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E-Waste Compliance in Canada: Looking Ahead to 2026

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01. About The Author



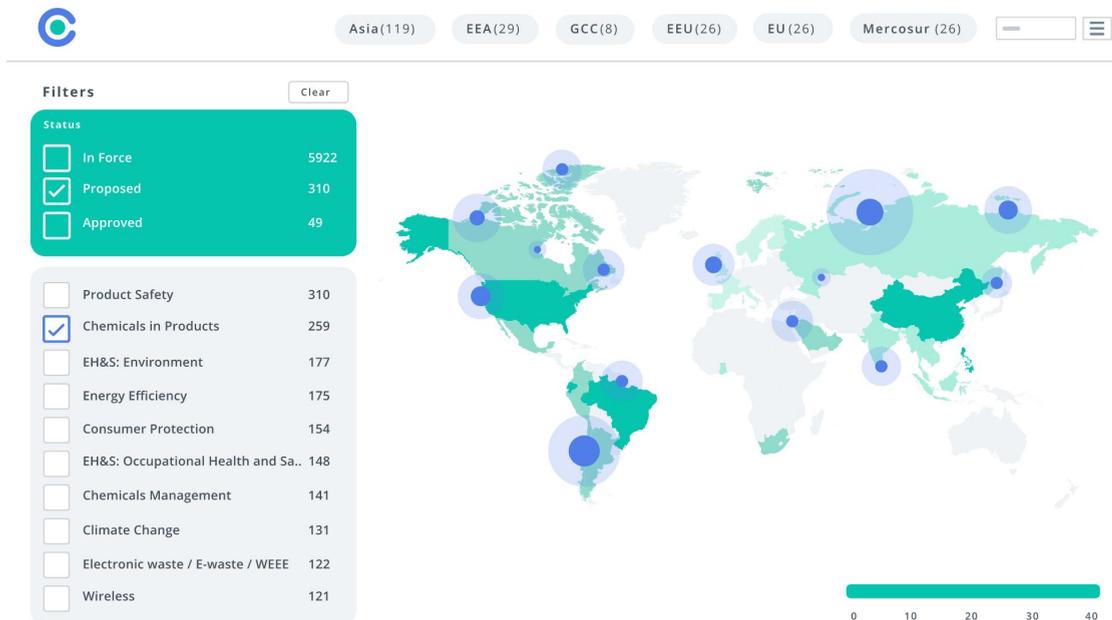
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Patte brings over ten years working in manufacturing Quality Compliance and Assurance for automotive components and medical device suppliers. She is a Lead Auditor for ISO 9001 and ISO 13485.

Additionally, prior to working in quality-related roles, she worked in research and information services at the US academic level and corporate training development.

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03. Introduction

Moving into 2026, the frontier of Canada's electronic waste regulations is evolving on the national front, but more so at the provincial level.

Currently, Canada utilizes a distinct approach, defining e-waste as designated material under various provincial and territorial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes. The country's system follows the principles outlined in the national Canada-Wide Principles for Electronics Product Stewardship (2004).

Intended as guidance to support the provinces, implementation is decentralized, relying on mandatory EPR programs administered by the provinces and territories. This model mandates that manufacturers and importers assume the financial and operational responsibility for their products' end-of-life management to foster pollution prevention.

Canada's system, though administratively complex due to 13 separate reporting streams, offers relative legal harmonization and mandatory collection at no cost to consumers. As of 2009, five provinces had electronics and electrical equipment (EEE) EPR programs in place. Provinces are including emerging electronics waste as part of their electrical and electronic equipment waste (WEEE) strategies and cell phones are currently included in EPR regulations across all provinces except Saskatchewan.



04. National Framework and Universal EPR Adoption

Canada does not possess a single federal e-waste law. However, the system is fundamentally unified by the Canada-Wide Principles for Electronics Product Stewardship.

Canada's approach to e-waste is distinguished by a high degree of standardization achieved through coordinated provincial action under the EPR framework. These principles establish nationwide expectations for programs, stipulating that they must include residential, commercial, historic, and orphan products; report on performance; and ensure e-waste exports are only sent to facilities committed to environmentally sound management and fair labor practices. Furthermore, the federal government is taking steps to better protect the environment by preparing to ratify the Basel Ban Amendment to the Basel Convention, which will require applying the Prior Informed Consent procedure to all e-waste shipments.

The operational implementation of EPR is mandatory in nearly all provinces and territories. These jurisdictions include British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland & Labrador,

New Brunswick, Northwest Territories, and Yukon. The primary vehicle for industry compliance across these regions is the Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA), a not-for-profit organization that manages the government-approved programs. This coordinated management structure, which relies heavily on a single Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO), creates functional national harmonization, and this reduces compliance costs for manufacturers.

Additionally, Statistics Canada is conducting its biennial Households and the Environment Survey (HES) from 2 January 2026 to 2 May 2026, which is intended to gauge waste generation across 10 provinces, excluding Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, as well as indigenous settlements, Canadian force bases, and institutions. Results from the 2023 survey showed that 16% of Canadian households had unwanted small appliances, while computers, televisions, and cell phones each were at 14%.



05. Legislative Deep Dive: Key Provincial Regulations

Despite the common framework, compliance is governed by individual provincial acts and regulations:

- Ontario is frequently cited as operating one of the most comprehensive e-waste programs in Canada, mandating full producer responsibility, requiring manufacturers to fund, manage, collect, and recycle/refurbish all designated Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) at their own expense.
- British Columbia was an early leader, implementing full EPR for various materials under the Recycling Regulation of the Environmental Management Act.

