

From: Jessica Walker
To: [Engagement](#)
Subject: FW: Reusable bag proposal
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2017 3:41:11 PM
Attachments: [A suggestion regarding reusable bags.docx](#)

Hello,

Forwarding my letter to Mayor and Council from yesterday.

I'd also like to add an additional question regarding some of the limitations on offering a bag/not charging for a bag. When a customer spends approximately \$150 with us, we give them a free reusable bag (cost to us approx. \$4.25). The current bylaw would prohibit us from giving that bag away, but it is almost like a "gift with purchase." How would that be addressed under the bylaw. As a consumer, I also know that a number of businesses already give reusable bags to customers instead of plastic—at least one shoe store downtown does. Would those businesses then have to charge for those bags?

Thanks,
Jessica

Jessica Walker
Munro's Books
1108 Government Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1Y2
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Toll Free 1-888-243-2464
Fax (250) 382-2832
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jessica@munrobooks.com
www.munrobooks.com

From: Jessica Walker [mailto:jessica@munrobooks.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2017 4:29 PM
To: 'mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca' <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>; 'Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor)' <c Thornton-joe@victoria.ca>; Kerri Milton <kerri@downtownvictoria.ca>; 'ceo@tourismvictoria.com' <ceo@tourismvictoria.com>; 'paul.hawes@tourismvictoria.com' <paul.hawes@tourismvictoria.com>; 'ceo@victoriachamber.ca' <ceo@victoriachamber.ca>
Cc: 'Anne-Marie Martel' <anne-marie@jadestore.com>
Subject: Reusable bag proposal

Dear Mayor & Council, DVBA, and other Victoria colleagues,

I am the managing partner of Munro's Books, and am writing to share an idea we had to address the particular concerns of downtown merchants who will not only be selling to locals, but to the many tourists who arrive in Victoria without a reusable bag. I was unable to attend the City of Victoria Open House meeting regarding the plastic bag ban, though I did attend the retailer-specific meeting, and I did make this suggestion there.

Our suggestion is that there be a kiosk at the Cruise Ship terminal that sells a City of Victoria reusable bag to visitors as they disembark. This would serve two functions: it would make visitors aware of the bag policy (PR for Victoria as a leader in green initiatives), and would send those shoppers into town armed with a reusable bag, thereby easing the burden on retailers in implementing the plastic bag ban. They could also be sold at the Tourism Victoria information centre, and would be a small souvenir of the city.

With a consortium of parties involved, bags could be ordered in quantity with great cost savings. These bags could also be purchased by merchants who did not want to design their own, or who don't have the funds or the storage space to handle the large volume of bags we would all require. The cheapest reusable bag we sell costs us more than \$4; we would have to order a much greater quantity to see a price break. The whole approach to bags is changing; particularly for one-time cruise visitors, we don't need a bag as a marketing opportunity. We are a larger retailer, and these factors are important to us—they would be even greater for a smaller business. We sell books—they do need to be protected in inclement weather, and a purchase of three or four books can also be heavy—paper often won't do the job, so we are looking at a significant investment in reusables.

We would propose that this initiative could involve some combination of the City, the DVBA, Tourism Victoria, and possibly the Chamber of Commerce. Cruise visitors primarily patronize the downtown core, but having a "City" bag could be a useful option for many retailers city-wide. I think many retailers would appreciate the support of both the City and our regional associations in helping to implement the transition from plastic bags; as it stands now, retailers are going to be shouldering the behind-the-scenes costs, even if we do pass some of those costs on to our customers by charging 12 cents for paper or \$2+ for a reusable option.

I think all of us recognize the importance of taking some big steps to reduce our use of plastic, and I do think it is important to focus on the positive aspects of this change. I hope you will see this suggestion in that light. Because the City of Victoria has actively pursued being a destination for cruise ships, we are however faced with unique set of customers who may not be prepared for shopping, and downtown merchants will be affected disproportionately as a consequence. Thanks for your time in considering our suggestion, and I would be more than happy to discuss this further.

With regards,

Jessica Walker

Munro's Books

1108 Government Street

Victoria, BC V8W 1Y2

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MUNRO'S BOOKS

1108 Government Street, Victoria BC V8W 1Y2 • 250-382-2464

November 1, 2017

Dear Mayor & Council, DVBA, and other Victoria colleagues,

I am the managing partner of Munro's Books, and am writing to share an idea we had to address the particular concerns of downtown merchants who will not only be selling to locals, but to the many tourists who arrive in Victoria without a reusable bag. I was unable to attend the City of Victoria Open House meeting regarding the plastic bag ban, though I did attend the retailer-specific meeting, and I did make this suggestion there.

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With regards,

Jessica Walker
Munro's Books

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Victoria's Plastic Bag Ban
Date: Thursday, November 30, 2017 1:40:54 PM
Attachments: [030909034157.pdf](#)
[042308113610.pdf](#)

From: Jim Phillips [mailto:jrphillips@matthewsdisplay.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 11:52 AM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Cc: Jennifer Bowles <jennifer@matthewsdisplay.com>; rebecca mols <personal information> Jim Phillips <jrphillips@matthewsdisplay.com>
Subject: Victoria's Plastic Bag Ban

To Victoria City Council,

My name is Jim Phillips and I own Matthews Store Fixtures & Shelving here in the Capital Regional District. My company supplies various packaging products to the business community on Vancouver Island. These include but are not limited to both single use paper and plastic bags and Non-Woven Polypropylene (NWPP) plastic bags. My business, which includes 10 employees has a vested interest in any proposed City bag bylaw that will effect negatively the revenue stream into Matthews.

We believe that the proposed elimination of single use plastic bags is a good thing and we fully support this move by the City of Victoria. We have seen the writing on the wall over the past few years and both I and our employees agree that the environment needs rules like these to make our world a better place to live. In fact, we think that City Council should take the additional step to also ban the use of NWPP bags. I am sure you are aware of the mountain of evidence that points to the largest environmental issue facing the Oceans and our planet from plastics being the Micro Plastics which are polluting our oceans and entering the food chain at every level (from microscopic to Apex).

By banning single use plastic bags you will be pushing more people into purchasing and using more of the NWPP bags. These NWPP bags pose an even greater pollution issue than single use plastic bags do. The expulsion of Micro Plastics into our Oceans and water ways when the NWPP bags are washed is a greater environmental risk than what the single use plastic bags pose to our environment. The current information available indicates the largest problem facing our environment is the Micro Plastic issue and these NWPP bags will only add to this problem. Why would council want to promote such a great idea of eliminating one negative item from our environment only to promote the use of a poorer and more harmful substitute?

We strongly suggest you consider eliminating NWPP bags along with single use plastic bags. This would be the best course of action for our Community and Environment.

I do want to comment on the portion of the new bylaw that pertains to the charge for paper bags of \$0.12 per bag with an increase to \$0.25 after one years time. I have attached a web link below to a website which lists all of the States in the USA which have laws governing the use of both plastic and paper bags. You will note for jurisdictions that require retailers to charge for paper bags the charge is \$0.05 per bag - not \$0.12 or \$0.25 (see below weblink).

www.baglaws.com

You will note that Seattle, Tacoma and many of the other Washington State locations that have a bag law only charge \$0.05 per bag. We would prefer NO charge on paper bags however if a charge is to be brought in you must bring the price down to the \$0.05 area. On the City of Victoria website it states:

How did the City determine the fees for bags?

- Fees were set to reflect the actual cost of producing a paper bag and reusable bag
- Fees are a proven mechanism to promote sustainable business and consumer habits, while avoiding overuse of any bag type.

I am uncertain as to where the City obtained their information for the "actual cost of producing a paper bag" from however I can tell you that we purchase our large grocery size paper bags (60 lbs bag) for much less than \$0.05 per bag. That price includes freighting the bag into our facility. So if our cost is much less than \$0.05 per bag to purchase from a manufacturer then how much do you think it cost's the factory in Vancouver that is producing this bag to sell to their various wholesalers and end use customers? We would be in the less than a penny range per bag. The City of Victoria needs to bring in line the proposed paper bag fees with a realistic dollar figure, not the \$0.12 you have listed presently. Finally, as there are many different sizes of paper bags and the costs listed above are for the largest and heaviest of grocery paper bag this must also be taken into consideration when determining fees.

