PPEC wants old boxes banned from landfill

The national recovery rate of old corrugated boxes for recycling is an estimated 85%, with at least one provincial Blue Box program reaching 98 per cent. But that still means some corrugated ends up in landfill, either in Canada or in the US.

PPEC doesn’t think it should be there, and is appealing to Canadian provinces to ban the disposal of old corrugated from landfill, either with disposal bans, landfill levies, or a mix of the two policies. Nova Scotia and PEI already have bans in place, and Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba are talking about it.

Bans would reduce methane and carbon dioxide emissions from landfills, increase waste diversion, prolong landfill life, create jobs, reduce the packaging mills’ needs to import used boxes from the US, while demonstrating provincial leadership on climate change.

PPEC has written a blog on the subject, and prepared a one-page summary of its “win-win” proposal to the Ontario government together with a report on the pros and cons of various policy options, the lessons learned from other jurisdictions, and some suggestions on how bans and/or levies could be implemented in Ontario. This is not the first time PPEC has raised this issue (see earlier press release of June 2012).