



**Environment and Climate Change
Office of the Minister**

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File number: 10700-40-57539

May 21, 2021

Gary Burrill, NDP
& Kendra Coombes, NDP
kendrachristinecoombes@gmail.com

Dear Gary Burrill and Kendra Coombes:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 2021 regarding mercury and extended producer responsibility (EPR). I am pleased to hear you and members of your caucus took the opportunity to visit the Dan-X Recycling Facility.

Nova Scotia Power's (NSP) mercury collection program allowed NSP to offset mercury emissions over its legislated cap by diverting mercury that may have otherwise ended up in the environment. Efficiency Nova Scotia, who delivered the program, reports that the mercury collection program successfully diverted over 175kg of mercury from landfills in Nova Scotia prior to NSP concluding the voluntary program in early 2020. You would need to contact Efficiency Nova Scotia or Nova Scotia Power to acquire cost details as this was a private contract between those parties.

It is important to limit the quantity of mercury released to the environment. I have asked staff for options related to mercury. Expanding the use of EPR to collect, process and recycle end of life products is under consideration as part of moving Nova Scotia toward a more circular economy. For example, we are currently considering the EPR proposal for printed paper and packaging submitted by the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities and the Solid Waste Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Irving".

Keith Irving, MLA
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

- c: Brendan, Maguire, Minister, Department of Municipal Affairs
 Doug Boudreau, Executive Assistant to Minister Maguire
 Alison E. Smith, NS NDP Caucus Office
 Amanda MacDougall, Acting President, NS Federation of Municipalities
 Cyril MacDonald, Acting Chair of Regional Chairs