I would ask Council to wait one year before you consider placing a fee on paper bags and focus on getting rid of both styles of plastic bags that I have mentioned above. As paper bags are the only true biodegradable packaging bag available to consumers why punish the retailers and suppliers of packaging products by placing such a high cost on these items. Given the choice, I am positive that communities would choose paper over plastic bags. We all recognize this as a better environmental alternative. What most people do not realize is that the NWPP bags are actually made completely from plastic and are a larger harm to our environment than regular plastic bags are. In my opinion this is one area that the City of Victoria and Surfrider Foundation has failed the public by not informing everyone the pitfalls to NWPP bags.

No matter what direction is taken with the bag bylaw my business stands to take a large loss in revenues. Is it time for change, Yes however not on all the fronts the City has proposed. The paper bag charge needs to change, preferably to \$0 for the next year. Let's revisit this in 2019, as for the plastic I agree with everything except we need to remove NWPP bags as well.

I have included two attachments with this note, one is from one of the paper bag manufacturers who we purchase from. The other is an article on why we should consider paperboard packaging systems.

We do hope that you will consult with some additional people in our industry before you make a final decision. We are available anytime if you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Jim Phillips

President
Matthews Store Fixtures & Shelving Inc.
[250-388-4123](tel:250-388-4123)

A New Case for Paperboard Packaging?

by Ben Markens, president, Paperboard Packaging Council

There are some things as an advocate of paperboard packaging you would expect to hear from me—how it protects, promotes, identifies, and informs the consumer better than any other form of container; how the printing quality of the folding carton, and now in some instances the corrugated box, is unequalled; how it offers visibility, product differentiation, and style versatility in almost limitless combinations; and how it meets the challenges of distribution, freight, and maximizing shelf space. Yet, I'm hoping I can still surprise you with a few things you may not have known.

I was stunned to learn in a recent feature article from *The Economist* magazine focusing on the world's seas, that on average, every square mile of ocean contains 46,000 floating pieces of plastic. And in the Pacific, there are two vast areas, possibly the size of the United States, with "tons and tons and tons of plastic swirling round and round."¹

To be fair, everyone in the industry is trying to do better. Our brothers supplying plastic containers made from PET or HDPE have redoubled their efforts to use less and recycle more. Manufacturers of plastic packaging can claim that their products are eco-friendly and more recyclable until their pipelines burst, but two things will always be true. First, there's only so much oil left on the planet, so no matter how much petrochemical-based packaging is reused, it is not and never will be a renewable resource. Second, the United States cannot produce enough petrochemicals on its own to meet the current demand for plastic. If we want to make packaging from polyethylene and PVC, we're going to have to continue to import the oil to refine and convert it. As President Obama observed in his

inaugural address, "The ways we use energy strengthen our adversaries and threaten our planet." The same is true of packaging.

On the other hand, did you know that the American forest products industry plants an average of 1,700,000 trees a day? That's five trees for every one harvested. To us, trees are a managed crop. "How many trees were used to make this paper," is a fundamentally poor question. No one is asking "how many potatoes did you dig up to make those french fries?" or "how many cotton plants did you cut down to make that shirt?" When you think paper and paperboard, think renewable, recoverable, and recyclable. Our forests are large enough and managed well enough to provide, indefinitely, the raw materials required for paperboard packaging. Paperboard embodies not only the essence and meaning of sustainability, but of self-reliance as well. And because virgin paperboard may be repulped and recycled over and over again into new grades of paperboard, the original "tree" that started the packaging cycle is virtually immortal.

I am happy to report that the country is doing a good job reusing paper and paperboard, more than any other packaging material. In fact, in 2005, these two accounted for 75 percent of all recovered packaging. Plastic containers were only 4.2 percent of the total.²

As most of us learned in grammar school, trees perform a vital service to the planet: they absorb carbon dioxide. This process is known as sequestration. If we plant more trees, more CO₂ will be removed from the air. A study conducted jointly by Harvard and Indiana Universities on behalf of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change showed that "a 500-million-ton-a-year sequestration program would be very

significant, offsetting approximately one-third of annual U. S. carbon emission." The report concluded that "a domestic carbon sequestration program ... ought to be included in a cost-effective portfolio of compliance strategies."³

One more question we need to ask and answer is: What has the bigger carbon footprint, packaging plants using paper and paperboard, or converters making packaging from plastic? In the summer 2008 issue of *MediaPack*, a publication linking the optical media industry with suppliers of packaging, Matti Koski, director of Stora Enso (the integrated paper, packaging, and forest products company) says the company has been researching this question for the last 10 years. Koski reports that the emissions necessary to manufacture the company's own paperboard sleeve design for CD packaging are 10 percent of the footprint required for producing the standard jewel case. In addition, pulp mills are energy-producing, not energy-consuming. Whatever isn't needed to make paper or board is converted into power. "It's bioenergy," Koski says. "It doesn't use fossil fuels."⁴

On all counts, the conclusions seem obvious. Increase our recycling efforts on all fronts, minimize our reliance on products that rely on foreign oil, and promote the use of recyclable, sustainable paperboard packaging—the superior solution for graphics, marketing, and distribution.

¹ The Economist, January 3, 2009

² Source: Franklin Associates Ltd.

³ "The cost of U. S. forest-based carbon sequestration," January, 2005, Pew Center on Global Climate Change

⁴ http://www.mediapack-online.com/pdf/Issue_23/MP23_P27-30_Paper.pdf



From our inception in 1987, Bonita Pioneer has been an industry leader in the manufacture of paper packaging products in an environmentally friendly manner. Long before it was fashionable to be labeled as a Green Supplier, Bonita Pioneer has committed to and invested in the equipment and processes to protect our environment. Unlike some of our competition who produces plastic packaging along with paper, Bonita Pioneer has committed exclusively to environmentally friendly paper packaging products.

All products manufactured are done so with water based inks, coatings and adhesives. Our waste streams are designed in a manner that focuses on reuse and recycling with landfill disposal as a last resort. Bonita Pioneer has in place current dedicated recycling programs for paper, chipboard, batteries, oil, light bulbs, process wastewater, paint, aluminum cans, aerosol cans, wood, metal, plate solvents, shop rags, towels and office papers. We also participate in a community based ride share and commute program with the city of Portland.

Bonita Pioneer produces eco-friendly recyclable products. Our standard shopping bags made from natural kraft have an overall recycled content of 45%. Bonita also offers 100% recycled natural kraft with a minimum post consumer waste percentage of 95% and is available in both stock bags and on a custom basis. Our folding cartons are manufactured with 100% recycled chipboard. Bonita Pioneer is here to help you introduce eco-friendly products into your supply chain based on your needs and desires.

All of our recyclable paper products comply with all requirements of the Model Toxics in Packaging Legislation nationwide.

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Plastic Bag Bylaw - BCRFA
Date: Friday, December 1, 2017 9:00:58 AM
Attachments: [BCRFA - Plastic Bag Bylaw.docx](#)

From: Peter De Bruyn Consulting [mailto:peter@debruynconsulting.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 8:50 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Plastic Bag Bylaw - BCRFA

Please find attached our letter from the Victoria branch of the British Columbia Restaurant and Foodservices Association (BCRFA).

Thank you,

Peter

--

Peter De Bruyn
De Bruyn Consulting
250 514 3614

Victoria Chair: British Columbia Restaurant & Foodservices Association

November 30, 2017

To: City of Victoria Engagement
Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw
A Bylaw of the City of Victoria

The British Columbia Restaurant and Foodservices Association (BCRFA) supports initiatives that reduce waste and promote sustainable business practices within the community. The BCRFA would like to work with the City of Victoria to make this bylaw successful while supporting the needs of the restaurant community. Marketing this bylaw will be essential to all stakeholders; the BCRFA can be a conduit to educate the restaurant community in partnership with the city.

Takeout and delivery food services from restaurants are a large and very important segment of restaurant business, generating one of the largest potential growth areas for restaurants. Victoria has a vibrant and diverse restaurant scene contributing greatly to the core economy of the downtown area. Although vibrant, the average gross profit of restaurants is four percent, meaning any barrier to sales-generating programs could leave a restaurant vulnerable to bankruptcy.

Single use plastic bags are commonly used in restaurants for packaged and takeout food. Although many restaurants provide paper bags, many still provide single use plastic bags due to the potentially hot and sloppy nature of the food served. In addition, restaurants provide single use bags free of charge. When a complete hot food meal is picked up, it is expected to be contained within a bag.

Therefore, the BCRFA recommends these solutions:

1. Allow a 1 year grace period to restaurants from the date the bylaw comes into effect instead of the proposed 6 months
2. Allow a hearing within the first 6 months of implementation of the bylaw. This would give the restaurant community time to work within the bylaw and bring forward any relevant issues, while allowing the City of Victoria to amend the bylaw should it seem reasonable to do so
3. Review the issue of charging for a bag, for takeout and delivery food from restaurants.

