

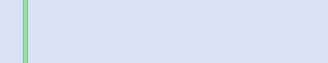
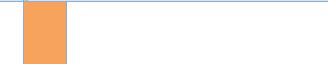
# Checkout Bag Survey

5/13/2019 12:00:55 PM

TOTAL RESPONDENTS 535

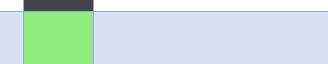
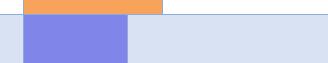
Please tell us a bit more about yourself.

Respondents: 535

Choice	Percentage	Count	
I am a resident of Esquimalt	84.49%	452	
I own a retail business in Esquimalt	0.37%	2	
I am both a resident and a retail business owner in Esquimalt	1.31%	7	
I am neither a resident nor a retail business owner in Esquimalt	13.83%	74	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>535</b>	

We would like to find out the best way for us to communicate with local businesses about the bylaw changes. How would you like to receive information from the Township about this initiative?

Respondents: 9

Choice	Percentage	Count	
Mail, using my business licence address	66.67%	6	
In person at a Township information session	22.22%	2	
Through the Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce newsletter	22.22%	2	
Via social media	44.44%	4	
On the Township website	33.33%	3	
Other, please specify.	33.33%	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9</b>	

Other, please specify.

Email

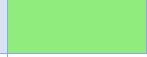
Mail

email

The proposed bylaw in Esquimalt will be very similar to the bylaw that the City of Victoria has enacted. How would you rate your level of understanding about the new checkout bag regulations for businesses in the City of Victoria?

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Respondents: 9

Choice	Percentage	Count	
Excellent	11.11%	1	
Good	44.44%	4	
Average	44.44%	4	
Fair	0.00%	0	
Poor	0.00%	0	
Total	100%	9	

Are there any elements of the City of Victoria's checkout bag bylaw that would not be appropriate for Esquimalt businesses?

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Respondents: 4

Are there any elements of the City of Victoria's checkout bag bylaw that would not be appropriate for Esquimalt businesses?
<b>Not sure</b>
I suggest an exemption for restaurants offering take-out services. Places like McDonald's should not have to start charging for their branded paper bags that your meal is in. Logistically I can't see that working. Additionally, exemptions should apply for any take-out restaurant. They should be asked to switch to paper for takeout bags, if they are currently using plastic bags to carry home your order.
<b>No</b>
<b>Beening forced to charge customers for bags</b>

Does your retail business distribute the following kinds of checkout bags?

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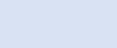
Respondents: 7

	Yes	No	Total
<b>Plastic checkout bags</b>	85.71% (6)	14.29% (1)	100% (7)
<b>Paper checkout bags</b>	57.14% (4)	42.86% (3)	100% (7)
<b>Paper takeout food service bags</b>	14.29% (1)	85.71% (6)	100% (7)
<b>Plastic takeout food service bags</b>	14.29% (1)	85.71% (6)	100% (7)

How many plastic checkout bags does your company order at one time?

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Respondents: 5

Choice	Percentage	Count	
<b>Up to 3 months supply</b>	0.00%	0	
<b>3-6 month supply</b>	40.00%	2	
<b>6-12 month supply</b>	60.00%	3	 
<b>Greater than one year supply</b>	0.00%	0	
<b>Total</b>	100%	5	

How can the Township best support your company to educate your staff and customers about the upcoming bylaw changes?

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Respondents: 4

<b>How can the Township best support your company to educate your staff and customers about the upcoming bylaw changes?</b>
<b>Point me to a supplier that has bags like the ones Dollarama sells for 35 cents. Paper bags with handles aren't cheap and the fabric I sell is heavy and the handles break off</b>
<b>We don't mind switching to paper exclusively and we will use our social media channels to let our customers know about this positive move in our community. A lot of our customers already bring their own bag or have a pocket their purchase will fit in.</b>
<b>A digital or email notice is best, in addition to information being available on Township website. A printed mailout should be the last resort since this is creating waste</b>
<b>We're good</b>

When you shop, how often do you currently use reusable bags?

Respondents: 532

Choice	Percentage	Count	
Always	35.71%	190	
Often	31.02%	165	
About half the time	17.29%	92	
Almost never	9.02%	48	
Never	6.95%	37	
Total	100%	532	

What prevents you from using reusable bags when you are shopping? Choose up to 2 answers.

