

## Christine Havelka

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**From:** Tristan Ray-Wilks [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 04, 2015 7:58 AM  
**To:** Council Secretary  
**Subject:** Request to Address Council  
**Attachments:** Tristan's letter to City of vic.docx

Hi there I've tried several times to submit a request form and the site continues to tell me there's a server error. I would still like to submit my request via email.

My name is Tristan Ray-Wilks and I'd like to address the city council on the 10th of Dec 2015.

My address is 26 Linden Ave, Victoria BC

I am representing myself

My topic is Plastic Pollution

I would like City Council to act on this and start phasing out the irresponsible plastic products Victoria is continuing to allow use of, starting with the single use plastic bag.

### CONTACT INFO

Tristan Ray-Wilks

Mailing Address: 26 Linden Ave, Victoria BC

Phone [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Please find my speech attached to this email. I also have a quick show of some pictures should I send them through email?

Thanks kindly,

Tristan Ray-Wilks

Hello my name is Tristan Ray-Wilks. I am here to address the concern of plastic pollution we are continuing to produce in Victoria. I work on the water as a wildlife guide and for all the beautiful things I see, I'm also exposed to just as much of the complete opposite. I'm primarily speaking in regards to plastic pollution. What concerns me the most is the irresponsible use of single use plastic bottles, cups, coffee lids, straws, balloons and plastic bags.

While on a trip taxiing in or out of Victoria harbor, I generally come across plastic bags. To be more precise, sandwich bags, large black garbage bags, and tons of single-use grocery bags. I do what I can to pick out all that I come across, and I have done this so often that I've got retrieval so flawless to which I no longer have to completely stop my boat. However, there are **also** those that are just too deep in the water to reach.

This is where things become much more complicated. Not only are these bags leeching petrochemicals into our oceans, aiding in ocean acidification, but also they are mortally detrimental to marine and terrestrial life. Being on the water I am engaged in conversations with people of various environmental backgrounds, and often hear of yet another whale, sea-lion, or other animal that has died from plastic bags. I have personally seen what a plastic bag can do to bird when it has ingested it as food.

I would like to do a quick slide of pictures of some things I have retrieved, some of which I have recovered in the hundreds.

At home my partner and I use %100 percent biodegradable plastic bags. Not only are they offered for sale by the City of Victoria, they are at an unbeatable price (which, if you're curious is 90 bags for \$10). That's 9 cents a bag, which is a trivial cost for something that we all should feel morally obliged to use.

In addition to being a wildlife guide I'm also on the board of Cetus Research and Conservation Society. If any of you are interested in what we are doing to protect our local waters, I would love to speak with you. Feel free to approach or contact me. In conclusion I would like to stress how immediate banning the single use plastic bag should be. I'd like to think that we are at a level of sophistication where Victoria takes the lead in phasing out the single use plastic bag and eventually all irresponsible plastic products.

Thank you,

Tristan Ray-Wilks