



THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF OAK BAY  
MUNICIPAL HALL – 2167 OAK BAY AVENUE – VICTORIA, B.C. V8R 1G2  
PHONE (250) 598-3311 FAX (250) 598-9108 WEBSITE: [www.oakbay.ca](http://www.oakbay.ca)

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

September 7, 2021

**Letter of Invitation – Important Survey for Oak Bay Businesses**

On behalf of the Council of the District of Oak Bay, I am pleased to invite you to participate in our survey of Oak Bay businesses, regarding the use of single-use plastics in local business operations.

In 2019, Council received a presentation from a group of local elementary school students, requesting us to take action to protect the local environment and reduce the use of single-use plastics in our community. The initiative was added to Council's strategic priorities for 2020 but was subsequently delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the meantime, the Government of Canada announced in October 2020 that they will be introducing regulations aimed at eliminating plastic pollution in Canada, including potentially banning or restricting certain single-use plastic products. As you may already know, the initial six single-use items that they are considering for a ban or restriction include plastic checkout bags, stir sticks, six-pack rings, cutlery, straws, and food service ware. The Environment and Climate Change Canada website indicates that these regulatory changes could be implemented as early as this year (2021).

Council has asked municipal staff to report back on the status of the Federal initiative and any related updates in the fall of 2021. At that time, if the Federal program has not been implemented as planned, or if Council considers there to be significant shortcomings, Council may consider prioritizing the development of a local single-use plastic reduction program and/or regulations. To prepare for that possibility, we want to hear from Oak Bay's local business owners and operators - we want to understand more about the types of single-use plastics that are currently used by local businesses; the actions that local businesses have already taken (or plan to take) to reduce the use of single-use plastics; any significant barriers or impacts that local businesses face with respect to offering reusable or compostable alternatives; and, how you think the District could potentially support local businesses to reduce the use of single-use plastics.

The survey should only take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. It will be open until **September 30, 2021** and is available online at: [connect.oakbay.ca/single-use-plastic](http://connect.oakbay.ca/single-use-plastic). If you require a paper copy or have any questions, please contact Corporate Services staff at 250-598-3311. For those of you with limited or no use of single-use plastics in your business operations, we would still welcome your feedback – the last question (question 10) is open-ended and invites general comments and suggestions from the local business community on the reduction of single-use plastics. Thank you in advance for your input on this topic – we know that this past year has been an extraordinarily difficult time for many local business owners. We truly appreciate your presence and participation in the community.

Sincerely,

Kevin Murdoch, Mayor  
District of Oak Bay

cc Oak Bay Council  
Oak Bay Business Improvement Association