Respondents: 175

Choice	Percentage	Count	
I forget them sometimes	73.14%	128	
I don't have any reusable bags	2.29%	4	
Reusable bags cost too much	12.00%	21	
I prefer plastic checkout bags	41.14%	72	
Other, please specify	29.71%	52	
Total	100%	175	

Other, please specify

i like to reuse the plastic ones

When shopping on short notice I often do not have reusable bags with me.

I properly recycle all plastic.

I don't bring enough reusable bags

Some things need to be in plastic such as meats, chicken, etc.

We use the plastic bags for our kitchen and litter garbage

Hygiene and I reuse bags for garbage

We reuse country grocer bags as garbage bags in our home so every once in a while I'd need more. But otherwise, I always prefer to bring my own

**Being disabled plastic bags are the easiest thing to use**

**Food safety**

**I travel lightweight and sometimes pick up something at random because I remember. Therefore I don't have my bags on me at the time.**

**I will just carry anything I buy rather than use plastic bags**

**I use the plastic bags to store recyclables (cans, bottles, etc.) instead of buying bags to use for the same purpose**

**I reuse plastic checkout bags a number of times before they are used as garbage bags. Now I am buying bags for garbage so this is having a negative effect on me and others. Please insist on bioplastic**

**I shop for only a few things at a time mostly. I carry it from the store without any bag.**

**I use a backpack, if I bring it.**

**I can reuse the plastics bags for my garbage instead of using hard earned money to buy garbage bags.**

**I prefer the filth of medieval europe**

**I don't wanna buy more as I have so many at home**

**I prefer plastic bags because I reuse them for many things.**

**Needing a bag that can be used for small amounts of garbage or poop cleanup**

**because more than groceries need bags, ever fit a suit in a reusable bag or a paper bag? Its packaging tharts the problem not bags**

**Sometimes I buy wet stuff and meat that I don't want to soil my reusable bags; they need to be wrapped in plastic**

**i need them as have have diapers i need to dispose of.. saves me buying single use plastic bags**

**I reuse plastic bags. Never going to use a cloth one.**

**I do my grocery shopping online a lot so they get delivered in paper bags from thrifty's Or plastic bags from save on foods**

