

Phillips joins dump search team

Joan Phillips knows what she's getting herself into, but she's going to do it anyway.

Phillips, the former executive director of the Mississauga Clean City Campaign, was appointed by Environment Minister Ruth Grier this week to the board of directors of the Interim Waste Authority (IWA). The board has the job of trying to find new long-term garbage dumps for Peel, Durham and a combined site for Metro Toronto and York Regions.

A long-time environmental worker, Phillips says she understands that people are mistrustful of anyone whose job it is to find a landfill site in their community. "Unfortunately, we have to put it somewhere," she says.

In Peel, five sites are being studied in Brampton and Caledon for the new dump and regional councillors have been highly critical of the process being used to determine the sites.



JOAN PHILLIPS

"I do believe the IWA is trying to do the best possible job in a crisis situation," Phillips said in an interview Monday. She hopes to ensure that the body, set up by Grier after she took responsibility

for finding dumps away from regional councils, "carries out its difficult mandate in a fair and efficient manner."

The co-founder in 1984 of the Mississauga Citizens' Environmental protection Association remarked that the selected sites "must be the best environmentally, must use the best available technology, and all feasible mitigating measures must be taken to ease the impact on affected communities."

It's important citizens continue to send their ideas and suggestions to the IWA, she stressed.

Mississauga South MPP Margaret Marland praised Phillips' appointment, saying "she's got the background and the commitment. I think she'll be excellent." The Conservative added that "if they have to appoint people, I'm glad to have people of that calibre."