



# *Textiles Diversion*

*Win, Win, Win, Win*

Presentation by:

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# The Story of Stuff

- Why did Nova Scotia consult on a disposal ban on textiles?



# History

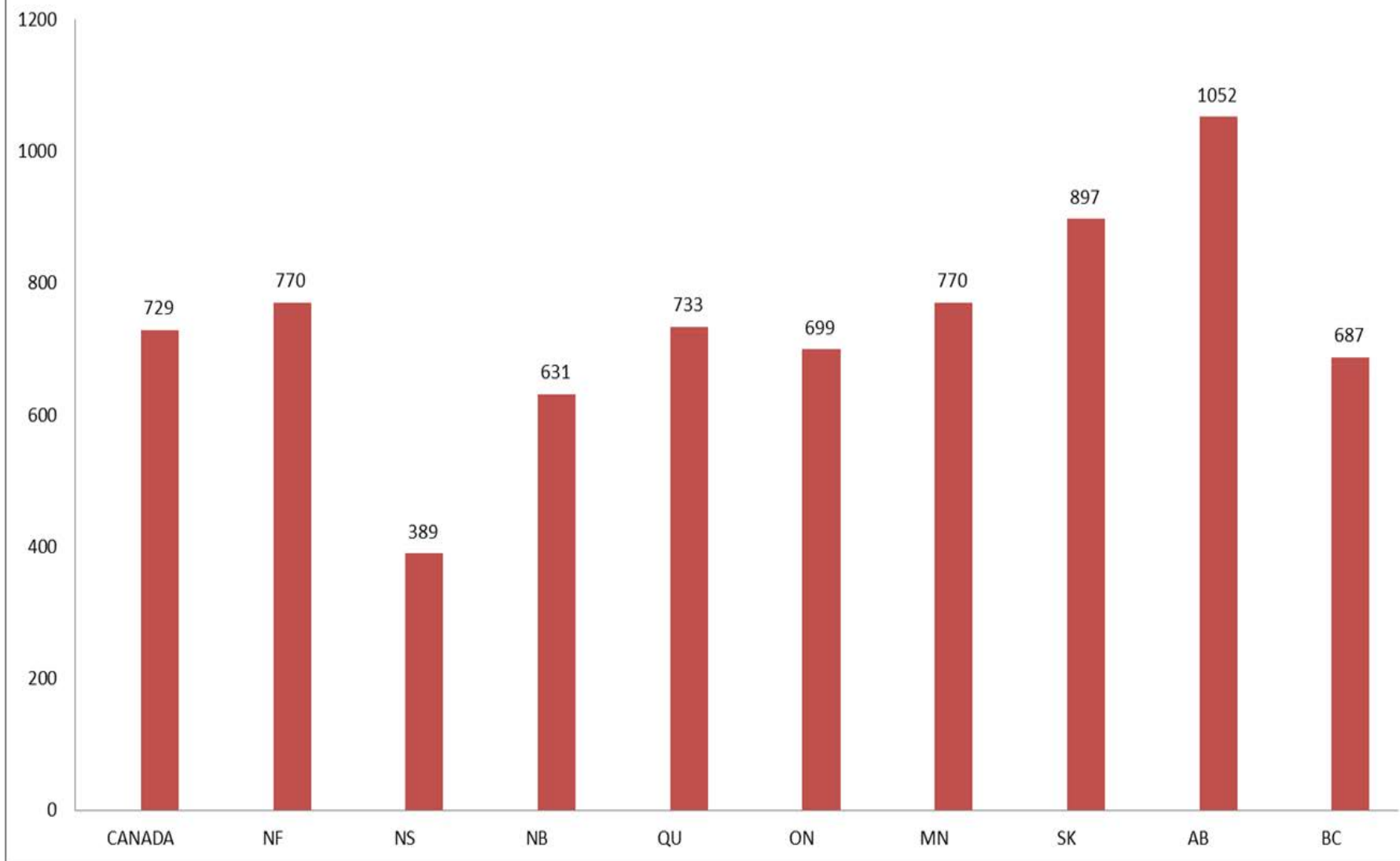
- In 1995 NS released a Solid Waste Resource Management Strategy and Regulations
  - Material disposal bans
  - Other
    - Municipal diversion credit/funding incentive
    - Stewardship (extended producer responsibility or EPR) programs
    - Public metric reporting/tracking
    - Education/awareness funding