**They are not able to be recycled and they are contaminated with germs and bacteria**

**not available at some locations**

**I get to use the bags again at home instead of being forced to buy small garbage bags.**

**I use them for garbage as the ones from country grocer are biodegradable**

**I use the plastic checkout bags for garbage bags at my house after**

**Don't want to carry a bag when walking to the store**

**Plastic bags i need, i use them for garbage**

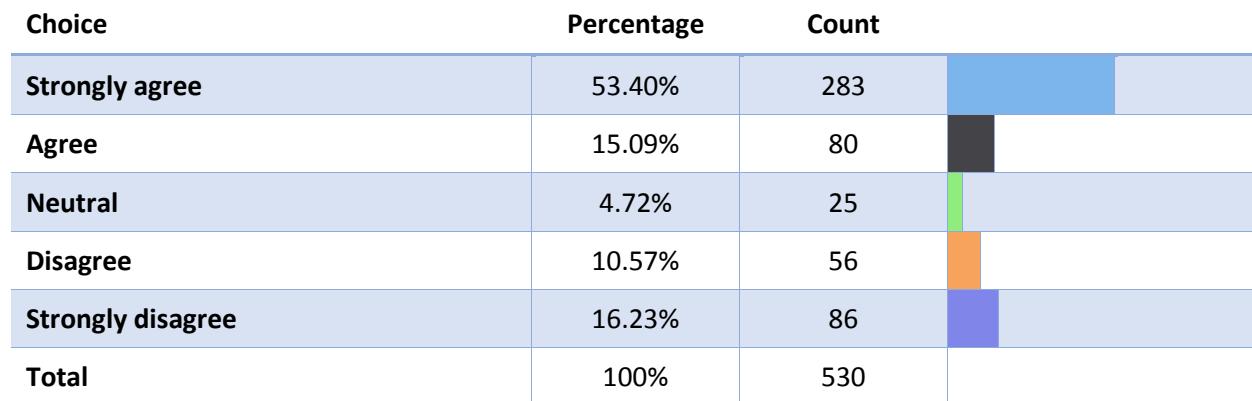
**No room in my pocket**

**I don't use plastic**

i have 2 people in diapers at home. an adult and child.. how can i dispose of them without a plastic bag. if the bags go expesy my garbage bin to be filled without bags
I need them for garbage and cat litter
I buy too many reusable. Worse for the environment than single use plastic
Reusable bags get contaminated and dirty with food waste ie blood and are not the best option
I prefer paper bags
I prefer paper bags
Most people are already use to bring bags. I work in grocery
Sometimes too much stuff and I didn't bring enough reusable bags
I prefer paper bags
Reuse plastic bags for garbage and other reuse - cheaper than buying kitchen catchers and less plastic used
I get plastic bags to use as garbage bags and paper bags to recycle my paper
not hardy enough or plain in design
I reuse plastic bags for multiple purposes, often many times
unplanned shopping without bags
I often stop for groceries on my way home from my exercise walk. When I do my walkin exercises, I don't want to carry around reusable bags with me.
Small purchases and just carry the items
plastic checkout bags are very useful for other purpose at home; I recycle them when they are of no further use.

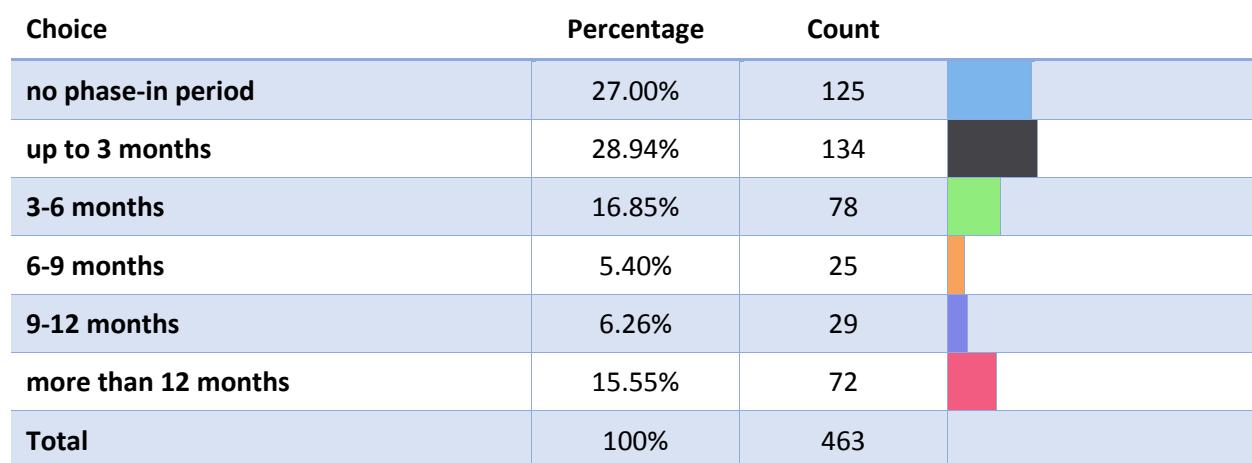
Do you agree that the Township should limit the use of checkout bags in Esquimalt?

Respondents: 530



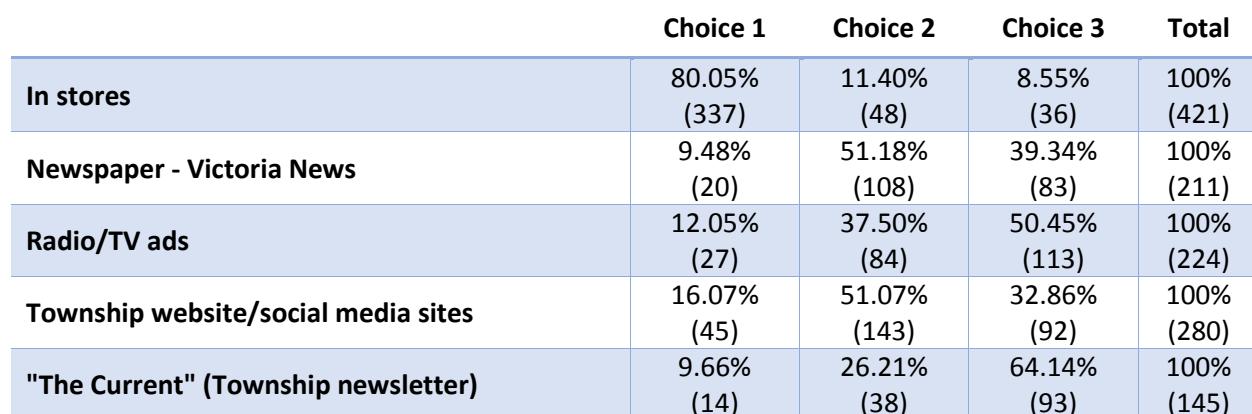
How many months do you think is necessary for a phase-in period?