Manufacturers are required to file separate reports for each jurisdiction, because provinces differ by specific regulated product definitions, collection targets, and fee structures. Canada has demonstrated a high degree of effectiveness through its model of mandatory EPR applied almost universally across all major provinces. This system centralizes the funding stream via PROs like EPRA, ensuring predictable

resources for collection and recycling, and minimizing the financial burden on local municipalities. Manufacturers benefit because this framework is predictable, despite requiring reporting to multiple provincial regulatory agencies. The centralization of operational management functionally lowers administrative compliance costs across the national market.

As part of international harmonization, Canada is proactively pursuing regulatory changes to align with the Basel Ban Amendment, which stipulates requirements for the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for all e-waste shipments. This aims to restrict the export of hazardous waste to developing nations. It can be expected that since the US has not accepted the Basel Ban Amendment, that the movement of e-waste between the U.S., Canada, and third-party countries may be subject to conflicting regulatory standards.



06. Provincial E-Waste Program Highlights

Alberta (PRO - EPRA)

- Amendments to the Designated Material Recycling and Management Regulation (AR 93/2004) mean suppliers and producers could face fines of up to \$500,000 for corporate violations.

British Columbia (PRO - EPRA BC)

- Over 245 locations where residents can recycle electronics and small appliances.
- In 2026, expanding and redefining categories to include emerging electronics.

Manitoba (PRO - EPRA Manitoba)

- The Environment Amendment and Waste Reduction and Prevention Amendment Act, which made the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) levy an annual payment.
- The province's model is moving to a 100% Producer-Funded model.
- Aligning with the "Anything with a Plug" trend.

New Brunswick (PRO - EPRA NB)

- Effective 1 January 2026, the legal definition of who is responsible for waste changed to a more comprehensive term, "producer". This change closes loopholes in that if a brand owner has no presence in Canada, the responsibility falls on the importer or the retailer, which maintains that 100% of recycling costs are covered by the industry.
- Moving towards an "Anything with a Plug" expansion.

Newfoundland & Labrador (PRO - EPRA NL)

- The end of the province's 2023–2026 Strategic Plan for waste management is occurring. The date 31 March 2026, is the milestone for increasing WEEE diversions from landfills and more detailed reporting kilograms of collected electronics.
- The addition of power tools and electronic toys may be added to regulated electronics, which would echo New Brunswick's expansion.

Northwest Territories - Territorial EPR Program (Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) contracted Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) to administer the revenue portion of its Electronics Recycling Program)

- Amendments to the Waste Reduction and Recovery Act will mean producers are responsible for the entire product's lifecycle and stricter enforcement to prevent computers and TVs in community landfills.
- In 2026, "Covered Electronic Products" will add laptops, tablets, desktop computers, keyboards, mice, printers, copiers, scanners, TVs, monitors, and cell phones.

Nova Scotia (PRO - EPRA NS)

- The existing packaging EPR begun in December 2025, will support electronics waste by having one-stop depots where packaging, batteries, and electronics can be collected.
- The province will align with the Atlantic Standard, so that it includes "smart" devices such as wearables and small appliances.
- 2026 will be the first full year of regulating heavy-duty office equipment and invoicing businesses for electronics and packaging waste simultaneously.

Nunavut (No regulated electronics recycling program or PRO)

- Currently developing a full EPR framework with the Solid Waste Solutions Initiative (SWSI).
- No legislation mandating producers to take back WEEE.

Ontario (PRO - EPRA Ontario)

- The Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA), 2016 was amended in December 2025 permitting additional regulations to be set for businesses conducting waste recovery operations in Ontario relating to reports on contracts, costs/fees, and site data.
- Producers remain individually liable for their waste.
- Annual supply data and performance reports due to the RPR registry by 31 May 2026.
- New reporting requirements as Bill 46, Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape Act, 2025, is implemented.

Prince Edward Island (PRO - EPRA PEI)

- Environmental Protection Act: Materials Stewardship and Recycling Regulations, Chapter E-9.
- Moving away from government-managed programs toward a full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model.

Quebec (PRO - EPRA Québec)

- The handling of WEEE is moving towards a circular economy model with regulations such as Bill 29 Right to Repair requirements on product obsolescence that came into effect on 5 October 2025.
- Moving towards an "Anything with a Plug" expansion.

Saskatchewan (PRO - EPRA Saskatchewan)

- Electronics Stewardship (OC 386/2025): Producers and retailers must comply with new, stricter electronics recycling rules and have stewardship plans approved by the Minister of Environment by 29 January 2026.
- Producers can join an existing PRO or create their own program for WEEE.



Yukon - Territorial Stewardship Program (No PRO as of January 2026)

- In Yukon, the management of electronic and appliance waste is transitioning between two different regulatory frameworks: the older Designated Materials Regulation (2018) and the new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulation (2024).
- Per a 5 January 2026 announcement from the Yukon Department of Environment, the Yukon government called a pause on expanding EPR categories to include EEE. Implementation of the program is anticipated no earlier than 1 August 2026.



07. Conclusion

Moving into 2026, Canadian WEEE management is shifting from voluntary stewardship to mandatory EPR models.

Producers and retailers will find this year challenging as more provinces move toward including “Anything with a plug,” and increasing corporate fines, such as Alberta’s to \$500,000.

Overall, the Canadian approach demonstrates highly effective regulatory decentralization while achieving national consistency due to coordinated action among provincial governments’ programs managed by EPRA.

Want to find out how you can stay on top of the changing [e-Waste compliance](#) landscape? [Start a conversation](#) with us today!



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CUSTOMERS WORLDWIDE

195

COUNTRIES COVERED

100,000+

REGULATIONS