

17 March 2014

**CB(1)1149/13-14(01)**

Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
2/F, Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central  
Hong Kong

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Dear Chairman,

The Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (“CANCHAMHK”) has provided leadership in advocating the business case for sustainability in Hong Kong for close to two decades. Our members are committed to actively promoting a sustainable future for Hong Kong – this includes taking care of our environment and managing our day-to-day business sustainably.

In response to the Legislative Council’s invitation for submissions to the Panel on Environmental Affairs for discussion on 22 March 2014 regarding 4 environmental infrastructure projects, we present our position paper below to express our views on the relevant projects. For our views on general waste management issues in Hong Kong, please refer to our paper submitted to the Council for Sustainable Development in January 2014 titled “Briefing Paper on Waste Management in Hong Kong & Comments for the Public Consultation by the Council for Sustainable Development on “Waste Reduction by Waste Charging – How to Implement”.

Yours sincerely,



Philip Leung  
President, Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

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**The Canadian  
Chamber of Commerce  
in Hong Kong**

La Chambre de Commerce Canadienne à Hong Kong  
香港加拿大商會

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cc Mr John Witt, Chairman, Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

Mr Hendrik ROSENTHAL, Chairman, Sustainable Development Committee, Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

Mr Wong Kam Sing, JP, Secretary for the Environment, HKSAR

Ms Christine LOH Kung-wai, JP, Under Secretary for the Environment, HKSAR

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## The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong Sustainable Development Committee

### Position Paper on Environmental Infrastructure Projects

#### **Background**

The Environmental Bureau submitted a paper (“CB(1)931/13/14(01)”) seeking the Panel of Environmental Affairs’s (“the Panel”) support to:

- upgrade **5164DR** (Southeast New Territories (SENT) landfill extension) to Category A;
- upgrade **5177DR** (Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) Phase 1) to Category A;

and reported progress on the following 2 projects previously supported by the Panel:

- **5163DR**: Northeast New Territories (NENT) landfill extension; and
- **5165DR**: West New Territories (WENT) landfill extension.

#### **CanCham’s Position**

CanCham believes that waste management is a pressing issue in Hong Kong and that the HKSAR Government (“the Government”) must have a holistic plan to tackle the issue. CanCham welcomes the “Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022” published by the Environment Bureau (ENB) in May 2013, in which a specific reduction target on the disposal rate of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) is set, supported by multi-dimensional measures.

CanCham supports the 3 landfill extension projects (5164DR, 5163DR, 5165DR) for the following reasons:

- It is recognized that despite the Government’s waste reduction targets are achieved, there will still be about 10,000 tonnes of waste that requires disposal every day in 2017.
- The three planned landfill extensions will add around 100 million cubic metres of landfill capacity.
- The Government will implement a number of enhancement measures, including the establishment of the Restored Landfill Revitalization Funding Scheme, enhanced enforcement against fly-tipping and odour-control measures.
- If the Government fails to achieve approval to fund landfill extensions, Hong Kong will likely have no choice but to either export waste – an expensive proposition and raft with challenges in finding a jurisdiction that would accept the waste – or face the reality of a complete breakdown of the current waste management system in Hong Kong.

While CanCham supports the landfill extension projects, we urge the Government to implement stringent controls to minimise environmental impacts and to ensure all mitigation measures are delivered at the highest possible standard.

CanCham supports the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (5177DR) for the following reasons:

- CanCham recognizes Hong Kong’s imminent need for integrated waste management facilities in the form of modern and well-proven incinerators, such that the volume of waste required to be landfilled can be minimized and the lifespan of the landfill sites can be extended as long as practicable.
  - CanCham believes that incineration is needed as part of the overall waste solution and therefore CanCham supports the waste incineration initiative. We understand however there may still be different opinions about proceeding IWMF Phase 1 at the Shek Kwu Chau site or the Tsang Tsui site.
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Therefore we suggest the Government to enhance its communication to the public on the merits of its proposed site as well as Hong Kong's longer term incineration requirement, including possible subsequent phases of the IWMF.

Waste management requires contribution from every part of society. The Government should take every effort to ensure a balance of contributions from each one. CanCham encourages Government to maintain an effective communication channel with the community and business sector to explain plans for Hong Kong's future waste management and to respond to public concerns.

A clean environment is essential to the sustainable development of Hong Kong. A clear and holistic waste reduction plan can enhance the city image and attract investment. CanCham supports the Government to step up efforts on waste management and is committed to work together with the society to achieve the waste reduction targets.

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