Thank you for your consideration of these points. I look forward to engaging with you further to make this work for all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Peter De Bruyn

Chair, Board of Directors, BCRFA, Victoria

C: 250 514 3614 peter@debruynconsulting.com

From: Charlotte Gorley
To: [Engagement](#)
Subject: Asking the Right Questions
Date: Friday, November 3, 2017 11:09:37 AM

Banning plastic grocery bags in favour of other bags may seem like a good idea on the surface, but some research is needed to fully understand the impact of this decision. I wanted to inform myself, look at what research had been done, and take a systems approach to understanding the situation more fully. In the course of exploring the issue, I learned some interesting things, which I'd like to share with you here.

I wanted to learn more about the carbon emission and offset implications for both reusable and plastic bags. I learned that research conducted by the United Kingdom's Environment Agency (Life Cycle Assessment of Supermarket Carrier Bags, by Dr. Chris Edwards and Jonna Meyhoff Fry) found that **polythene grocery bags are actually a 'greener' choice because their production incurs a smaller carbon footprint than producing cloth bags**. The researchers calculated that plastic bags are almost 200 times less damaging to the environment, based on the extraction of raw materials, the chemicals used to produce the bags, and the length of time it took to disintegrate in a landfill. Cloth reusable bags use more chemicals and dyes and are often coated with a plastic finish, all of which finds its way into our environment. The study's figures show that producing a plastic bag is rated at a level of 1.57 kg Co2 emission. If that plastic bag is reused, even only once, that level falls to 1.4 kg. A reusable bag cloth or canvas bag would have to be used 171 times to achieve a level of 1.4 kg! The researchers reached the conclusion that plastic grocery bags have a lower environmental impact on our planet than producing reusable fabric bags. In order for reusable cloth bags to be better for the environment they would need to be used about 300 times.

Another research team found similar findings when they compared plastic to paper bags. The report, Resource and Environmental Profile Analysis of Polyethylene and Unbleached Paper Grocery Sacks, by Franklin Associates summarizes the **environmental benefits of plastic grocery bags over paper**, making the following points:

- The energy requirements for plastic polyethylene grocery sacks are 20–40% less than for paper sacks at zero percent recycling for both sacks. (Carrier Bag LCA Research Review Smith Bateson 711356R(02) 6 of 9 12th May 2011)
- At the 1.5 PE to 1 paper sack ratio, the polyethylene sack continues to require 23% less energy than paper, even at 100% recycling.
- Polyethylene sacks contribute 74–80% less solid waste than paper sacks at zero percent recycling. Polyethylene sacks continue to contribute less solid waste than paper sacks at all recycling rates.
- Atmospheric emissions for polyethylene sacks range from 63 to 73% less than for the paper sacks at zero percent recycling. These lower impacts for the polyethylene sacks continue throughout all recycling rates.
- At a zero percent recycling rate, the polyethylene sack contributes over 90% less waterborne wastes than the paper sacks. This percentage difference actually increases as the recycling rates for both grocery sacks increase.
- The landfill volume occupied by the polyethylene sacks is 70–80% less than the volume

occupied by paper sacks on 10,000 uses.

Taking that data into consideration, as well as the fact that **plastic bags can be recycled at several locations in the Greater Victoria area**, one has to wonder why the City of Victoria is favouring reusable bags and planning a ban on plastic bags. I would like to have confidence that if a decision is made to ban plastic grocery bags it is well-grounded in solid evidence and research. City of Victoria, please show us the evidence supporting a ban. Show us the research. Show us the science. **The reusable fabric and canvas bags in my possession all have tags that say “Made in China”**. This is disturbing, given that the Canadian Plastics Industry Association states that **90% of the plastic grocery bags used in Canada are produced in Canada, providing jobs for Canadians and contributing to our economy. They are also transported to Canada from China, further contributing to their carbon footprint.**

In the spirit of transparent and accountable governance, please share publicly the research to support the favouring of a ban. Please share the data that answers the following questions:

- What is the percent of plastic grocery bags currently in our landfill?
- What is the percentage of other landfill contents, such as single use fast food containers, single use disposable diapers, etc.?
- How often will research be conducted to monitor changes to the composition of the landfill? In other words, how will you know a ban is successful, and what metrics will determine success?
- How do you know (not why do you feel) that a ban is better than recycling?
- Where are the reusable bags manufactured? If they are produced offshore, what is the carbon footprint of transporting them here?

In the spirit of transparent and accountable governance, please share the research to indicate why you are favouring a ban instead of promoting recycling. Please show that you are applying evidence-based decision-making.

Thanks for considering this viewpoint,
Charlotte

Charlotte Gorley, PhD, CEC
Qualitative Researcher
Academic Editor & Knowledge Translation Coach
250-474-4289
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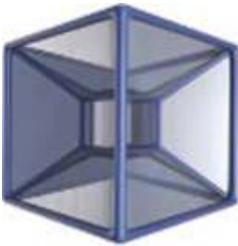
From: Gary Beyer
To: [Engagement](#)
Subject: Bag Bylaw.
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2017 3:50:05 PM

As a retailer of fairly large items that may include laptop computers that are picked up while it is raining out, I find this possible bylaw a farce, a joke and frankly without any justification or merit.

I should charge the customer for a bag? REALLY? This is insanity. Second, none of the bags handed out are single use. People reuse them for cat litter, for garbage bags, for storing lunches etc. Are we now also going to restrict the ability to purchase single use bags?

I do believe that this council is going a little too far in how they are going about curbing plastic bag use. Maybe council need to be educated.

Gary Beyer



Tesseract 2.0

Computer systems & services

Unit G-11, 1001 Douglas St, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2C3

ph. 778-430-5099

www.tesseractcomputers.com

From: [personal information](#)
To: [Engagement](#)
Subject: Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw
Date: Friday, November 3, 2017 5:34:57 PM

I am totally in favour of the Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw and just wished it would be implemented sooner than July 2018. Turtles are dying because they eat plastic bags thinking it is food (jellyfish). People in Victoria have the reputation for caring about the environment so it is time to ban plastic bags. Going shopping without reusable bags is just a bad habit that needs to be changed.

Thank you to City Council for proposing this bylaw (at last!).

[personal information](#)
Victoria, BC

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW:
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 9:50:57 AM

From: personal information

Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 7:50 PM

To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>

Subject:

No plastic bag recycling on Quadra Island BC---banned use of same bags on island-therefore bags bought elsewhere just thrown in garbage!!! Ditto for glass containers,no recycling --- so,who cares, it's a joke! Throw all your stuff in garbage can and forget about so called recycling!!!!

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Ban on plastic bags
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 9:51:53 AM

From: **personal information**
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 9:50 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Ban on plastic bags

I am in full support of banning single use plastic bags.

personal information

Victoria, BC V8Y 3H8

personal information

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Ban the Bag - final comments
Date: Friday, November 17, 2017 3:55:26 PM

From: Curtis Evans [mailto:c2evans@uvic.ca]
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 1:17 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Ban the Bag - final comments

Hello - I hope to get a final comment in as a member of UVic Surfrider and president of the SUP club on campus. I took the attached photo in ocean waters immediately off the Victoria shoreline - it was the day after the presentation at City Hall where people said they see zero plastic bags around Victoria. This was not only ironic, but specifically instructive for a city on a peninsula. I hope the rest of the CRD as occupying other peninsulas on this island also see the image and follow suit.

Curtis Evans P.Geol.
Project Manager BC-NGA
SEOS, University of Victoria

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Checkout Bag Bylaw Feedback
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2017 10:33:12 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Jackie Haché
Engagement Coordinator
Engagement
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC v8w 1P6

T: 250-361-0516



From: **personal information**
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 9:19 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Checkout Bag Bylaw Feedback

I have no issues with the banning of single use plastic bags but I am concerned about the City establishing minimum pricing for paper and re-usable bags. If the intent is to try and change behaviour then why be punitive to those who you are trying to encourage to change?

Can you please explain why the rationale behind the proposed pricing and why a minimum price needs to be set. There are many retailers who currently sell paper and re-usable bags for far less than the proposed amounts so it can't just be an economic argument.

Thanks for your help.

personal information

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Checkout Bag Bylaw Feedback
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2017 10:33:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Jackie Haché
Engagement Coordinator
Engagement
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC v8w 1P6

T: 250-361-0516



From: **personal information**
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 9:19 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Checkout Bag Bylaw Feedback

I have no issues with the banning of single use plastic bags but I am concerned about the City establishing minimum pricing for paper and re-usable bags. If the intent is to try and change behaviour then why be punitive to those who you are trying to encourage to change?

