

# Everyone wants to cash in on our trash: Mayor

BY SANDOR GYARMATI, SURREY NOW JANUARY 12, 2010

Everyone wants to get their hands on the region's garbage, says Delta Mayor Lois Jackson.

News that the Tsawwassen First Nation is the latest party to enter the increasingly murky picture of where the region's trash may be headed came as no surprise to Jackson, who's also chair of Metro Vancouver.

"Everybody wants it. Why? Because everybody wants to make some money out of our garbage," Jackson said in a recent interview following the TFN confirming it has been approached about having a trash incinerator built on its land.

Aquilini Renewable Energy, owned by Vancouver Canucks owner Francesco Aquilini, is interested in building a waste-to-energy facility on the reserve.

Regional waste currently ends up at three locations - the Cache Creek Landfill, the Vancouver Landfill at Burns Bog and the waste-to-energy facility in Burnaby.

The Ministry of Environment has approved an expansion for Cache Creek that will extend its lifespan by approximately 18 months.

Meanwhile, an application was submitted and an environmental assessment process is now underway for a much larger expansion in order to extend its life for over 15 years.

A proposal has also been submitted to build a waste-to-energy incinerator on Vancouver Island to handle the Lower Mainland's waste.

Asked just where the region's garbage could end up and whether the landfill at Burns Bog could end up shutting down sooner as a result, Jackson said the regional district is doing its due diligence now.

"(We're) deciding what science will be used and if waste-to-energy is going to be the best and what will it look like. Then we have to decide if we are going to have one or five and where would they be located. Obviously there would be some criteria attached to that."