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Canada's Extended Producer Responsibility Programs: An Overview

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Who is CSSA?

- Service provider to four provincial packaging and paper product recycling programs, one automotive materials program and one hazardous and special waste program
- Extensive knowledge and experience in recycling supply chains
- Provide efficient, common management and administrative services in numerous jurisdictions
- Services include:
  - "One-window" reporting for stewards according to harmonized administrative rules and call centre support for all programs
  - Common IT platform for all programs
  - Business data warehouse and analytics support
  - Full financial service support—payables receivables, reporting, audit support, fee calculations
  - Procurement and supply chain support to provincial programs
  - Offers tools and other resources to simplify reporting for smaller businesses

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Plastic Pollution Crisis: Catalyzing Action

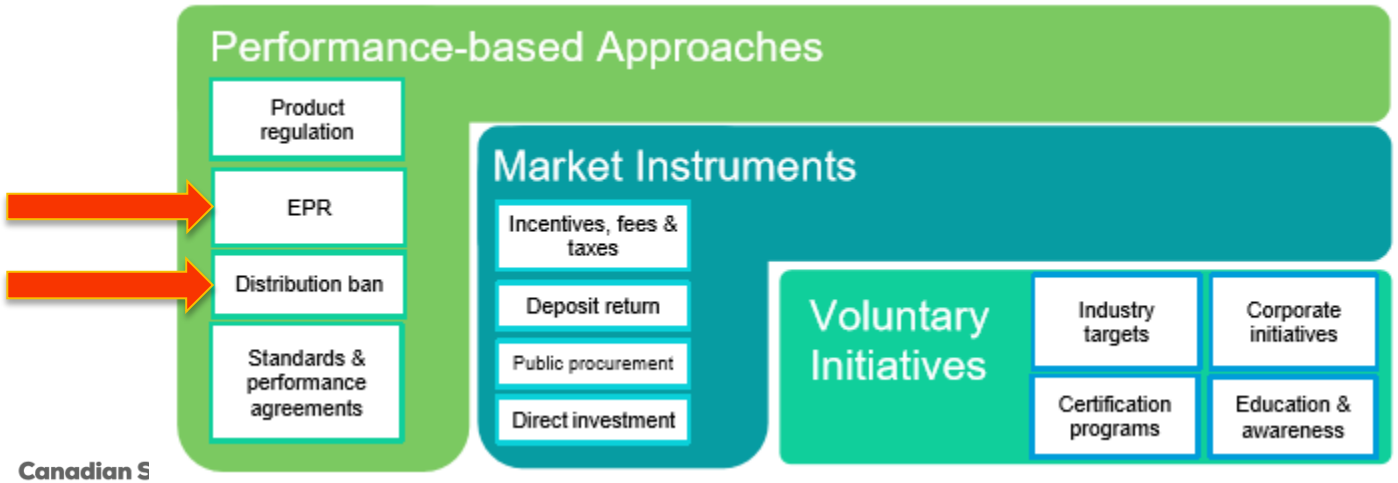
Plastic Pollution has Catalyzed Action on Recycling and EPR

- Estimates of more plastic than fish in oceans by 2050;
- 95% of global plastic packaging materials ends up as waste and is lost to the economy and represents misuse of valuable resources
- Led to Canada championing the **Ocean Plastics Charter** in 2018 – 26 government signatories to date

Impact of Plastic Pollution Also Close to Home

Canada-Wide Action Plan for Zero Plastic Waste

- Ban harmful single-use plastics by 2021
- Work with provinces and territories, to support development of consistent EPR programs across the country and set targets for plastics collection, recycling, and recycled content requirements.



Extended Producer Responsibility key to Circular Economy

"EPR programs are recognized as one of the most effective mechanisms to support the creation of a circular economy. They improve recycling rates, reduce litter, and create the conditions to incent efficiency and reduce costs for end-of-life management".