Can you please explain why the rationale behind the proposed pricing and why a minimum price needs to be set. There are many retailers who currently sell paper and re-usable bags for far less than the proposed amounts so it can't just be an economic argument.

Thanks for your help.

personal information

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Checkout Bag Bylaw
Date: Friday, November 17, 2017 8:58:19 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Matt Miller [<mailto:MattMiller@uvic.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 7:17 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Checkout Bag Bylaw

Victoria City Council Members,

I am a Master's student at the University of Victoria and have been researching microplastics in shellfish and our coastal environment for the past two years. I read your draft bylaw to ban checkout bags, and agree with most of the points. However, I would like to suggest the addition of a ban on plastic bags used in grocery stores for produce such as fruits and vegetables. I understand why you have made the exception for bags to hold bulk food such as nuts, but produce really does not need to be transported in a bag. Many fruits and vegetables already have their own natural packaging (the skin or peel), and it is easy enough to weigh a bunch of apples or similar fruits on the checkout scale without the use of a bag. There is also the option of reusable produce bags. I don't think that there would be much extra opposition to the bylaw if this point were included, and it is a relatively simple addition to make. I appreciate the support of the council on this issue and am proud to be a citizen of such a progressive city which will be an example to other Canadian cities and the rest of the world.

Thank you,

Matt Miller
MSc Student
University of Victoria
School for Earth and Ocean Science
Victoria, BC, Canada

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Draft Bylaw - Check Out Bag Regulation.
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 9:28:21 AM

From: Creatures **personal information**
Sent: Sunday, November 12, 2017 2:02 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Cc: Creatures <
Subject: Draft Bylaw - Check Out Bag Regulation.

My name is Ty Hahn and I am the owner operator of Creatures Pet Store (0888828 BC Ltd) located at 770 Blanchard st.

I am a supporter of of reducing plastic use in general, and specifically single use plastic items including plastic bags. I am fully aware of the damage that plastics can do to animal life when released in to the environment, and to say the least it is disgusting. After reading through the by laws it has brought to my attention again the ongoing global concern, and I do feel it starts with us as individuals to change the the ways things are done. So I say hats off for starting that process.

That said I do see some issues that can negatively affect the embracing of this by-law by some businesses (myself included) with the bylaw in its current form. I will offer up some possible solution to the issues I point out as well.

I have read over the draft bylaw, and found the following

1. The majority of our sales are from sales of live aquarium fishes, plants, invertebrates, and other aquatic livestock. These plants and animals are placed in a clear plastic bags, twisted and sealed with a rubber band. Within the bylaw I see in the exceptions section a list of many items that are exempt however I feel this list is too narrow in scope.
 - o SOLUTION: A person can see the spirit of the exception is not hinder an individual ability to secure their purchase of loose items. I think broader statement could be made to include all businesses without eroding the definition of the exceptions, such as "Any bulk item for sale that does not come prepacked in its own packaging", or "Any item that cannot feasible be transported from the place of business with out the use of a primary plastic containment bag". You could then follow with a statement that includes your examples such as "Including but but not limited to Fruits, Vegetables, Bulk nut, bolts, screws, etc.
2. At Creatures , sometimes a customer's primary fish bag will get broken on their trip home, or the elastic band broke but the carry out plastic bag has saved the fish from dying. If a cloth or paper bag was used, the water would simply drain through a cloth bag and the fish would die inside, and a paper bag would sog and break releasing the fish into their cars or onto the street. Other unique businesses may have issues where the plastic carry out bag is integral to to the safe transport of the consumers purchases. I see in section 3(4) when a plastic bag is used to protect a newspaper or other printed material it is exempt.

- SOLUTION: Within the Exception section 3(4) could be expanded to with a statement to the effect of "If a plastic carry out bags serves a function that a paper or cloth bag cannot provide then a plastic carry out bag may be used. In addition the function that the plastic bag serves may be required to be stated to the consumer, and it then final decision to use the plastic carry bag could be left with the consumer to choose if they feel it is required or not, and of course be charged for."
3. The charge for paper bags for drive through restaurants, I feel the charge for a paper bag at the drive through will be looked at as a \$0.12 tax per bag. First off it has nothing to do with keeping plastic out of the environment, they are paper or at least most are or will soon to be. Second I would not want to see numerous consumer re-usable bags passed through the drive through window filled with their food purchase burgers, loose fries, etc and then passed back out, this would not work at all. Re-usable bags when not in service are not stored in sanitary conditions.
- SOLUTION: Within the Exception section right along with the prescription paper bags, add the drive through bags, or even better a statement to the effect of " When a paper bag is used to protect a persons privacy or to safe guard against contaminants, or ensure sanitary conditions are met, the carry out bag is considered mandatory packaging and is exempt. In these cases when a paper bag can effectively perform the task it will be used" A definition for privacy should be included of the type of products, not to open this can or worms.

Other concerns:

I want to point out that because my life revolves around aquatic livestock, their environment is important to not just me but my customers as well. To most of our community they are not just fish, but amazing life forms that deserve our utmost care to ensure their survival. I think that educating / training the consumer to bring in their own bags is a solid idea but it will not come with some spin off effects, not all of them positive.

- Theft: I am unsure if others have raised the point of individuals bringing in their own bags, and the potential effect it may have on shrinkage of merchandise. Currently it is a struggle to get customers to leave their back packs and their pre-filled reusable bags at the front. I understand each business will have to create their own policy on how to handle customers bringing in their own bags, but I see this bylaw as a tool that will be used by would be thieves to gain entrance to a store with a device to fill and cart out products. It happens now and it will increase 10 fold when everyone is carting around their own bags. I too have taken in my empty reusable bags into a grocery store filled them and then proceeded through the checkout. I cannot tell you how many people bring in their re-usable bags that are half filled and then at the till take out an item they placed on the top and pay for it. I know that some have have buried additional items inside their bags. And of course it is a mystery on how it got to the bottom. This could escalate to a real problem, and I mention this theft component as it could be argued that asking a customer to leave (abandon) their pre-filled re-usable bags is discouraging the use of such bags. This would contravene the section 3(4). Possibly a statement that leaving consumer bags already in use at a secure area is not discouraging the use of said bags.
- I feel that the city will also have to influence the remaining municipalities of Greater Victoria to follow suit, to not have them on board will speak loudly that this by law is...
 - 1 not seen as sound and a good idea
 - 2 is unsupportable simply by lack of support from the remaining municipalities, and

- 3 will be ineffective if the other municipalities continue business as usual
- Pilot programs, I believe that if you asked a numerous businesses to participate in a pilot programs to gather real life experiences applying the new by law you could mitigate numerous pitfalls that will result upon implementation.
- Lastly I have seen no or very little educational support on this topic. If you educate the consumers and businesses of the effects that plastic has on the environment they will welcome a bylaw that can have an everlasting effect on the planet. With the purchase of a business license simply obtain express permission to use email as form of communication. Now send us some educational information via email on this subject.

Conclusion: It appears the intent of this bylaw is to effectively reduce/stop the use of single use plastic bags, without disrupting business, and not to hinder a consumers safe transport of their purchased goods. The charge for the brown bags at first confused me, but I realized that although compost-able they still have an negative impact on our resources and environment but at a very much reduced impact compared to plastic. It also appears that some businesses have been specifically included in the exceptions, but if the statements were to be broadened without losing the spirit of the bylaw, it will not appear to favor some businesses over others, and be more readily accepted. Lastly if the other municipalities do not join, all of the data you have supplied to support this bylaw is over exaggerated and the effect the bylaw will have on the reduction will also be negligible at best. If the other municipality do not join they will continue to be great source for customers to obtain a plastic bag before shopping in the city Victoria!

Sincerely

Ty Hahn

--

Ty Hahn
Creatures Pet Store (0888828BC Ltd)
#3 - 770 Bay St
Victoria BC V8T 5E4
ph 250-382-3329, fax 250-388-4251, toll free 877-986-2738
www.creatureville.ca

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: draft checkout bag regulation bylaw
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 12:49:24 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

From: Karen Wristen [mailto:kwristen@livingoceans.org]
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2017 12:47 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: draft checkout bag regulation bylaw

November 8, 2017

Mr. Fraser Work, Director
Engineering and Public Works
City of Victoria
City Hall
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Re: draft Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw

We are pleased to offer the following comments on the City of Victoria's draft checkout bag regulation bylaw, in response to the invitation of Mayor and Council for public comment.