Respondents: 463



What is the best way that the municipality can provide information about this change to residents of Esquimalt?

Respondents: 445



The proposed bylaw contains a number of exemptions for the use of plastic bags. These include loose bulk items and bakery items, fruits and veggies, meat, poultry and seafood, frozen foods, large bulky items, prescription drugs, live fish, delivered newspapers, laundry and drycleaning.

Respondents: 335

**The proposed bylaw contains a number of exemptions for the use of plastic bags. These include loose bulk items and bakery items, fruits and veggies, meat, poultry and seafood, frozen foods, large bulky items, prescription drugs, live fish, delivered newspapers, laundry and drycleaning.**

**There should be no exemptions. No plastic bag use - ever. Period. You can buy reusable and washable bags for that purpose as well.**

**I feel that most bulk items should not go into a plastic bag, nor should fruit and veggies, nor prescription drugs and who reads newspapers anymore????!!!!**

**Delivery of newspapers don't need plastic covering.**

**The exemptions are extensive and I would like to see the list reduced as well as ban plastic takeout food containers, cups and straws**

**Most of these exemptions I personally find unnecessary and alternatives would be easy to implement. It is unacceptable that we continue to use plastic in any/all single-use, throwaway scenarios. This is the time for bold changes and leadership!**

**We should also use reusable bags for fruit and vegetables**

**First of all plastic is not necessary in the above mentioned. It's quite silly to suggest it is. Please be a change maker and be ahead of the curve instead of waiting for everyone else to do it. It is time for necessary albeit uncomfortable changes. Stop the nonsense**

**"Exception" bags should be bio-degradable**

**Above list is good**

**Exemptions are a ridiculous option. Everything mentioned can be done with reusable and washable bags or compostable bags. If Esquimalt is going to lead, then show leadership.**

**Bakery could use paper fruit & veg often don't need any bag just place loose in basket. Or bring a reusable! Newspapers don't need a bag**

**Rather than exemptions as I don't see that plastic bags are a necessity, retail stores, suppliers should be required to come up with non plastic environment friendly solutions to containing the items, products. More expectations and requirements have to be placed on the manufacturer, supplier, retailer, rather than the end consumer, buyer. The purchaser is the low hanging fruit; biggest change will happen when manufacturer, retailer, has to reduce the plastic, excess packaging they use.**

**Don't charge for single use plastic bags, do not ban them.**

**I don't feel that any of these exemptions are necessary. There are viable options to all of the above.**

**Newspaper delivery**

**I prefer paper bags for bakery items - still to be provided**

**Exemptions seem appropriate.**

**laundry and drycleaning, newspapers, prescription drugs don't require plastic bags. Would like to see it made easier for businesses to switch to other ways to sell bulk and produce so plastic also wouldn't be needed, but we are not there yet**

I feel bakery, prescription drugs, could be done with paper bags
Buying cleaning products, pest control products, motor oils
Fruit and ceggies, prescription drugs, news papers, laundry and drycleaning
None of the above besides meat and fish products
All groceries should be exempt
Sensitive pharmacy goods such as condoms, pregnancy test kits, and emergency contraceptive tablets.
If delay versed newspapers actually took the time to deliver it to the mailbox and not just throw it in the vicinity of the driveway, these bags would not be needed. My Esquimalt pharmacist puts my prescriptions in a paper bag if I don't have room in my shopping bag.
thrift stores that are re-using.
can't think of anything else, and all exemptions make sense
There should be a better solution for dry cleaning, because those bags are several times the size of shopping bags.
I do not think that all the exemptions are required- for example, delivered newspapers could be put in mailboxes rather than in plastic bags.
most of them!
for grocery items, would like to see a move towards compostable bags
Add household garbage - Large bulky items?
Take out food
I believe if you take away plastic produce bags people will adjust!
Laundry and dry cleaning can require those people to utilize reusable garment bags, many persons using dry cleaning services already have them, home owners can provide a place for newspapers to stay dry,
Do not feel like this should include large bulky items or prescription drugs
these are good exemptions. Charge 25 cents for plastics bags, and then in a year or two increase to 50 cents. Consider a return/recycle value. We use our plastics bags for garbage at home so we use them again. Investigate better reuse. AND if you care about climate enforce escalating littering fines. A few people pay fines and then things will be cleaner ....
Plastic bags are not necessary for any of the above items and I disagree these should be exempt. Most shoppers do not leave food items for any length of time in the packages and so leakages are not a problem. Who leaves seafood or meat in their vehicle for any time? Paper bags are better insulation for frozen food so why use plastic? Laundry and drycleaning can be easily accommodated with reusable or paper wrap. Get rid of plastic bag use -be brave be a leader!
I dunno
The use of paper bags or wrapping is applicable in most cases.
See my previous comment about take out restaurant exclusions. Prescription drugs... not sure why that needs a bag as the items are already packaged. I would refuse a bag for any prescriptions.