# Disposal Bans

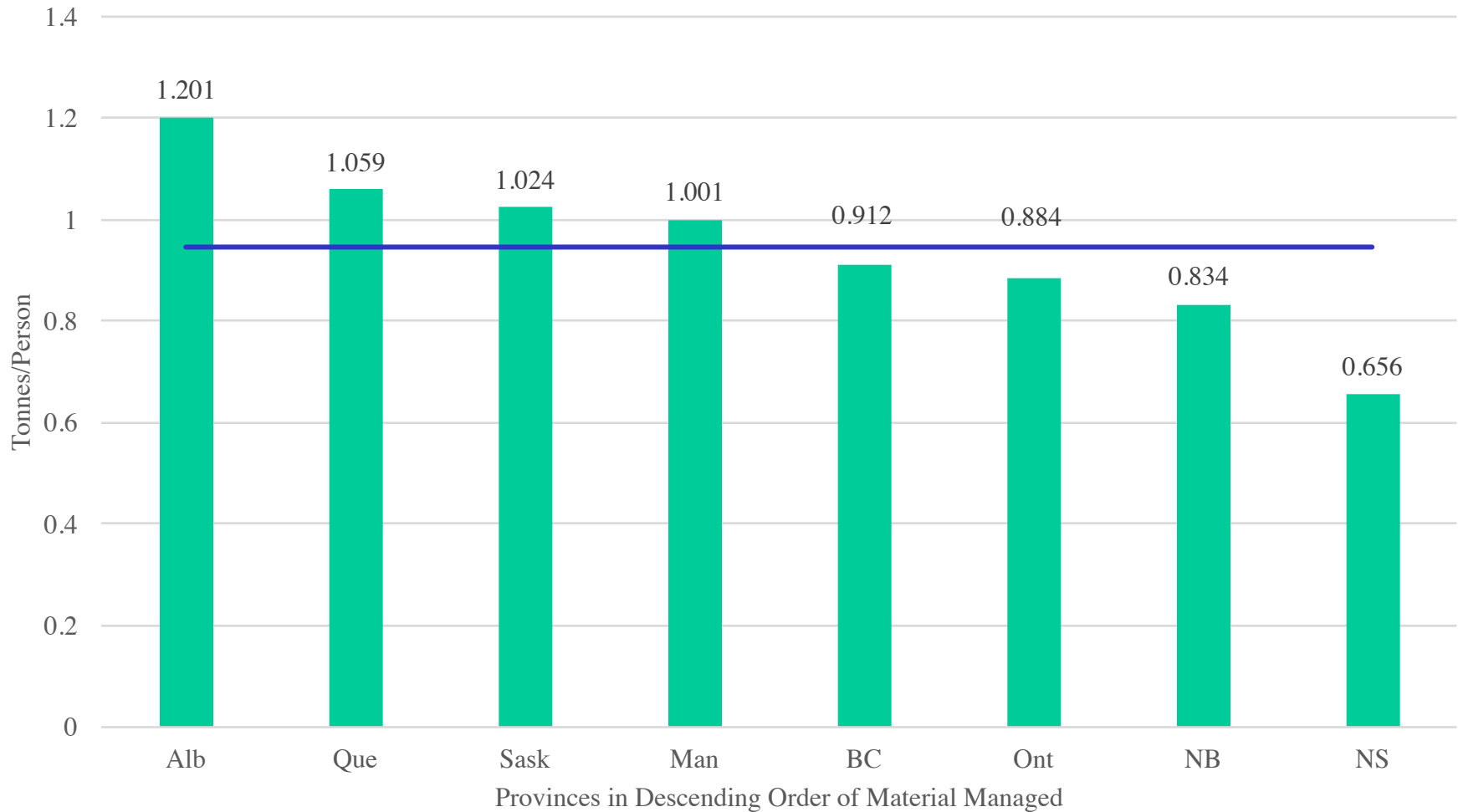
- Newspaper/cardboard
- Containers
  - beverage containers
  - Glass & metal containers
  - Some plastics
- Used tires, waste paint
- Compostable organic materials
  - Food and yard waste
- Electronic waste