First, we congratulate the City on taking this important step to regulate the use of unnecessary plastics. Living Oceans has been involved in removing plastic marine debris from sensitive foreshore habitats for nearly a decade and we are gravely concerned by the threat posed to marine life, including commercially important species that sustain BC's coastal communities, by lost or discarded plastics. In our view, any steps that can be taken to reduce the proliferation of unnecessary plastics will be of lasting value to the marine environment.

We would like to address the argument always advanced by the plastics industry when it faces a ban on plastics of any sort: it's the fault of the people who lose or discard the plastic that it becomes an environmental hazard; educating them to use recycling is the preferred answer. This is clearly not the solution to the problem from the viewpoint of municipalities that have to deal with the volume of plastic entering landfills; and persistent non-compliance with recycling options after so many years of public education suggests that further expenditure on education will have limited returns. In the meantime, there are often devastating consequences to the release of plastic bags into the environment, as we describe in more detail below. We believe this industry argument to be particularly fallacious where there are easily accessed alternatives to the particular plastic in question, as there are in the case of checkout bags.

Plastic checkout bags are a deadly and difficult to control pollutant in the environment. They are

easily lost, to wind or moving water, and wherever that happens—whether on land or at sea—their light weight and structure mean that they are likely to end up being washed into the ocean. In the ocean, they are most often to be found moving beneath the surface on the current, where they are readily consumed by marine mammals, either because they are mistaken for prey or mixed in among prey species and consumed inadvertently.

Plastics bags are one of the most frequently found items in the guts of whales undergoing necropsy. They can cause serious blockages of the digestive system. In February of this year, a whale was euthanized after it beached near Bergen, Norway, because it was obviously ill and believed to be in pain. Researchers recovered 30 plastic bags from its stomach and reported the remainder of the intestinal tract virtually devoid of food; the plastic completely filled the stomach. The whale's blubber layer was extremely thin, suggesting the animal was suffering from starvation. These findings are not isolated, as other necropsies of marine mammals have made similar findings.

Depending on their residence time in ocean waters, plastics may carry with them a disproportionately high dose of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports that tests on marine plastics disclosed levels of POPs ranging from 100,000 to 1 million times that of the seawater in which they were found. POPs are implicated in diseases of the neurological system and known to impair reproduction. Pacific Northwest orca whales have been found to have extraordinarily high levels of POPs, which may be contributing to their struggle to maintain the viability of their population.

While some of the toxic load borne by whales is no doubt bioaccumulated through contaminated prey, exceptionally high doses may be encountered with marine plastic consumption.

Plastic is a marvelous invention, but its durability and chemistry mean that it is imperative to ensure that it is properly used and controlled. Whether considered from the viewpoint of impacts on the marine environment, on the climate or on other, societal costs, single-use disposable plastics are the worst application of this wonderful technology that mankind has invented to date. Any step to control its proliferation is, in our submission, a step in the right direction.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Wristen', written in a cursive style.

Karen G. Wristen
Executive Director
Living Oceans Society
The Marine Building
2000 – 355 Burrard Street

Vancouver BC V6C 2G8

Tel: (604) 696-5044

Fax: (604) 696-5045

Skype: karenwrysten

kwristen@livingoceans.org

www.livingoceans.org



From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback for Checkout Bag Replacement Bylaw
Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 3:59:26 PM

From: **personal information**
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 12:04 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Feedback for Checkout Bag Replacement Bylaw

Hello,

I would like to show my support for the proposed bylaw in its entirety, in hopes that more cities will follow in the footsteps of Victoria. I am very happy to see specificity in definitions of a reusable bag to prevent stores from selling "reusable" plastic shopping bags.

There are only a few things I do not support in the new bylaw, and that is the cost of the reusable bag. I believe that charging a minimum fee for a reusable bag is not conducive to helping the environment or the economy. Many stores currently offer free or extremely reduced price reusable bags with the purchase of a certain amount of products, and this would be barred by this bylaw.

The second thing I would like to bring forward and I would be extremely happy to hear back about is the issue of where plastic bags are still permitted (Exemptions, 4, (1)). While frozen/packaged meats require plastic for safe transportation, fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, and particularly candy do not require plastic bags. These bags are often used in excess - putting only two carrots in a single plastic bag, putting only a single head of cabbage in a bag - when a bag is unnecessary from the beginning. I would like to request clarification regarding why plastic bags have not been considered for removal from bulk sections.

Many bakeries include plastic in their otherwise paper bags for nothing more than an opportunity for a customer to view the product - which is entirely unnecessary considering the environmental cost of any amount of plastic that will be discarded immediately after purchase. Many candies in the bulk section of stores come in their own wrapping - a procedure in itself that should be banned in its entirety - but I bring it up as clearly, there is no further waterproof protection needed beyond that. Paper bags would suffice for nearly all dry bulk and vegetables that are not sprayed with water for freshness. Regarding bulk meats (such as Deli meats), the use of reusable and resealable plastic bags is in excess and could easily be eliminated by requiring customers to bring their own, clean, reusable container, which would result in both a reduced cost for the store and the customer.

(b) mentions hardware stores, where beyond greased/oiled components, there should be absolutely and entirely no use of plastic bags whatsoever as a thick paper bag, which is biodegradable, or a box or reusable container, would be much better suited as well as better environmentally. Until the late 1990's many stores still offered paper bags and boxes for their bulk hardware options.

While I do show support for the bylaw in its entirety, I only show support with the hopes that

further action will be taken to remove excess plastic bags from the shopping environment. I look forward to hearing back from you on the topic of bulk bags and bags in the produce sections of stores where these bags are entirely unnecessary.

Thank you for bringing this bylaw forward and I will be happy to be following its progress all the way to the point where it is in full effect.

personal information

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback to the Proposed Plastic Bag Bylaw
Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 9:12:17 AM

From: personal information
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Feedback to the Proposed Plastic Bag Bylaw

Hi,

I do not represent a business that uses 'single-use' plastic bags but I would like to say that in my family of 5, they are not 'single-use' bags. We use them for garbage can liners for all of our household garbage cans, apart from the larger kitchen garbage. If we will no longer be receiving these bags when we do our grocery shopping then we will just have to purchase plastic bags. So for us, eliminating the plastic grocery bags is not helping the environment in any way in the end, it is only adding another cost to our household.

Thank you,
personal information

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback to the Proposed Plastic Bag Bylaw
Date: Thursday, November 23, 2017 9:08:23 AM

From: Rebekah Hutchison [mailto:rhutchison@liquidcapitalcorp.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 2:43 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Cc: Stephen Ison <sison@liquidcapitalcorp.com>; Catherine Holt <ceo@victoriachamber.ca>
Subject: Feedback to the Proposed Plastic Bag Bylaw

A study cited in an article in The Atlantic Magazine found that:

"Conventional plastic bags made from high-density polyethylene (HDPE, the plastic sacks found at grocery stores) had the smallest per-use environmental impact of all those tested. Cotton tote bags, by contrast, exhibited the highest and most severe global-warming potential by far since they require more resources to produce and distribute."

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2016/09/to-tote-or-note-to-tote/498557/>

The full study by the UK Environment Agency can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/291023/scho0711buan-e-e.pdf

Decisions such as these should be made based on objective evidence from reputable sources and methodology, not popular narratives from special interest groups that propose a feel good initiative. Nobody is going to argue against trying to be eco-friendly, but these decisions need to be based on fact. To do otherwise means actually doing more harm to the planet.

I also have a concern about smaller retailers... I would see it as anti-small business for there to be a threat of a fine if a small business owner's employee forgets about this bylaw. It'll come out of the small biz owner's own pocket. Larger retailers such as London Drugs can eat this more easily, but it's unnecessarily cumbersome for a small business. I'd like to see council encourage small business, especially retail, rather than add a hinderance.

On top of this, is the cost of policing the bylaw adherence and processing fine payments.

When I see this initiative, I see:

- It's actually doing less for the environment by shifting the environmental impact
- It's adding more red tape and hostility to small business
- It's adding more cost to the operating budget for the city, which means higher property taxes in the future, which is a contributor to the cost of housing

I'd like to see council:

- Make evidence based decisions on initiatives that do less harm than the status quo
- Remove or refrain from adding obstacles for local small business retailers
- Consider the added costs for initiatives, and remember that every expense at City Hall means less money in the hands of voters, renters and homeowners alike

I am in agreement that we should consider the environment, but I think there are other approaches that can and should be done first.