Yes, all food products should be exempt from the plastic bag ban (ie don't ban bags at grocery stores)

Bakery items

All of them . Use freezer paper or paper bags

not required: fruits, veggies, prescription drugs, delivered newspapers, laundry, drycleaning

cut down on big plastic containers food is packed in

Loose bulk items and bakery items should be paper bags only, as should fruits and veggies. No need for individually bagging fruits and veggies

bakery items, fruits, vegetables, frozen foods, prescription drugs, newspapers, laundry and dry cleaning.

frozen foods are already packed don't require further packaging, deli meat, prescription drugs and bulk items can use paper and so could dry cleaning/laundry be sold in paper

Bakery items, fruits and veggies, delivered newspapers, laundry and drycleaning

Exemptions I feel aren't required: prescription drugs, laundry and dry cleaning

bulk, bakery, fruits and veg, meat, poultry and seafood, prescription drugs, delivered newspaper and laundry can be wrapped in paper or waxed paper. Plastic bags are unnecessary.

Frozen foods do not require a plastic bag.

There are too many exemptions! In my view only about 20% of the exemptions are necessary since there are no reasonable or practical alternatives. Waxed paper is another option that is more sustainable than plastic that would be suitable for some of the exemptions listed

This is a joke.....you are still promoting plastic bags for most purchases. Very disappointing.

Paper bags are a good alternative to plastic in many cases. We use paper bags for mushrooms, why not other produce or bulk items?

Laundry

Bakery, drugs, laundry and dry cleaning can all use paper, as can fruit and veggie (as they do in french grocers). We've witnessed and used tons of innovations away from the plastic bag in our travels. I think that we should be strict with exemptions. There are WAY too many here. I commend Esquimalt for moving forward with this and I implore them to think with an earth-first approach. Citizens need to adjust their convenience habit to help solve the waste issue. Let's be leaders. w

prescription drugs, bakery items could be in paper bags

Do not need a plastic bag for fruits and veggies or prescription drugs. Meat and poultry are already wrapped so don't need another bag. Newspapers could be put on a doorstep or porch, under cover and so wouldn't need a plastic bag.

Plastic bags not necessary for bakery items, frozen foods, large bulky items, prescription drugs, delivered newspapers, or laundry

Manufacturers should not package everything in plastic.

Everything should be exempt because it's not your jurisdiction to run businesses in Esquimalt

reusing a plastic bag for household garbage

Not at the moment

In a free country you cannot pick and choose what items sovereign citizens put in a plastic bag!! get that through your head!

Nothing at this time.

Newspapers, dry cleaning, fruit and vegetables, bread, around meat products we should eliminate plastic bags for vegetables also. Germany manages with no plastic bags in grocery stores

There should be no exemptions period. Well maybe on the live fish. Lol

Good as it is.

large bulky items, frozen foods, delivered newspapers do not need bags.

I feel that the bakery items is not an extreme necessity for plastic bag use, paper bags have worked fine before but I understand plastic keeps it better longer. I would strongly recommend advocating people to throw their plastic in the recycling rather than the garbage. I know most people will put bread bags veggie bags or bulk bags in the garbage, they should be recycled though.

I don't agree with plastic bags for anything. At least make them paper so they can be recycled.

fruits & veggies don't need to be in a plastic bag.

Plastic bags should always be available for an additional cost. We have many days of heavy rain fall per year and paper bags do not hold together in these conditions. especially for people who travel on food, bicycle, or by public transit

automotive parts

Plastic packaging is a worse problem than bags. The poor are being hurt by having to buy bags.

Bakery Items can 100% be in reusable bags, same with veggies and fruit.

There is no reason to continue using plastic bags.