## Solid Waste Disposal/Capita in Canada - 2010



## Materials Managed in Solid Waste-Resource Sector per Capita\*



Stats Canada 2012

\*(Solid waste-resource materials include solid waste disposed, dry recyclables diverted, construction and demolition materials disposed and diverted and organics diverted)

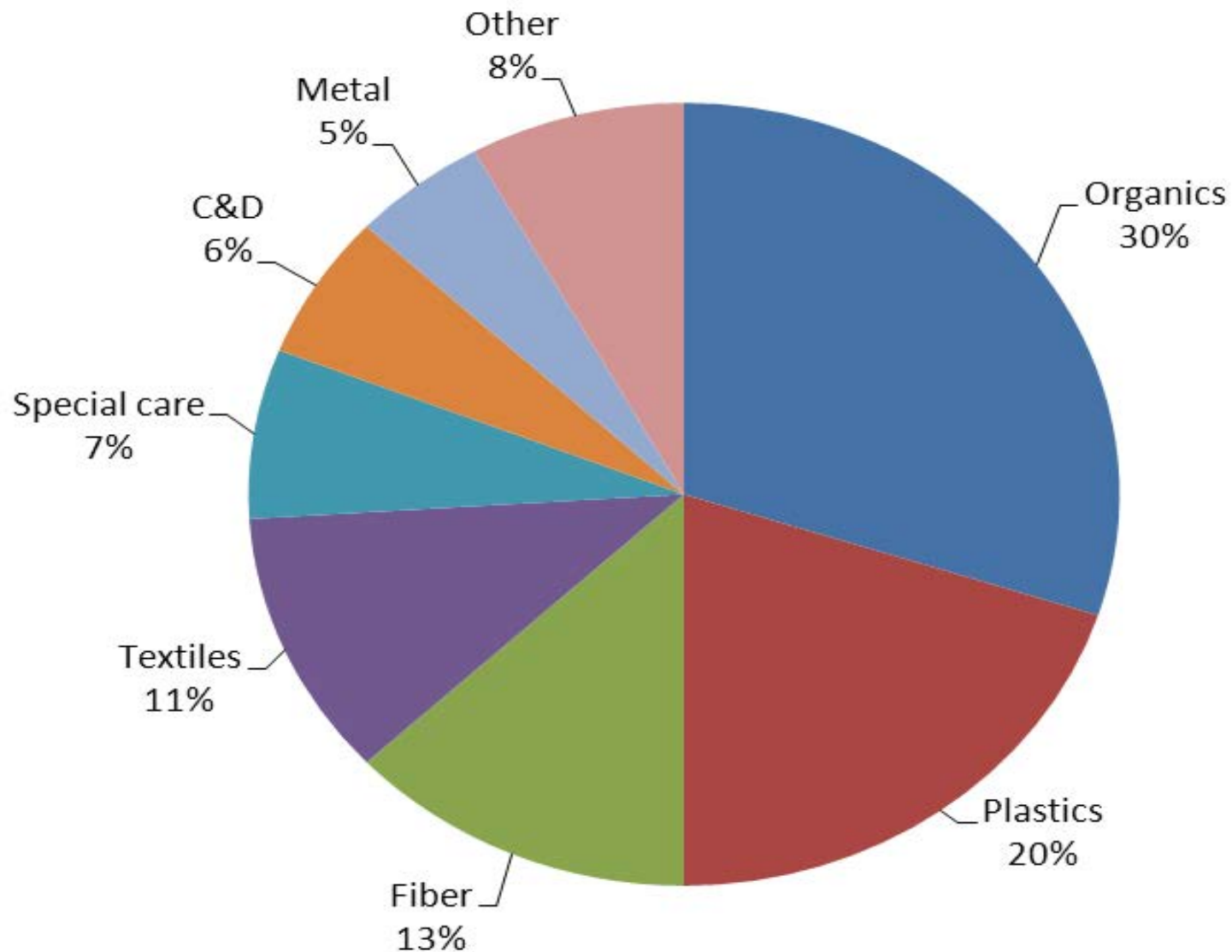
# Disposal Target

- 300 kg/person/yr
  - Consulted on policy options to meet target
  - Including a ban on the disposal of textiles
- Extended producer responsibility
  - Not for textiles
    - Textiles have value
    - Increase the cost of clothing i.e. fees?
    - Stakeholders need more time
    - Approach brands voluntarily i.e. CSR
- Textile disposal bans
  - Asked to determine potential burden on generators
  - Used clothing stores, hospitals, hotels, retail (including 'Frenchy's', etc.