Rebekah Hutchison
Principal

Liquid Capital West Coast Financing Corp.
PO Box 39051 RPO James Bay
Victoria, BC V8V 4X8

Office 778.265.7990
rhutchison@liquidcapitalcorp.com
www.lcwestcoastfinancing.com



From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Plastic bag ban
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 9:32:18 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: **personal information**
Sent: Sunday, November 12, 2017 4:31 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Plastic bag ban

Dear Mayor & Council,

I am someone who always try's to bring my own bag while shopping. I think there is way too much plastic being thrown away with detrimental consequences. I agree that cities need to look at ways to reduce the use of plastic where it can, and shopping bags are one way. What I don't understand in the city's proposal is why the city determines how much a store has to charge for an alternative to plastic. Isn't the intent to reduce plastic? If the store chooses to give away paper or (even better) reusable bags, should that not be their choice?

I think the idea of reducing single use plastic bags is good, but the plan makes no sense. Let the store determine how much, if anything, they charge for alternatives.

personal information

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Plastic bag ban
Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 2:10:54 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: **personal information**
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 11:46 AM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Plastic bag ban

We purchase our bags in bulk (as many businesses do) so we currently have quite of few bags which have cost us thousands of dollars. Will there be a transition period so that businesses have time to adjust and use up their stock?

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Plastic Bag Ban-Suggestion
Date: Monday, October 30, 2017 1:34:10 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Maureen Gordon
Auxiliary Support, Engagement
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6
250 361-0505



From: sales@thependantbox.com [mailto:sales@thependantbox.com]
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 1:28 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Plastic Bag Ban-Suggestion

Hi! I personally think if businesses are required to charge \$0.25 cents per plastic bag and then any extra earnings off that, are used towards green initiatives to reduce, recycle and re-use plastic bags, that it would be a better incentive.

I'm against an outright ban, because I know for fact, I use plastic bags more than once or twice. I re-use plastic bags for packaging materials, I re-use to carry heavy items to work on rainy days, and I re-use for carrying liquid items that may leak if they weren't held in the plastic bags.

I have a friend who also takes in any plastic bags, and she weaves plastic pads out of them and other items, to use for sitting on benches and other areas when it is raining outside. She will weave all sorts of patterns out of different colored plastic bags.

My opinion, but teach people how to re-use, recycle the plastic bags, instead of an outright ban. They are extremely handy and they can be used so much more than one time! Perhaps by charging more for a plastic bag- those who won't re-use or recycle them, will not purchase them.

Those of us who enjoy using plastic bags, recycling and reusing them for our own crafty ideas, can still be able to purchase them to use. Not one single plastic bag that passes through my household, goes through a one time use. I use them over and over and over

again until I cannot use them anymore. I know I am not the only person out there that does this.

There are many craft projects that people can learn to make or spend time making with plastic bags. Perhaps making umbrellas, or other water proof items out of them, may go a long way. I just feel people should be more creative with items before they just consider outright bans. There are many uses for plastic bags, and many people do use them for more than just a one time use!

Kelsi

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Plastic bag bylaws
Date: Monday, October 30, 2017 9:48:17 AM

Maureen Gordon
Auxiliary Support, Engagement
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6
250 361-0505

-----Original Message-----

From: **personal information**
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2017 10:02 AM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Plastic bag bylaws

I think these draft bylaws are ridiculous. I always re-use the so called “single use” plastic bags multiple times. Charging \$100 to \$1000 per offence? Charging \$2 minimum per reusable bag? These are excessive costs. I don’t always remember my bags especially if I am picking up some unexpected items.

What about going after plastic packaging, plastic lids and plastic cups at the coffee shops?

This draft regulation is absurd.

Just my two cents worth.

personal information

Born and raised in Victoria, here since 1961.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: plastic bag debate
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 9:52:20 AM

From: **personal information**
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 10:16 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: plastic bag debate

i fully support a plastic bag ban in victoria.

i read an article on CBC where a spokesperson for the canadian plastics industry association said that plastic bags aren't that problem, that the problem is people not recycling them. that may be so but if people aren't recycling them already, then the next best thing is to take plastic bags out of the equation entirely.

besides that, **reducing** is better than **reusing** or **recycling** anyway. using less plastic in the first place means less energy spent making the stuff, recycling it, and disposing of it.

banning plastic bags is a win-win move both in terms of waste reduction and resource conservation -- two things we need to start embracing sooner rather than later.

thanks,
personal information

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: plastic bag legislation
Date: Monday, October 30, 2017 9:46:58 AM

Maureen Gordon
Auxiliary Support, Engagement
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6
250 361-0505

-----Original Message-----

From: [personal information](#)
Sent: S M
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: plastic bag legislation

Hi,

Just wanted to say thanks for working on this issue and I hope that you are successful in passing the legislation to greatly curtail the use of plastic. Too bad there isn't a solution for bulk items.

Thanks,

[personal information](#)

Victoria resident

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Plastic bags
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 9:49:38 AM

From: **personal information**
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 7:08 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Plastic bags

People can carry reusable cloth bags with them when they shop. My wife carries two in her purse supplied by Lee Kum Kee

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Plastic bags
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 9:49:04 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: [personal information](#)
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 6:10 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Plastic bags

We have been noticing that everything now comes encased in plastic and it has to stop. We are taking our own bags to the store all the time now and have just decided to take a glass container to the meat department and have them put chicken, fish etc in our own containers. Styrofoam is another thing that cannot be recycled and should not be used. Pressed cardboard is a better option and can at least be composted.

[personal information](#)

"What day is it?" asked Pooh, "It's today" said Piglet. "My favourite day". Said Pooh.

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: plastic bags
Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 4:00:22 PM

From: **personal information**
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 1:18 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: plastic bags

I think this is a great idea!

The businesses need to cooperate though. I t wanted to buy reusable BPA free reusable bags today at Bulk Barn. They said they needed to be weighed before each visit. How about since I was buying them there and it had a Bulk Barn label, you make it easier and have the weight written right on them, so you can easily fill it when entering store.

Thanks for doing this.

personal information

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Plastic bags
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 9:51:27 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: **personal information**
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 8:22 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Plastic bags

I fully support a ban on plastic bags for 5 reasons:

1. Plastic is made with fossil fuels. Anything that can be done to reduce the need for fossil fuels is good for the environment.
2. The manufacture of plastic requires energy that could be used for more productive purposes
3. No matter how much public education goes into it, some people will not recycle. Those bags will go into the landfill, where they will never really decompose, or sometimes into our waterways where they become a risk to marine life.
4. Recycling plastic also requires energy which adds costs.
5. While re-usable bags are by far preferable, for those who prefer, paper bags can be used. At least, paper will decompose. Paper can be produced here, helping to support BC's pulp & paper industry.

personal information

Sent from my iPad

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Plastic bags
Date: Thursday, November 9, 2017 8:43:51 AM

From: **personal information**
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2017 8:05 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Plastic bags

Ban them completely!

When Craig Foster, a sustainability consultant for the CPIA, says people are the problem its because he's providing the ammuniton for people to be lazy and not caring/thinking about what happens to the bags afterwards.

I grew up in an era when shopping bags were just that – well-made and re-usable time and time and time again, most often made from organic materials. Subsequent generations have been weaned on plastic everything and now look at the state of the oceans of our planet – all down to the plastics industry and its indifference to what they're doing for the sake of profit and convenience.

Just my thoughts but the truth,

personal information

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: plastics
Date: Thursday, November 9, 2017 8:45:01 AM

From: **personal information**
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2017 5:48 AM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: plastics

Dear Engage,

I am following everything to do with plastics and the deluge of them that continues to wreak havoc on the natural environment. As I try to change my ways I still end up with piles of the stuff at the end of the week. In the grocery store I notice that almost every product is encased in plastic packaging. I have tried to reduce the amount of products with packaging that I purchase by attempting to make rather than purchase pre-made goods, but as a single working mother it is an uphill battle.

I have asked my grocery store to provide reduced packaging options and choose to shop at stores that do this. One example is Thrifty foods you can buy meat or fish wrapped in brown paper rather than styrofoam plus overwrap. Other things I try to do:

- make own baked goods
- use brown paper bags to dispose of waste
- use newspaper folded into 'bags' to dispose of waste
- reduce waste etc.
- buy glass bottled milk...but the plastic tops are not recyclable!

I have neighbours who are farmers and they only put out the garbage once every six weeks. They simply do not buy anything wrapped in plastic. For the rest of us we try but that trash bag is going out there every week filled with single use plastic. THIS IS MADNESS!

