



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 9, 2018

Date: August 3, 2018

From: Councillor Jeremy Loveday and Councillor Ben Isitt

Subject: Support for a National Strategy to Combat Plastic Pollution

Background:

The issue of plastic in the marine environment has been steadily worsening around the world including on Vancouver Island. Many Victoria residents have expressed concerns about the accumulation of plastic pollution in our oceans and the impact that is having on marine and shore ecosystems. These concerns are shared by many of our neighbours on Vancouver Island.

After consulting with local organizations and following on recommendations of the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre, MP Gord Johns (Courtenay-Alberni) put forward Bill M-151, A National Strategy to Combat Plastic Pollution, calling on the federal government to develop a strategy that assists organizations and coastal communities to preserve their natural environment by helping to get to the root causes of the plastic problem.

Bill M-151 aims to:

- Create permanent, dedicated, and annual funding for community led clean-up projects;
- Reduce consumer and industrial use of 'single-use' plastics;
- Create a plan to clean-up derelict fishing gear; and
- Promote education and outreach campaigns on the root causes and negative environmental effects of plastic pollution.

The City of Victoria is committed to waste reduction, environmental stewardship, and protecting our coastline. Action from all levels of government is needed to combat plastic pollution.

It is therefore recommended that the Mayor write on behalf of Council to the federal Minister of Environment, copying the provincial Minister of Environment and Members of Parliament representing constituencies on Vancouver Island, expressing support for motion M-151.

Recommendation

That the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the federal Minister of Environment, copying the provincial Minister of Environment and Members of Parliament representing constituencies on Vancouver Island, to express support for Bill M-151, A National Strategy to Combat Plastic Pollution.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Councillor Jeremy Loveday in black ink.

Councillor Jeremy Loveday

Handwritten signature of Councillor Ben Isitt in blue ink.

Councillor Ben Isitt

Attachment 1:

M-151, National strategy to combat plastic pollution, 42nd Parliament, 1st Session

Text of the Motion:

That, in the opinion of the House, the government should work with the provinces, municipalities, and indigenous communities to develop a national strategy to combat plastic pollution in and around aquatic environments, which would include the following measures: (a) regulations aimed at reducing (i) plastic debris discharge from stormwater outfalls, (ii) industrial use of micro-plastics including, but not limited to, microbeads, nurdles, fibrous microplastics and fragments, (iii) consumer and industrial use of single use plastics, including, but not limited to, plastic bags, bottles, straws, tableware, polystyrene (foam), cigarette filters, and beverage containers; and (b) permanent, dedicated, and annual funding for the (i) cleanup of derelict fishing gear, (ii) community-led projects to clean up plastics and debris on shores, banks, beaches and other aquatic peripheries, (iii) education and outreach campaigns on the root causes and negative environmental effects of plastic pollution in and around all bodies of water. Latest Activity Placed on Notice (2017.11.01)

Source:

[https://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members/GordJohns\(89263\)/Motions?sessionId=152&documentId=9211075](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members/GordJohns(89263)/Motions?sessionId=152&documentId=9211075)