



THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF OAK BAY
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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 28, 2021

Thank you and Follow Up Letter re: Single Use Plastics

On behalf of the Council of the District of Oak Bay, thank you for your thoughtful participation in our survey of Oak Bay businesses this past fall, regarding the use of single-use plastics in your business operations. The survey results showed that many Oak Bay businesses have already demonstrated remarkable environmental leadership, taking important steps to reduce or otherwise plan for significant reductions in the use of single-use plastics.

As noted in my previous letter on this matter, the Government of Canada announced in late 2020 that they intended to introduce Regulations aimed at eliminating plastic pollution in Canada. On December 24, 2021, Environment Canada published draft Regulations to prohibit the manufacture, import and sale of six categories of single-use plastic items: checkout bags, cutlery, foodservice ware made from or containing problematic plastics, ring carriers, stir sticks, and straws.

The publication of the draft Regulations initiated a **70-day public comment period ending on March 5, 2022**. Stakeholders, including Canadian businesses, are invited to provide input on the draft Regulations. Your voice is important, and we encourage Oak Bay businesses to participate in this consultation process.

To learn more and participate, go to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change.html>. Click on “Search ECCC” at the top right corner of the page and type “single use plastics consultation” – then click on the first result, which should be entitled: “*Share your thoughts: proposed Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations.*” Alternately, a Google search for “Share your thoughts: proposed Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations” will take you to the same webpage. There you can access the draft Regulations, view the Guidance on Alternatives document, and learn how to submit comments.

At the municipal level, please be advised that Council will be considering two related Committee recommendations at an upcoming meeting on Monday, February 14, 2022. These recommendations were developed based on suggestions and feedback provided by Oak Bay businesses through the fall survey, and are as follows:

1. Development of a Checkout Bag Bylaw similar to Saanich, Esquimalt and Victoria, to improve regional consistency on municipal regulations pertaining to plastic bags. (*Note that if this recommendation is accepted, the process would involve information updates and resources for local businesses throughout the drafting process*); and,
2. Addition of the following initiatives to staff work plans for 2023 and 2024:
 - Communications/outreach activities to raise community awareness and promote consumer transition to reusable items; and,
 - Review the feasibility and cost of adding appropriate recycling/compost infrastructure in commercial areas.

We welcome your feedback on these proposed recommendations – you can provide comments directly to Council during the upcoming meeting on February 14, 2022 or written comments can be directed to obcouncil@oakbay.ca or dropped off at Municipal Hall (2167 Oak Bay Avenue). If you would like to attend the meeting on February 14th, please contact administration@oakbay.ca for instructions on how to join by Zoom.

Once again, thank you again for consideration of this important matter. We hope that you will take the time to participate in the Government of Canada's public comment opportunity on their draft Regulations, and we welcome your input on the proposed local actions outlined above.

Sincerely,



Kevin Murdoch, Mayor
District of Oak Bay

cc Oak Bay Council
 Oak Bay Business Improvement Association