No such thing as single use plastic bag

These exemptions make sense - however, I would like to see businesses think creatively about how to further reduce the use of plastic bags, even for these items listed here. For instance, could dry cleaners accept reusable storage bags provided by customers, rather than have the plastic bag over the drycleaning.

all the above need plastic protection....but stores need recycling bins for plastic bags maybe.

most fruits and veggies can be easily transported in reusable bags

Bags for frozen foods, large bulky items, and sealed meats are not needed.

Maybe under a certain number of items? I don't see needing a bag for one item necessarily

Newspapers, bakery items, prescription drugs, laundry & drycleaning

Let the market make the choice don't force it on people.

Women's menstrual products, multiple items for seniors with arthritis or other medical needs. Just trust people

All shopping exempt

All items should be allowed to be packaged as the retailer sees fit.

Fruits and veggies should be exempt

Why are plastic bags provided for Any Thing?!?!!! We should be allowed to bring our own containers, weigh them, add the produce, weigh them again and have a label printed with the price on it!

I want all single use plastics banned

We shouldn't have this many exemptions. Bulk items should be purchased in reusable tins, jars, or Tupperware. Veggies and fruits should not be sold in plastic. Meat should be sold in paper. Newspapers don't need plastic around them. Bread can come in a paper bag. You should force groceries stores to sell their own reusable produce bags and it will eliminate the need for the thousands of small discarded plastic bags people use for their produce.

None of the above example required plastic bags. Exemple: Meat can easily be put in butcher paper...Lets lead the way and do no exemptions!

I do not feel as though most of these options require plastic bags. For most, a simple paper bag that is compostable would be sufficient. For most meats, poultry, seafood and frozen foods, the items are already wrapped in plastic : why the excessive double-bagging in plastic?

Frozen food, prescription drugs don't need plastic bags.

Dog poop bags

Everything

no to loose bulky items; fruits & veggies; prescription drugs; delivered newspapers; laundry

I am deeply opposed to exempting the transportation of live fish.

Options exist for dry cleaners that avoid plastic. Such as: <https://thegreengarmento.com/>

florists, take out food, delivered food ,

I reuse, recycle the bags i'm given now. Why do you interfere with business providing convenience choices.

Not needed for RXs, laundry or dry cleaning

I think absolutely disagree with banning plastic bags

None. They are not necessary.

Frozen food doesn't 'require' a plastic bag - it's not as if a bag keeps it frozen longer. Delivered newspapers don't require them either because (a) delivery people can put them in mailbox instead of in driveway; and (b) must be something like 95% of delivered newspapers are now of the free weekly variety. These don't need to be in pristine condition or subsidised by free bags. Consider having laundries/drycleaners charge for bags. I'd like the option of not taking one with my dry cleaning.

bakery items could be put in paper bags, and fruits and veggies do not need to be put in plastic - they can go directly into the cloth grocery bags. I would not have exceptions for those (as I currently don't use plastic for either)

I think that few exemptions would be better. Why can't dry cleaners move to reusable bags, for example? They could charge a deposit and refund upon return. Also, I think the bylaw needs to encourage and take a bag, leave a bag policy for reusable bags.

Pls do not exempt prescription drugs, laundry, or dry cleaning.
i reuse plastic bags for when i go fishing and for garbage bags in my vehicle.
Not needed for:poultry, seafood, frozen food, bulky items, laundry
It's not hard to find non-plastic alternatives for the majority of this list, especially newspapers, prescription drugs, veggies, etc.
Dog poop bags (most are compostable though)
Garbage bags
I do not think any of the exemptions listed above are required.
Why do prescription drugs need a plastic bag?
No this looks good.
most often we don't need a plastic bag on our newspaper. they use them so they can throw the papers from their cars, not because it is wet. An elastic would work just as well.
Any large item that don't fit in reusable bags.
Prescription drugs can go in paper bags.
Produce can be put in reuseable mesh bags
Disagree with exemptions for bulk (should use reusable containers), bakery (paper), produce (paper), frozen foods (??), large bulky items (why would one need a bag?), prescription drugs (paper)
Plastic bags for fruit and veggies should not be allowed.
Most fruit and vegetables don't need a bag. Just put them loose on the checkout and help cashier gather them up if needed.
Many of these items could go in paper bags! You can buy mesh bags for produce!
We do not need plastic bags for produce. For the few things which actually need to be bagged, people can use reusable produce bags. And why not put prescription drugs in small paper bags?
Compostable butcher paper should also be a 'must' in local grocery stores, sell cheesecloth bags for produce
We could probably be more restrictive, but we have to start somewhere!
every aisle has plastic containers - for all manner of articles.
Nope.All good.
Newspapers don't need plastic bags
Not needed for frozen foods and large items or delivered newspapers
When you buy meat from the grocery store and it's leaking
Fruits and veggies, loose bulk items. BYOB
I think bags are a necessity- but do think we should only be using biodegradable ones
Offer reusable produce bags for purchase. Or allow a container to be tared for weight prior to

