August 31, 2015

Her Worship Mayor Helps and Council
City of Victoria

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

I am writing at the request of Chelsea Glazer and Gillian Montgomery, two remarkable young women who are working with great energy and effort on important environmental issues. In particular, I am writing to express my support for strengthened efforts to address the unnecessary pollution and adverse environmental impacts caused by the use of disposable plastic bags.

For many years I have been outspoken on this issue - I can now fondly recall having the epithet "bag lady" hurled at me with great disdain when I raised this issue myself in the late 90s and early 2000s.

It is now widely accepted that single-use, disposable plastic bags create a lot of garbage; harm and kill terrestrial and aquatic wildlife; release toxins as they break down in the environment; and are made from non-renewable and environmentally harmful petrochemicals.

Currently, Multi-Materials British Columbia refuses to collect and recycle this type of plastic in most provincial jurisdictions. I hope municipalities will call on MMBC to assume its regulatory obligation to ensure such waste is recycled or phased out in favour of environmentally friendly alternatives.

It goes without saying that these bags are a great convenience to most of us, and are just one of many environmental harms that need to be addressed. The point here is that with just a small change in our daily habits we can dramatically reduce our disposable plastic bag use.

Municipalities have an important role to play in prompting such change. I would like to express my appreciation for all efforts taken to seriously consider proposals brought forward to address this problem.

Warm regards,



Lana Popham
MLA Saanich South
P: 250.479.4154 | F: 250.479.4176