# Recent History

- Noticed textiles showing up in waste audits between 2000 and 2010
  - 1 to 3%
- 2010 began researching and engaging textiles stakeholders/learning
  - Purchasing 2X and 3X as many textiles
  - Some rural charities were inundated
  - Market dynamics and size
- Conducted waste audits
  - Ah ha!!!!

# 2011 & 2012 RRFB Waste Audit Results



# Textiles in the Waste Stream

- **Included:**

- 51% Clothing
  - Not including rags and 'waste' textiles
- 23% Household use fabric
  - drapes, blankets, bedding, rags, etc.
- 18% Other
  - handbags, floor mats, area rugs, etc.
- 8% Footwear

- **Not included:**

- Mattress fabric
- Carpet
- Furniture fabric
- Luggage?, tents?, other consumer products?

# Engaged Sector

- Held a Textiles Summit
  - Municipalities, collectors, processors, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand retailers, exporters
- Encouraged formation of association
  - Association for Textiles Recycling (AFTeR)
  - Afterwear.ca
- Encouraged standard message
- Encouraged partnerships



# Association for Textiles Recycling (AFTeR)



Big Brothers Big Sisters

**ValueVillage**

As leaders in providing quality mentoring programs for young people, we contribute to building healthy communities. Our partnership with Value Village provides some of the funding needed to create positive, mentoring relationships for children who need our support.

**CLOTHESLINE**  
1-800-505-5525

**@** Canadian  
Diabetes  
Association | Association  
Canadienne  
du Diabète

**ValueVillage**

Our mission is to lead the fight against diabetes by helping people with diabetes live healthy lives while we work to find a cure. Funds we receive from our partnership with Value Village are one of the ways we support research, education, services and advocacy.



[www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)

**CANADIAN RED CROSS**  
Croix-Rouge canadienne

**LML Trading**  
A PROUD SUPPORTER OF RED CROSS

The Canadian Red Cross mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity in Canada and around the world. LML Trading is proud to support the Red Cross mission with their textile recycling program.



**THRIFT  
STORE**

National Recycling Operations' (NRO) role, within the context of the Salvation Army, is both to generate funds to help The Salvation Army achieve its mission, and to influence positively the communities in which we operate. The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs, and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world.



**EASTERN RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION**

The Eastern Recyclers Association (ERA) is a not for profit association whose mission is to organize, represent and promote the economic viability and successful operation of member businesses in the beverage container deposit / refund program and recycling industry.

# NSE Support

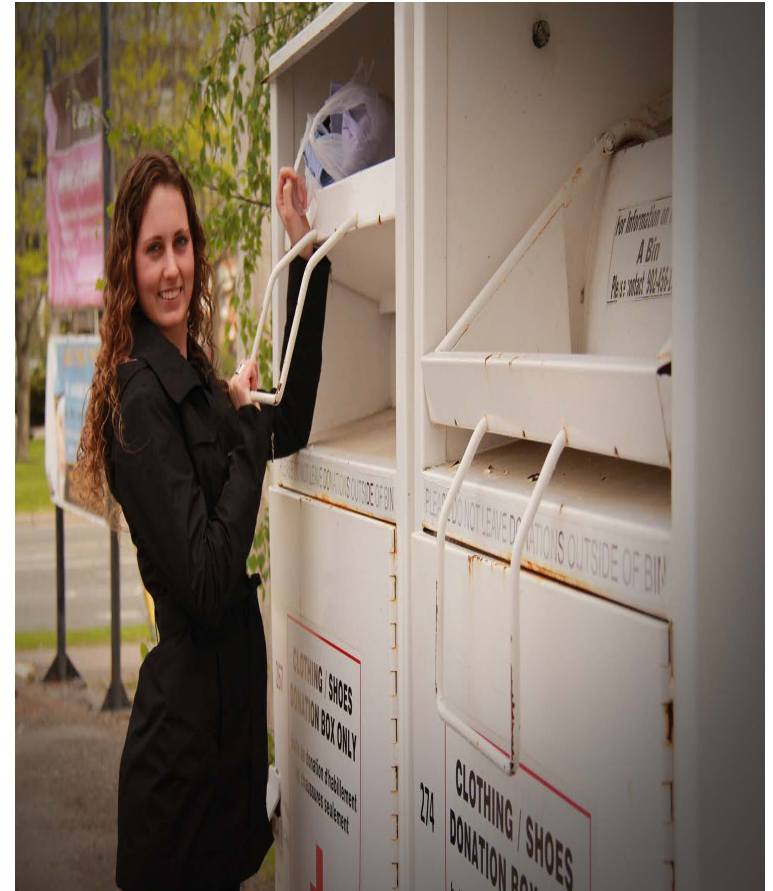
- Facilitated EnviroDepot involvement
  - 65 drop off sites around province
  - Added to their revenue stream
- Provided funding
  - Website: [Afterwear.ca](http://Afterwear.ca)
  - Strategic planning session
- Association supported potential disposal ban
- Fostering apartment building collection with electronic waste
- Municipal promotion

