

# Waste and Our Government (cont.)

The third and final government involved in waste management is municipalities. The actual collection, diversion and disposal of waste is carried out by cities, towns, villages, townships, counties and regional municipalities. At minimum, these agencies must provide a sanitary landfill for their populace. The collecting and budgeting of funds for whatever waste management method or methods used is also a municipal function.

Local bylaws are passed by municipal councils to take into account special circumstances. Municipalities take the other governments' ideas and actions, fine tune them, then put them into practical applications.

The government responsibility with regard to waste management is structured much like a professional hockey team. Our federal government is the team owner. It decides what the long term goals are, how much money to spend in reaching these goals and the basic agenda to be followed.

A provincial government represents the general manager. It sets and enforces rules that will not only help to meet the owner's goals but also achieve goals it has set. Adjustments are made as the targets are reached or changed. Helping the coaches and players do a good job and ensuring they do it is the biggest part of the general manager's position.

Municipalities are the coaches. They teach and help the players to be successful. Good coaches bring out the best in the players. Goals are achieved, bad situations overcome and a sense of accomplishment is felt. Enthusiastic coaches create enthusiastic players. But who are the players?

The people of Canada are. By working together and doing our individual parts, we can "win a few." Enough wins can take us from being the biggest waste producer (last place) to a spot near the top of the standings.

