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Contaminated Recyclables a Growing Issue

For Immediate Release (April 23/18): The Thompson-Nicola Regional District is asking residents to be more vigilant about disposing of recyclable materials. This comes after the TNRD's recycling processor, Emterra Environmental, recently informed the TNRD that it would no longer be accepting mixed recycling, citing high contamination levels.



Due to international pressures, such as China's new "National Sword" policy, there is now no longer a market for mixed recycling with any level of contamination. This means that processors like Emterra cannot sell this product.

"The biggest source of contamination is from the municipal recycling depots and curbside-collected recycling," says Jamie Vieira, Manager of Environmental Services at the TNRD. "This is to be expected as there is no one monitoring what goes in the bin. It is up to individual residents if we are to avoid sending mixed recycling to landfill."

In response to this, the TNRD is asking for residents' help by ensuring that they are carefully following the accepted materials guidelines for mixed recycling to avoid contamination. Contamination comes in several forms, such as food residues on otherwise acceptable items, household garbage being put into mixed recycling bins, or even items that *are* recyclable but *are not* part of the mixed recycling program.

The TNRD is working on changes to its recycling system to ensure recycling can continue. If you have questions, please contact the TNRD or go to tnrd.ca

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**For more information contact Cassandra Enns, Environmental Services Technologist:
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The TNRD covers 11 municipalities (Ashcroft, Barriere, Cache Creek, Chase, Clearwater, Clinton, Kamloops, Logan Lake, Lytton, Merritt and Sun Peaks) and 10 Electoral Areas - "A" (Wells Gray Country), "B" (Thompson Headwaters), "E" (Bonaparte Plateau), "I" (Blue Sky Country), "J" (Copper Desert Country), "L" (Grasslands), "M" (Beautiful Nicola Valley - North), "N" (Beautiful Nicola Valley - South), "O" (Lower North Thompson) and "P" (Rivers and the Peaks). The TNRD provides over 120 services including planning and building inspection, solid waste management, emergency preparedness, 9-1-1 services, recreation, utilities, television rebroadcasting, river buoys, transit, tourism, library services and operates a film commission.