# Textiles Study

- How textile diversion is managed in NS
- How textile diversion is managed and maximized elsewhere in Canada, USA and Europe
- The extent and location of domestic and international textile recycling/shredding markets
- Markets
  - What cannot be diverted
  - Sustainability of international markets
  - Potential impacts of textiles sold overseas
    - Any OH&S issues
    - Does it degrade the local textile manufacturing industry
  - Threat of oversupply
- Potential high level recommendations for Nova Scotia

# AFTeR Work

- Expanding network
- Support disposal ban
  - Met with Minister
- Created one website
- Held media event
  - Standard message
- Promoting benefits to:
  - Municipalities
  - Environment
  - Economy
  - Social
- Respond to public concerns/questions



# Other Potential AFTeR Work

- Standardize education message
  - Fear of being dumped on
  - But only capturing 15 – 20%
  - Similar to plastic container message
- Help define disposal ban standards
- Create standards
  - Messaging on bins, must include charities, etc.
- Involve textile brand owners?
- Appreciate benefit of AFTeR
  - Even though they are competitors
  - Don't forget the small guys who give away clothing

# Website Material List

## **Clothing**

Shirts  
Blouses  
Jeans  
Sweaters  
Jerseys  
Jackets  
Pyjamas  
T-shirts  
Work Clothes  
Dresses  
Coats  
Shorts