Canada Wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste, 2019

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EPR in Canadian Provinces

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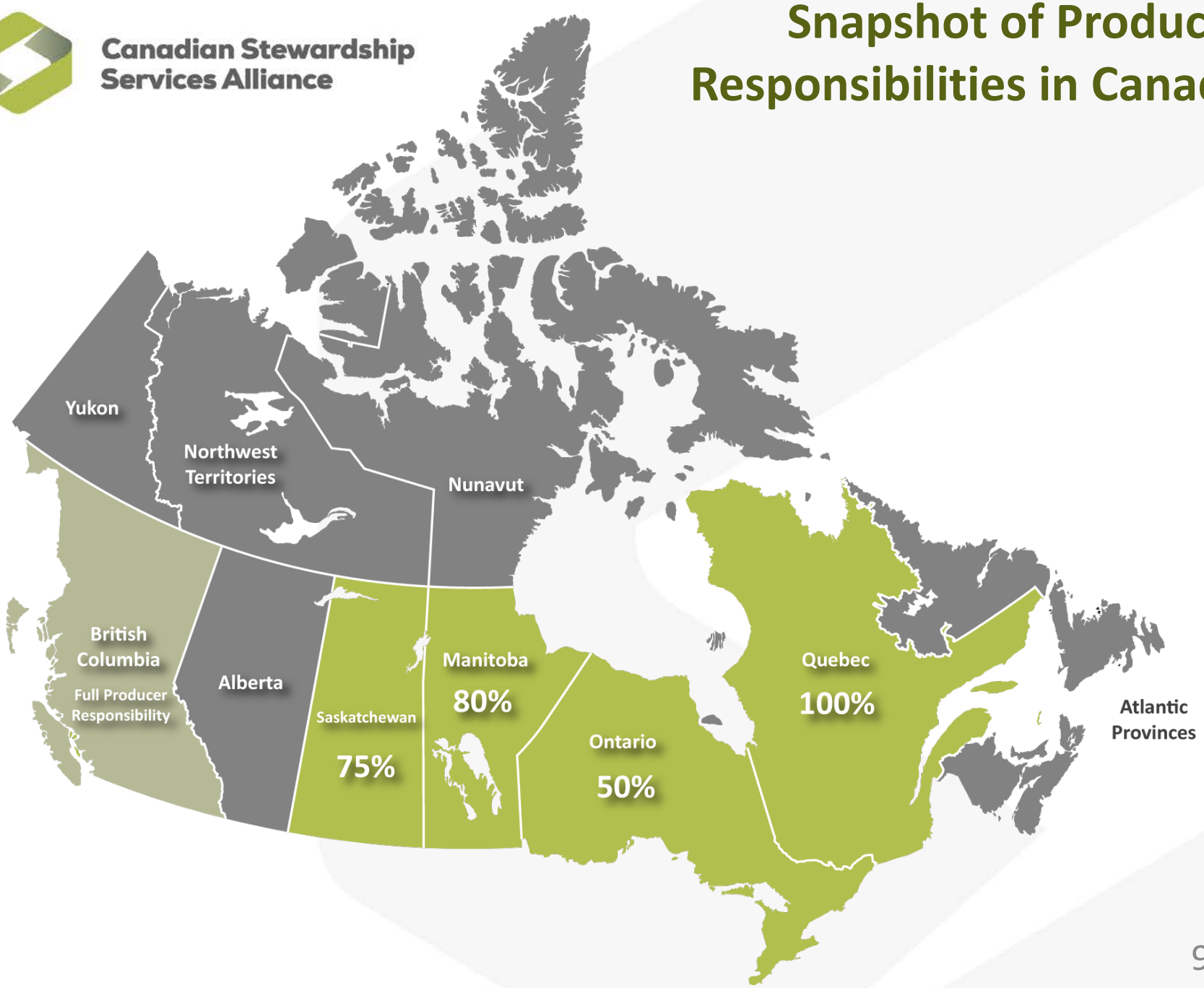
Snapshot of Producer Responsibilities in Canada



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Recycle BC Achievements

- Markets for all collected materials collected
- Incented an initial $20 million investment in recycling infrastructure
- 99% of the plastics collected are managed in BC
- Expanded scope of materials collected
- Among the highest recovery rates anywhere in Canada

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Recycle BC outperforms all other programs in NA at comparable or less cost

- In U.S., annual average cost of $54.70 USD per household vs. $55 *CAD* ($41.40 USD) in BC
- Only a 32% recovery rate in the U.S. vs. 78.2% in BC
- Only 50% of Americans enjoy access to non-subscription curbside recycling vs the 98.6% of British Columbians who enjoy access to recycling services that include a mix of curbside and depot collection services

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Emerging and Transitioning EPR Programs

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Full Producer Responsibility: Core Principles, Roles and Responsibilities, Components of EPR Framework

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Core Principles for Effective EPR

Full Responsibility	Producers fully responsible both financially and operationally; autonomy to design a recycling system to achieve efficiency and environmental targets
Easy and Convenient Recycling for Residents	Ensure recycling is easy and convenient for consumers with the same basket of goods collected everywhere
Level Playing Field with Suitable Enforcement	A level playing field and appropriate enforcement against free-riders; support for small businesses
Materials Pay their Own Way	Materials pay their own way in the recycling system with no cross-subsidization
Healthy Competition in procurement of Services	Healthy competition in the procurement of waste management/ environmental services

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Roles of Key Players in EPR System

Government	Set clear policy objectives, establish regulatory frameworks, specify targets/outcomes, approve program plans, monitor progress and enforce compliance.
Municipalities	May play a key role as the collection interface with residents, subject to their interest in staying in the game under EPR.
Business/ Producers	Take the lead on program design and implementation including developing standardized material lists and definitions, the standards to be met by service providers and setting producer fees.

