

## Supporting Information:

RPRA is a regulator for the Government of Ontario to enforce the [Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016](#) through the [Blue Box regulation](#). Over the past few years under [O. Reg. 391/21: Blue Box](#), the management of Ontario's Blue Box Program has begun to transition away from a shared responsibility between municipalities and producers to full producer responsibility of paper products, packaging, and packaging-like products. Under the new regulatory framework, Lakehead University is considered a producer.

This new framework supports Ontario's transition to a circular economy by holding producers responsible for the full life cycle of the materials they produce. Producer accountability incentivizes the reduction and redesigning of products and packaging to be more sustainable.

Lakehead University annually produces and distributes various Lakehead branded materials (i.e. viewbooks, faculty brochures, mail-out communications) to Ontario consumers that have the potential to end up in the provincial Blue Box system.

Consumers are defined as individuals who use a product and its packaging for personal, family, or household purposes. Starting in 2024, annual reports are subject to a verification process. In 2027, we will be additionally required to submit an audit for every three years of data. Records related to the data collection process must be stored in a paper or electronic format that can be examined or accessed in Ontario for a period of five years.

As of [2023](#), we are obligated to report our supply data to the RPRA annually. This includes:

- paper (viewbooks, newsletters, faculty brochures, handbills, calendars, etc.),
- beverage containers (only if single-use),
- glass (jars),
- flexible plastic (mailing envelopes, stickers),
- rigid plastic (plastic containers),
- metal (branded cans), and
- certified compostable products and packaging (take-out containers, cutlery).

**Each unit is requested to supply the total amount of paper products, packaging, and packaging-like products that were distributed to Ontario consumers in 2023.**

Please note, this regulation only concerns materials being **distributed to consumers in Ontario**. In terms of paper products, this includes those mailed to consumers or handed out at community events. Materials going out-of-province are ineligible. Materials that are for institutional use and will be collected in Lakehead's privately managed waste system are ineligible.

Further information on what qualifies as a product can be found in the [2023 RPRA Data Collection Spreadsheet](#).