So in spite of plastic bag bans, there is all this overwrap everywhere. This has to be something that industry does, consumers can ask but can't really do much about it. Or at least we know that most consumers will not. What can we do about overwrap? Would the CPIA be able to comment on it? How about a product that is not plastic e.g. waxed paper or glass.

thanks for working on this issue, something must be done!

yours sincerely,
personal information



From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed plastic bag bylaw
Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 9:05:44 AM

From: **personal information**
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 12:11 AM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Proposed plastic bag bylaw

Hello!

I am a cashier in a local grocery store and I absolutely support regulation of plastic checkout bags. There was one point in the proposed bylaw that I found disconcerting, however, and that was that the customer must be asked first if they need a bag. I have found that sometimes customers are a little too, well, optimistic about how much one bag can hold, or how much they can carry on their own, and by the time their items are scanned through they realize that they need a bag (or an additional bag) to carry all their items home.

Perhaps I am misunderstanding, but I feel that if the customer is willing to pay for a paper or reusable bag, even after initially declining one, this should be allowed. It is their money to spend. As you can imagine, I am in a relatively low wage bracket as a cashier and also often at the mercy of customers' moods. I certainly cannot afford a fine, and refusing a bag to a customer who needs one will almost certainly incite anger from customers. Imposing fines on cashiers, whose priority it is to keep customers happy (not only for the good of the businesses we represent, but for our own sanity and well-being!) seems a bit unfair.

Otherwise, I think it's marvelous that this bylaw is being considered! I am proud to live in a city where this could become a reality!

Thank you for your time,

personal information

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Reducing Single-Use Plastic Bags Feedback
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2017 4:57:25 PM

From: **personal information**
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 4:23 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Reducing Single-Use Plastic Bags Feedback

Hello!

My name is **personal information** and I'm a first-year university student at UVIC. I have long been an advocate of going waste free, and am so encouraged by some of the green changes that are being made here in Victoria! Upon hearing of the plastic bag ban, I was immediately sparked with excitement; for I have been refusing plastic for as long as I can remember, and I'm so happy to see that so many people in our community are in support of the ban of unnecessary toxicity to our planet. I hope that as we introduce more green values into our government, these values will be more and more accepted by our society and furthermore transition into a society where all values and actions are with the environment, and it impacts, in mind. I did notice that there were some exceptions to the plastic bag ban and I was just curious as to if these were eventually going to be phased out? An example includes for bulk items it would be absolutely awesome to see natural fabric, beeswax wraps and jars phasing out plastic options. I know this is the just the start of something great but in retrospect, our timeline to reach the paris peace agreement (where we'd have to reduce our emissions by 80%) is coming rapidly; obviously with the kind of society that we are living in this is going to be impossible to reach unless some kind of drastic, enforced changes are made to the way that us (the public, as individuals) go about our daily lives. I was just wondering when pondering the catastrophic, volatile impacts of climate change; what kind of mitigation and adaptation policies are being discussed?

As a university student, a young adult of our community, I was wondering what sort of opportunities are available for me and my fellow peers to get involved with the community and directly be part of the green movement that we see ever-more pronounced in Victoria?

Thankyou so much for your time and the work that you're doing to help save our beautiful planet!

Take care,
personal information

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Reducing Single-Use Plastic Bags
Date: Monday, October 30, 2017 9:47:33 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Maureen Gordon
Auxiliary Support, Engagement
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6
250 361-0505



From: **personal information**
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2017 5:55 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Reducing Single-Use Plastic Bags

I don't own a car so 99% of the time I walk to get my groceries, and because I have to carry everything home, I don't buy a lot at one time. I often spontaneously stop after work to pick up a few items and needless to say I don't keep a large supply of reusable shopping bags in my desk at the office. Perhaps the mayor and council will offer to supply me with free transportation to make my spur-of-the-moment shopping trips more manageable. And I have to ask, what is doing more harm in the CoV: plastic bags or fentanyl-laced needles?

personal information

Name: _____
Date: _____
Page: _____

Unit: _____
Date: _____
Page: _____

People can use a variety of materials to make things they need. My work is to be prepared by Lee Kuan Yew.



From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Single - Use Checkout Bag Reduction Program
Date: Thursday, November 23, 2017 9:31:06 AM

From: Marion Schubert [mailto:mschubert@capitaliron.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 4:27 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Single - Use Checkout Bag Reduction Program

Hi,

Unfortunately I am not able to attend the meeting today.

We have the following concerns;

Checkout Bag Regulations

1. 12 cents per Paper Bag – please advise the reasoning for prohibiting a business owner to provide free paper bags?
2. 12 cents per Paper Bag – will the City of Victoria ask for a percentage of these funds collected? Or, can this money be donated to a local charity by the business owner?
3. \$2 per Reusable Bag – Can a business owner offer a promotion where every \$50 or \$100 purchase will provide the customer with a free re-usable bag?

Thank you,

Marion Schubert
Store Manager

t | 250.978.2206 **m** | 250.818.4615 **e** | mschubert@capitaliron.net

1900 Store Street, Victoria, BC V8T 4R4



THERE'S NO STORE LIKE IT!

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Single use plastic bags motion
Date: Friday, November 17, 2017 8:59:22 AM

From: **personal information**
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 8:34 AM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Single use plastic bags motion

Hello,

I just want to offer my support the motion. It's a good initiative, and it is well past the point that we should be cutting down on single use plastic. I live in Saanich, but I often shop in Victoria, and would like to see this. My only suggestion is to propose to expand it - maybe to CRD.

Thanks,
personal information

Cordova Bay

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Strongly support proposed single use plastic bag ban
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 9:56:18 AM

From: **personal information**
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 4:27 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Strongly support proposed single use plastic bag ban

Hello,

I am writing to say that I strongly support the City of Victoria's proposed single use plastic bag ban, as someone who works in Victoria and shops there often. I also support the concepts of charging fees for paper and reuseable bags, to work toward actually consuming and wasting less.

Thank you,
personal information

From: [Engagement](#)
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: FW: Thank you for the plastic bag regulation!
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 10:02:41 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: **personal information**
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 7:09 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Thank you for the plastic bag regulation!

This is absolutely necessary and I'm so grateful our local authorities are taking action to reduce this unnecessary waste source! I'm a mom of two young kids under 4 and if I can manage to remember my reusable bags, anyone can. Big thumbs up!

From: [personal information](#)
To: [Engagement](#)
Subject: plastic bag ban
Date: Friday, November 3, 2017 10:09:21 AM

Hello.....

I am in favour of the single use plastic bag ban. Likely there will be some folks who will not want to open up to that change in their day to day habits, but if we think of all the other changes we have made over the years that seemed daunting at first, but now are routine (blue box recycling, dialling area code in front of phone numbers, no smoking indoors, etc) I'm sure we will all weather this one (and hopefully more to come....plastic water bottle ban, styrofoam take-out container ban come to mind).

Thanks, [personal information](#)

From: [personal information](#)
To: [Engagement](#)
Subject: Plastic Bags
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2017 6:04:41 PM

I agree with the ban of merchants providing plastic bags; however, I do not agree with charging shoppers for the paper bag.

In my youth, every store provided paper bags for our purchases. Paper is easily recycled or used in the compost bin.

I think you'll find that shoppers will be more supportive/and easily adjust to the "new" old way if there is no charge for paper bag option. Think tourists.

I feel that merchants/businesses won't lose their customers if the paper option is free and purchasing the cloth bag purchase is the alternative.

The State of Hawaii banned plastic bag distribution in grocery stores in 2015. They went back to providing paper bags for free.

It is my opinion that Vancouver Island municipalities should create a bi-law banning businesses from providing plastic bags at the check out but provide paper bags for free and charge for re-usable bags as is the current practice.

[personal information](#)

From: Creatures
To: [Jackie Hache](#)
Subject: Re: Draft Bylaw - Check Out Bag Regulation.
Date: Friday, December 1, 2017 10:46:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello Engage Victoria...Jackie and Fraser

I appreciated the bag workshop the other night, although I felt there was not enough time, but there never is.

At the beginning Fraser mentioned 2 dates Dec 8th and the 14th at the beginning, I believe there would be some presenting of the issues and concerns collected, and possible amendments. Could you refresh my memory and provide me the details on what takes place on those dates and how can I view any proposed changes submitted if possible?

One of the subjects we did not get time to touch on was shoplifting. In my earlier email I mentioned this would be used as a tool used by shoplifters.

This weekend we had a shop lifter enter our store with 2 reusable bags. Our cameras caught her stuffing those bags full of unpaid products, tying them up, walking around with the now tied up re-usable bags and then walking out.

I feel this bylaw is going to be a double edged sword and cut both ways.