**picking out bulk products.**

**People can bring or purchase reusable containers for loose bulk items and bakery items.**

**Prescription drugs dont need to go in a plastic bag. I've been to many pharmacies that use paper. Bakery items are better in paper bags as well and dont need plastic.**

**None of these exemptions are necessary**

**We live in a temperate rainforest, where weather can be inclement quite frequently. If I'm carrying groceries home in a paper bag, there is a high chance the rain can make it brittle to the point of breaking. I don't own a car, and I do all my shopping on foot. Using paper bags in our climate is ignorant.**

**Delivery**

**everythinbg should be exempted.. who are u to tell me cant use a plastic bag i get free or cheap from the grocery and then force me to use plastic bags i have yo oag for in my garbage xan**

**If you are going to exempt those items, may as well keep the full size bags that people will actually reuse.**

**laundry/dry cleaning, newspapers, prescription drugs and foods should use recyclable products. If you are banning plastic then ban all. As for charging for paper bags - NO! Penalizing people for reusing plastic bags is just greed, NOT NEEDED.**

**Prescription drugs and dry cleaning are unnecessary. Large bulky items don't fit in many bags**

**Veggies and Fruit in paper bags!, meats and fish can be put in cardboard trays and/or wrap in wax paper, not plastic!**

**Get rid of all the plastic bags. Start making people accountable for their own bags. Or charge more than 5 cents for a disposable bag. Make it at least 50 cents. That way people will be forced to bring their own bags and stop relying on business to provided bags that just end up in the ocean**

**Prescription drugs do not need an exemption. The clear thin single use plastic bags usually used for bulk etc. should also be banned. There are alternative options to those bags as well.**

**Cleaning products. Meat. Dairy.**

**They are reused by most people at home.**

**To carry groceries**

**Keep plastic bags...quit be so PC.**

**Loose bulk items, veggies etc I bring small reusable bags, too**

**Why are there exemptions, this is regarding "checkout shopping bags?!"**

**Flowers**

**plastic bags use is a personal option that should not be governed.**

**Things I want to keep clean and dry.**

**I think prescription drugs are often small enough that they really don't require their own individual bag.**

**Foods from the deli in containers that are leaky**

fruits, veggies, Bakery items, prescription drugs, delivered newspapers, laundry and drycleaning. glass jars would be a solution for bulk items

Fruit and vegetables

Bulk items, baked goods and produce do NOT require plastic bags. My business (for example) supplies reusable, eco-friendly cloth bags in 3 sizes exactly for this purpose. They are made here in Esquimalt!

These plastics should be biodegradable

Why is plastic used for veggies, hardware items, bakery, etc. Wouldnt that be better than plastic?

This is nonsense

None of them are required. They all end up.in the landfill.

bakery items, fruits and veggies, frozen foods, large bulky items, prescription drugs, delivered newspapers, laundry, drycleaning

Anything cold that produces condensation: Orange juice, yogurt, milk, etc.

You should cancel this bylaw and make one that requires compostable bags that are not plastic. This action although well intended does help in the bigger picture of the fight against plastic if your serious about plastic in general food and product packaging are far larger and impactful with large amounts of those packages being non-recyclable, council should embark upon actions that will have an impact not ones designed to have the optics of change

Bakery, fruit, vegetables, large bulky items, prescriptios, newspapers, laundry and dry cleaning do not require plastic

Take out food.

No bags for delivered newspaper

Large bulky items, prescriptions drugs can be given in paper bags; other pharmacies do this and it allows privacy as well as a recyclable option for the bag.

All bags should be compostable

Get rid of all plastic bags

All plastic bags should be banned. If customers need a bag for their fruit and veg the store can provide reusable or paper. Bakery items should always go in paper. No plastic bags for meat etc except at deli counter

The only items that may require plastic bags are: meat,poultry, seafood, frozen food and live fish. At least until there are viable alternatives.