## **Other Textiles**

Draperies  
Curtains  
Blankets  
Linens  
Towels  
Sheets  
Table Cloths

## **Footwear**

Shoes  
Boots  
Sandals  
Sneakers

## **Accessories**

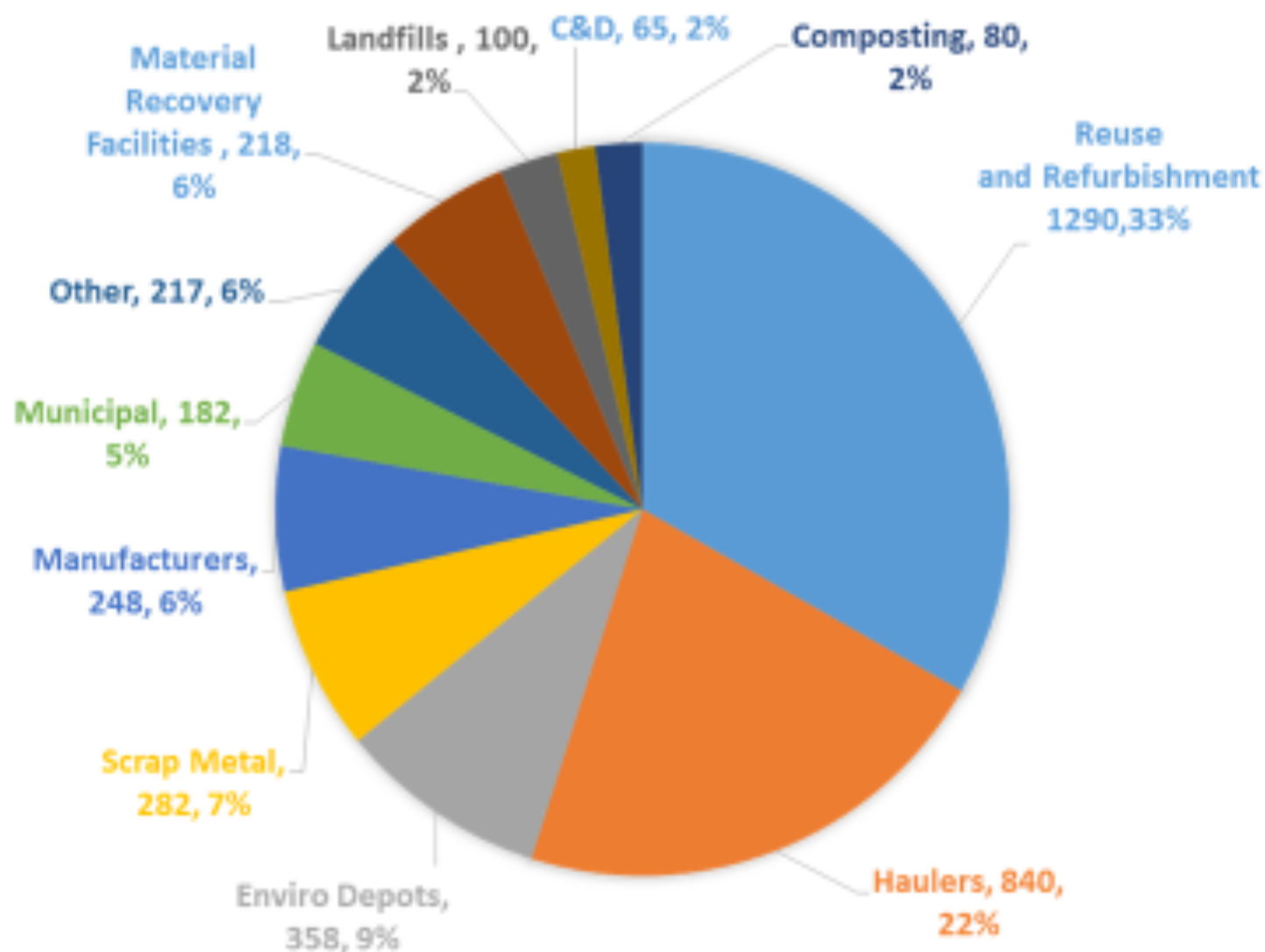
Scarves  
Hats  
Mittens  
Purses  
Jewellery  
Costumes  
Gloves  
Belts

**Any size, any season!**

# Win, win, win, win

- Economic
  - For profit textiles collectors, processors, end user, etc.
  - Export dollars
  - More jobs
- Environment
  - Less landfill disposal, GHG benefits, etc.
- Social
  - Charities and those they assist in the community
- Municipalities
  - Lower collection and disposal costs

## EMPLOYMENT IN THE SOLID WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SECTOR IN NOVA SCOTIA



# Win and Questions

- Provide free and low cost textiles to people of lesser means
- Do textiles displace existing textiles manufacturers?
- Is my donation making money for business and not going to the needy?



# SHIPPING CONTAINERS OF CLOTH



# CONTAINERS UNLOADING ABROAD



# UNLOADING THE CONTAINER FOR SORTING



# 100 pound bales after sorting in Africa





**LUBUMBASHI - SHOES SOLD IN 24 HOURS**

# Selling recycled clothes in the market



# What next?

- Curbside collection is increasing in NS
- Increase partnerships with all who benefit
  - Need for more contributors
- Investigate developing world markets?
  - Leave marketing to experts?
- Increase market demand
  - Reuse, repair, ragging
  - Shredding/recycling
    - Back to thread







# What next?

- Continue standardizing message, more bins
  - Public need education and convenience
- Continue waste audits
  - tonnes/percentages disposed and diverted
  - Quality of what is being disposed
- Education, textile stakeholder summits
  - Many recycling educators want to know where textiles end up
- Follow work by Smart and NERC webinar
  - [https://nerc.org/documents/Reuse/Textiles Webinar Recording\\_States Charging Ahead with Textiles Recovery.wmv](https://nerc.org/documents/Reuse/Textiles%20Webinar%20Recording_States%20Charging%20Ahead%20with%20Textiles%20Recovery.wmv)
- What level of brand owner/retailer involvement?
- Curbside collection
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt4ofaw8\\_i8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt4ofaw8_i8&feature=youtu.be)

# Thank you

Questions?

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