

To: **FOIP Act section 17(1)**
Cc: Council
From: Jordan Thompson,
Director of Operations & Planning Services
Date: July 16, 2019

Reference: 11/154/2019-197

RE: Recycling Inquiries

FOIP Act section 17(1) thank you for your letter, we did not conduct an audit of our recyclable material so it is not clear exactly how much material from Lacombe is being landfilled. However we did confirm materials accepted in our curb side recycling program, namely plastics #3-#7 and glass, were landfilled – the company reported no buyers for the material. This was confirmed during a tour of their facility where stockpiles containing those items were confirmed to be destined for landfill.

Council and administration were mainly focused on the overall performance of the MRF, we did not have hard data on the contamination rates from the City of Lacombe at the time. It is the role of the MRF to sort and “decontaminate” the single stream material to the extent that the end material is attractive to buyers. We did not hear any concerns with the material coming from our curb side recycle program. The decision to discontinue curb side recycling was mainly based on the macro issues with the recycling industry – costs are going up (a 66% increase in costs was expected to renew the curb side collections contract) and less materials are actually being recycled.

Waste Management is the collector and processor of the material from the site.

Sincerely,



Jordan Thompson
Director of Operations & Planning Services