1. It will cut down on some plastic in the landfill and to a small degree some in the environment outside of the landfill, but
2. It will also cut into the profits with increased theft of the local businesses.

I know it is not the intention of the city to create such a tool, but It will increase theft, because every single customer will be bring in a re-usable bag, in fact it will almost be law to bring to not bring in a usable bag. This is a great smoke screen for shoplifters to hide behind. You have to remember business floor nor security plans were not designed to take into the account of every shopper entering their business with a bag (some concealed).

So how do I invite my customers to bring their own bags, make sure they are empty, or ask them to leave them at the front, ensure they do not use them until the merchandise is paid for. This is a lot of customer training/inconveniencing, it is also to complicated for signage, even for the customers that do do not read the signs. To apply the rules to everyone equally is important and will be almost a full time job, it is an ongoing battle with just backpacks. We will need to treat all of customers like potential shoplifters.

To be clear this new proposed bylaw is inviting all customers into the stores with a tool to shoplift. The vast majority do not shoplift, (thank god) it is the few that will blend in with the honest and commit the crime. This bylaw will make security in store difficult.

I cannot believe that it would not be significantly more effective, and considerable less disruptive on the business community to simply get the CRD to recycle soft plastics. It would have the potential to remove all plastics from all municipalities, not the potential to remove 25% at best.

The CRD was designed to address service requirements that transcend municipal boundaries and where municipal collaboration is required to achieve economies of scale.

The whole reason the CRD exists is to facilitate a function just like recycling soft plastic for all communities. I understand that this has been proposed to the CRD and they simply said no. I am also curious if the City of Victoria petition other municipalities to see if there is support to lobby the CRD again, in other words power in numbers and don't take no for an answer.

As i stated before I too want to help reduce plastic getting into our oceans , but I have a hard time buying into a bylaw that will not be anywhere near as effective as a true recycling program for all the communities, and one that does not provide a screen for shoplifters to hide within. Does it make sense to only use 25% of the parking meters in Victoria, nope so how does adopting a plan that only addresses 25% of the population using the landfill. I feel once this bylaw has been adopted the city of Victoria will feel they have done their part and will have put it to rest, but 75% will continue to go putting plastic in the dump.

PS if you want a copy of the video to see how the bags will be used for crime, I will send it to you.

Sincerely

Ty Hahn

From: personal information
To: [Engagement](#)
Subject: Stop this nonsense
Date: Sunday, November 5, 2017 4:12:02 PM

First of all please STOP! your self serving term "single use" plastic bags. i dont know anyone who doesnt re use these bags, bringing empty bottles and cans to the bottle depot, garbage bags, cleaning up after the dog, carrying frozen or wet produce, cold/frozen items would last how long in a paper bag? When i order food for delivery, how long would a large container of sweet and sour ribs take to leak and burst through a paper bag in the car, the parking lot or the floor of your house? How about taking frozen bait out to sea for fishing? Why cant you instead push for bio degradable bags like the ones we are forced to buy now for the kitchen waste containers? I wish i could vote in the city elections next year, as i seriously believe the whole lot of you need to be turfed out and replaced with a council and mayor who actually listens to the MAJORITY of the people! Your so called consultations with the public are a farce, you invariably use these meetings to ram another one of your pet projects down our throats!!!! Enough already!!

personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Jackie Hache
Sent: Wednesday, Dec 13, 2017 9:14 AM
To: Julie Potter
Subject: FW: External - Reducing Single -Use Plastic bags in Victoria, BC
Attachments: image001.jpg; IMG_3163.JPG; IMG_3126.JPG

From: Julie Robson **On Behalf Of** Fraser Work
Sent: December 8, 2017 3:54 PM
To: Jackie Hache <jhache@victoria.ca>
Subject: FW: External - Reducing Single -Use Plastic bags in Victoria, BC

From: STEPHEN SIMCO [<mailto:stephen@simcopak.com>]
Sent: December 8, 2017 7:41 AM
To: Fraser Work <FWork@victoria.ca>
Subject: External - Reducing Single -Use Plastic bags in Victoria, BC

Hi Fraser,
Could you please forward this email to Jackie's or send me her email address?
Jackie was kind enough to give me your contact info but I neglected to ask her for her own address!
Thanks and best regards,
Stephen

Dear Jackie,

Thank you for the opportunity to engage in the discussion on legislation concerning the reduction of single-use poly bags in the City of Victoria.

By way of a brief introduction, SimcoPak is a Montreal-based distributor of retail packaging to Canadian and US retailers. Our products, which include poly, paper, and reusable polypropylene (PP) shoppers, are sourced domestically and overseas.

We believe that in order for it to be considered environmentally favourable retail packaging must be made with resources that are abundantly available, recyclable, and non-toxic. With these criteria in mind we offer a brief analysis of the three major materials currently being used in the manufacture of retail packaging: polyethylene, polypropylene, and paper.

Polyethylene (PE)

- PE is derived from ethylene which is a byproduct of the refining of natural gas and crude oil into fuel. Ethylene is available wherever fuel is refined.
- During the 1950's ethylene and similar substances such as propylene were discarded at the refineries by incineration, creating clouds of black, oily smoke. Once the technology was developed

to capture and transform ethylene into PE and propylene into polypropylene (PP), these byproducts were transformed into a valuable resource rather than being a pollutant.

- PE is 100% recyclable and is inexpensive to process and reprocess. Reprocessing recycled PE reportedly uses 88% less energy than the production of virgin PE.
- The presence of degradable additives in PE (EPI, for example) disrupt the waste-recycling stream and can cause tons of otherwise recyclable materials to be landfilled.
- Heavier gauge (2 mil +) poly shoppers are reusable and are 100% recyclable.
- PE shoppers, which are produced domestically and overseas, are significantly less expensive to ship and warehouse compared to paper and PP reusable bags because less fuel is consumed during their transportation and storage.
- There is a large domestic market for recycled PE. Numerous PE recycling plants operate throughout North America.
- The City of Montreal is instituting a 2-mil minimum for poly shoppers and numerous other jurisdictions have minimums that range from 2.25 mil to 4 mil with the purpose of reducing the consumption of single-use poly bags. Bags containing oxygen-degradable additives such as EPI have been banned in Montreal and in other jurisdictions.

Polypropylene (PP)

- Like PE, PP is a byproduct of the refining of oil and natural gas into fuel and is recyclable where facilities exist.
- Woven or non-woven PP shoppers have gained considerable popularity recently because they are robust, eminently reusable, and provide an excellent surface for printing.
- While most PP shoppers are sewn, recent ultrasonic sealing technology allows the production of low cost machine-made non-woven PP (NWPP) bags.
- PP shoppers are produced overseas.

Paper

- Paper shoppers are produced both domestically and overseas from virgin and recycled paper and a mixture of both.
- They require significantly more energy to produce and space to transport and warehouse compared to PE bags. Their logistical requirements are comparable to that of reusable PP shoppers.
- They have significantly less wet strength, puncture resistance, and tear strength compared to polymer-based bags and are therefore typically used only once.

In Conclusion

Since the raw material for PE and PP based packaging are byproducts of the refining of crude oil and natural gas into fuel and that at the end of their useful life the bags are recyclable, we believe that PE and PP shoppers should be considered the most environmentally friendly choice for retail packaging. The City should ensure that local recyclers have the capacity to recycle plastic bags and that they have a ready market for the recycled resin that will be generated. Our second choice is PP shoppers because they have a significantly longer life than paper bags.

Other issues we believe should be taken into consideration are:

1. The on-set date of July 1, 2018 is uncomfortably close given that most retail shoppers are produced in China where their New Year holiday will close the factories for most of February. We recommend moving the on-set date to Jan. 1, 2019, which will give retailers the opportunity to use up existing inventory plus give them more time to plan marketing campaigns for their new packaging programs. Moving the onset date to Jan 1/19 will elicit more cooperation from retailers, which would be better than their feeling that the onset date is being thrust upon them too quickly.

2. Since pennies are no longer in circulation we suggest setting a selling price of either 10¢ or 15¢ per bag instead of the proposed price of 12¢ per bag.

Attached are photos of two unlaminated NWPP bags that are more popular than PE bags overseas. These robust bags, which are reusable many times, are excellent substitutes for single use poly bags. Could you or your colleagues please confirm if these bags would be acceptable under the new legislation?

Thank you again for this opportunity to express our view on this important subject. I am available for further discussion or review at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Stephen Simco, President
SimcoPak Inc.
Montreal, Quebec

stephen@simcopak.com

w - 514-562-8810

c - 514-562-8850



Visit our website at: www.simcopak.com





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