## TORONTOTHEBETTER SPEAKS TO DENNIS MASLO OF COMTECH RECYCLER COMPUTATION [18 AUGUST, 2020]

## 1- What was your personal motivation for founding Computation?

My personal motivation, some 20 years ago, when founding Computation was to do something, physical, that would benefit the environment and society all the while being financially rewarding to myself and others. I was also quite curious about what we might find and computer recycling (I literally saw a computer by an elevator downtown marked as garbage for removal and that inspired me) was a perfect combination of my interests in technology and the environment. The pursuit - it began as a hobby - and it wasn't until a few years later that I decided/recognized that it had grown in importance in my life and career and that it was time to reign it in and make room for something else or take it to the next level by committing to it as a business. And commit I did...

## 2- What role has/does Computation played/play in com-tech recycling and environmental preservation in Toronto and beyond

In its almost 20 years of operation Computation has refurbished or recycled I more than a million pounds of computer and electronic waste. We apply the 3Rs with dedication to all materials that we receive. Our tech support department prevents waste where economical to do so by repairing equipment for its current owners (for example, if you crack your laptop's screen, we can replace the part, rather than discarding the whole and buying a new one). When equipment owners, businesses and consumers, decide to move on from equipment we first attempt to reuse and refurbish whatever is practical to do so, and only recycle that which we cannot give a second life too. On average we are able to reuse 20-25% of the electronic waste that arrives for recycling, and virtually nothing goes to landfill.

## 3-In your opinion how close/far are we as a society to successfully managing our high tech waste?

As a firm and as a society, in Toronto and Ontario, we have made a lot of progress on the diversion of tech waste. In most parts of the province there is easy access to facilities that will help you do the right thing, outreach and communication have informed the population that we can do better than put it on the curb (so that it gets handled properly for the sake of your data AND the environment), and people are making the smart choice. That said, the goal post keeps moving further back, every year there are new product streams which need to be integrated. For example, while we have always accepted them, since they are electronics, we have recently begun marketing our power tool recycling program, along with highlighting that we accept items like drones, and 3D printers - as product types become popular it becomes essential that they have an end of life solution, and perhaps more so if they do not become popular! Anything manufactured should be brought to market with a waste diversion plan, one that prioritizes the 3Rs. We are heading in this direction and the province appears supportive with forthcoming regulations.

TorontotheBetter salutes pioneers like Dennis who work to improve the environment and living conditions for all.

For complete information about Computation services see: www.TorontotheBetter.net/lst computation.htm