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Components of Robust EPR Framework

Harmonization	Harmonization of key elements with other provinces
Outcomes-Based	Focus on outcomes-based regulations
Oversight	Ensure adequate and competent resources to oversee program performance and effective enforcement
Time for Program Development	Ensure adequate time for Program Plan development

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Benefits of Full Producer Responsibility Programs

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Full Producer Responsibility Relieves Municipalities of:

Costs	Relieves municipalities and their ratepayers from the cost of recycling services
Managing Ever-Evolving Mix of Material	Relieves municipalities of responsibility for managing an ever-evolving assortment of packaging materials
Revenue Shortfalls	No longer responsible for revenue shortfalls due to volatile commodity markets
Identifying Viable End-Markets	Industry-run programs assume responsibility for identifying viable markets for collected materials and for impact of China ban
Meeting Performance Targets	Better environmental performance is achieved by industry run program through consolidated collection and processing

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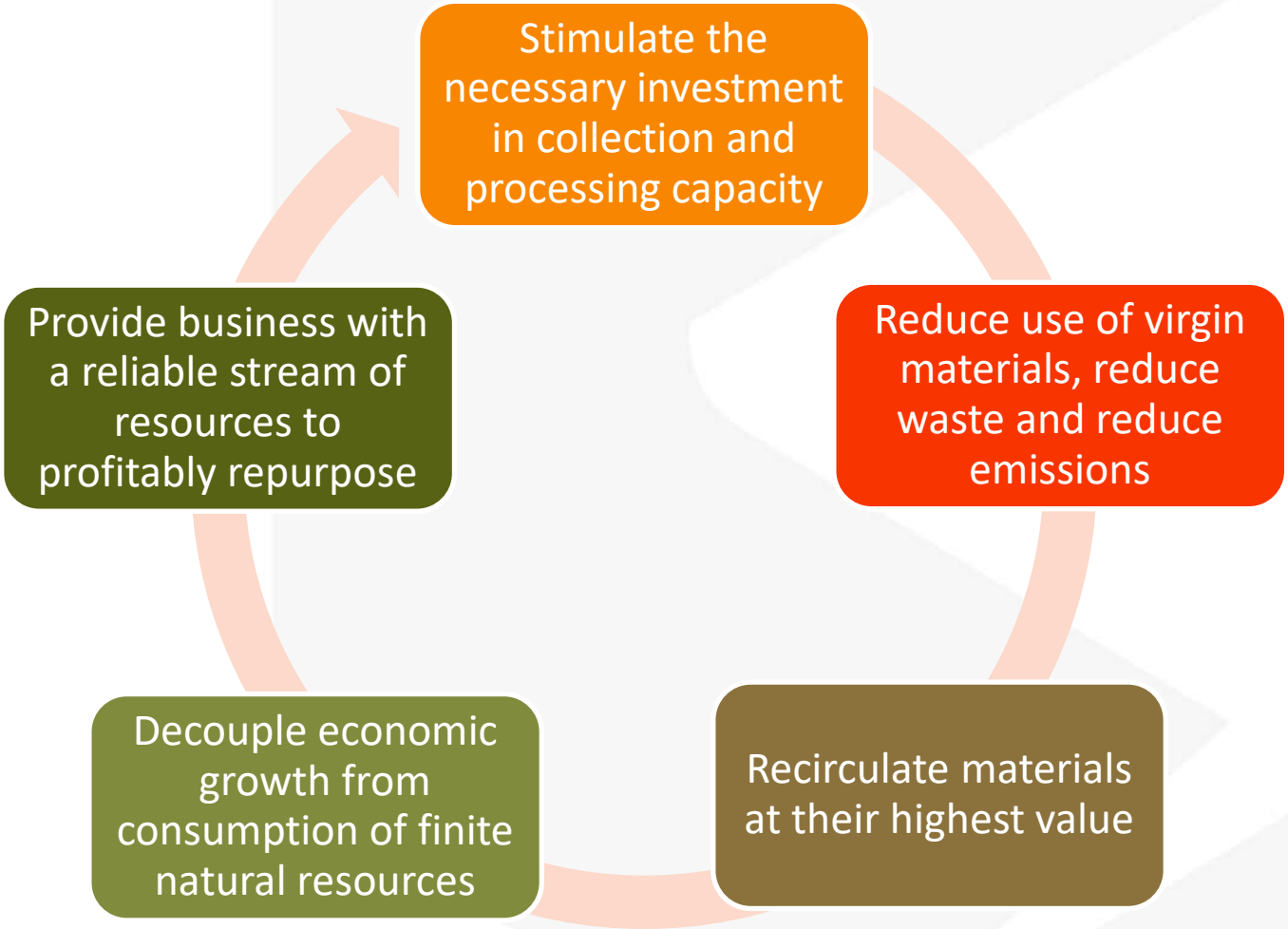
Circular Economy Outcomes

Assigning accountability for the management of PPP to producers through a harmonized set of policies will allow for the creation of a national or coordinated regional system with the synergies and scale to:



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Questions?

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