

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs

Office of the Minister

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APR 02 2019

Ms. Glenda Gies
Chair
Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority
4711 Yonge Street, Suite 408
Toronto ON M2N 6K8

Dear Ms. Gies:

It has recently come to my attention that Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES), which has been directed to wind up the waste electrical and electronic equipment program and itself, is now expected to have surplus funds in excess of \$25 million, in part due to the resolution of a tax dispute with the Canada Revenue Agency.

This surplus amount is substantially larger than what was identified in the draft wind up plan that OES consulted on and submitted to the Authority in December 2018. The draft plan stated that OES would return excess funds of approximately \$1.7 million that OES held after the final financial reconciliation to stewards.

I am requesting that the Authority consult on options to ensure that any surplus funds that OES does not need for program operations or wind up costs be used for the benefit of Ontario consumers; for example, through a consumer rebate program. This is consistent with the principle that the interests of consumers should be considered when dealing with program surpluses and deficits since consumers were charged fees when they purchased new electrical and electronic equipment.

It is my expectation that the Authority will report back to me by April 30, 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Phillips", written over a circular scribble.

Rod Phillips
Minister

c: Mr. Serge Imbrogno, Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Mr. Nick Aubry, Chair, Ontario Electronic Stewardship