the forum for articles and commentary that promote the rational approach to the management of our products.

We have continued close contact with the Provincial Ministry of Environment. Meetings were held with Assistant Deputy Minister Lynn Bailey, Acting Director Glen Oakrainitz and Manager Kris Ord. In addition, contact was maintained with B.C. MOE staff David Lawes (Section Head), Greg Tyson, Jennifer Wilson and Bob Paul.

Similarly, active relationships at the Federal level with Environment Canada were maintained when Jim attended the C.C.M.E. bi-annual meetings in Fredericton, N.B. in February this year. Through EPAS, Jim has joined the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) and has attended two of their meetings.

Continuous interface with environmental advocacy has been a priority for our association. Jim currently serves as both R.C.B.C. Director as well as the Chair of their Packaging Working Group. It was through Jim's persuasion that the original focus of this group (Plastics Working Group) was changed to the more generic Packaging Working Group to more appropriately endorse our Provincial Government's "By Application" approach to solid waste management.

It would appear that this approach is becoming better recognized in other jurisdictions as it concentrates on identifiable groups of products, plastics or otherwise, in order to manage their discards. The use and understanding of the Expanded Producer Responsibility policy continues to grow.

We are not immune to zealots and misguided politicians calling for bans, taxes or other restrictive prohibitions. They are, fortunately, localized to the city/municipal jurisdiction and have, so far, carried little weight with the public. We should, however, be alert to these moves as municipal elections will be held this November.



PPEA-BC

***Plastic Processors Environmental
Association of British Columbia***

Our industry has been under attack by the ill-informed and the expedient. There is little we can do to counteract these attacks other than educate the decision-makers with the facts and remove their agenda from the public table. Despite all the press and publicity, to this point, no damaging or punitive action has been taken at any level of government in B.C. Your association is dedicated to maintain that status.

As I always do, I thank Jim Cairns of E.P.A.S. for his tireless efforts on our behalf. His constant and consistent delivery of our message has made a huge difference in our affairs. His constant contact, world-wide, is an unseen benefit to our members and I am always reminded of his successes on our behalf.

Thank you for your support of our association. We hope you are satisfied that these efforts are effective and meaningful.

Yours truly,

Steve Norris
Chair