

## **City of Ottawa to Spend More on Springhill Landfill Cleanup Than it Earned**

**Ottawa, June 14, 2018** – An update on the Springhill Landfill Agreement reveals the contractor has benefited more than the City of Ottawa, and ongoing operations and eventual closing of the site will cost more than the City ever earned from the public/private arrangement. The findings are part of Auditor General Ken Hughes' report today to the Audit Committee.

“This has not been a good partnership for the City”, concluded Mr. Hughes. “Tomlinson Waste Management gets most of the benefits while the site is operating, and the City assumes most of the risks and costs on closing.”

Over the past two decades, Ottawa has made only \$6.3 million in royalty payments from the landfill near Osgoode while the initial clean-up costs of the contaminated site could reach as high as \$8 million, according to outside experts. The City will also need to spend millions more in the next 40 years to remediate the 100-acre site that Provincial environmental authorities describe as one of the worst in Eastern Ontario.

Mr. Hughes told Audit Committee members that many questions remain unanswered, including a complete picture of royalty payments, an audit of Tomlinson expenses claimed against income and the extent of insurance held by the landfill operator.

The landfill agreement was initially intended to handle waste only from Osgoode Township but later expanded to include construction and demolition material from both Ontario and Quebec, supplied largely from Tomlinson associated companies. The City assumed the contract when Osgoode was amalgamated in 2001.

The Auditor General made 16 recommendations in his report. All have been accepted by City management.

The report can be seen on the Auditor General's website at [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca).

For further information, contact:

Ines Santoro

613-580-9602

[oag@ottawa.ca](mailto:oag@ottawa.ca)