Restaurant take out

None of those need to be exempt

do not think delivered newspapers need plastic bags - reader needs to ensure a proper receptacle for newspapers to remain dry

fruits and veggies, bulk items, bakery items, prescription drugs, delivered newspapers, laundry and drycleaning

Prescription drugs can go into a person's purse or reusable bag

Seniors and disabled trying to carry paper bags

People with disabilities, still plastic bags to hold onto

What about alcohol

Many of these items could be put into compostable plastic bags or paper bags.

Laundry, dry cleaning, meat

If someone asks for one

When you forget to bring re-useable bags.

do not believe the ban is necessary. Esquimalt should look at improvements being made in production of plastic bags instead.

Not required: Fruits, veggies. What is a loose bulk item? Is it something that can be carried by hand? Is it something that can be put into a reusable container (jar, bin, etc.)

if we are doing this then most of these exemptions seem unnecessary

Keep it consistent with victoria

I don't feel any exceptions are required

Fruits and veggies and live fish may require a bag. Nothing else in this list - in my opinion

In most cases paper bags can replace plastic and some type of coating for paper for such things like fish, etc.

I'm not sure why prescription drugs need a plastic bag. Mine always come in paper. One exception that might be good is those little plastic bags cashiers put on meat containers at grocery stores; not sure if that counts in the listed exceptions :)

Delivery's,

I need plastic bags. Or I will have to buy them somewhere. We need for Garbage Shoot

Delivered newspaper

Bulk items, bakery items, and prescriptions can all be provided in paper bags. Plastic should only be used when there is a reasonable expectation that paper would not be structurally sound such as with damp produce, live fish, and frozen goods which will produce moisture as they thaw in transport.

I think that the use of single use bags should discouraged as much as possible.

Newspapers, laundry, large items, bakery items, meats of all kinds, frozen foods should not be exempt

Newspaper and laundry/dry cleaning

Bakery should use paper bags. Produce Dept should sell reusable bags, meat items in compostable butcher paperwork

newspapers should not be on the list

Not requires - fruits and veggies. Laundry.

They kill the planet's animals and destroy the land.

Plastic bags are not a necessity. We've lived before plastic, we can do it again.

I feel like these exemptions are not necessary single those bags really are single use. At least grocery bags you can use for garbage.

Research on better compostable bags

bakery items can be put in brown paper bags; I reuse veggie bags when buying more veggies

Plastic shopping bags are a necessity as they are reused and not single use

There are clear large plastic bags that are perfect for bulky items and can be recycled as they are clear. Black garbage bags should be banned all together as they are not recyclable and end up in the land fill.

exemptions for delivered newspapers are not required if the paper delivery person actually put them in mailboxes

fruits and veggies, laundry and dry-cleaning(?! all probably could be done with other types of bags

used for storage prior to person retrieving item (ie: pawned items); for transporting to a disposable place (ie: used oil filters to Canadian Tire)

Fruits and veg don't need a bag

Get rid of all plastic wraps. Society managed before without them

laundry dry-cleaning and veggies can go without a bag .

Prescription drugs, newspapers and laundry and dry cleaning don't necessarily require plastic bags.

Bakery items can be in paper bags, prescription drugs already come in plastic containers—no need for extra plastic (use paper), fruits and veggies can be left loose, why bag them?

Bulk items should be reusable containers like Bulk Barn. I purposefully go there to reduce my plastic bag usage

not required: delivered newspapers, laundry and dry cleaning, prescription drugs, bakery items, bulky items, frozen foods, fruits and veggies.

Not required: fruits and vegetables, delivered newspapers

No extra exemptions. Exemptions not required: fruits and veggies, frozen foods, prescription drugs, meat, poultry and seafood, frozen foods, large bulky items, laundry and drycleaning

I still have to take my trash to the dumpster & now I have to purchase plastic bags, so am not in favour of ban.

dog poop bags.

Large bulky items ie milk jugs have handle & do not need a bag

We consumers should be required to pay for ANY plastic bag we request for ANY of the listed exemptions.

Bulk items, all produce, bakery items, prescription drugs,

paper bags would serve the purpose on all of the above - meat, poultry & seafood -use waxed brown paper

I do not believe the exemption should include fruits & veggies, newspapers, laundry and dry cleaning. These are all items that residents can take personal responsibility for.

I don't see the rationale for many of these items, e.g. prescription drugs or fruits and vegetables, meat, poultry and seafood, or frozen foods.

This covers it. I reviewed the acceptable list before doing this survey. I think personal items (pads, etc) and alcohol should still have bags covered.

#### Groceries

I think a first step would be to require that retailers provide/support alternatives (e.g. ways to buy bulk without a bag)

Not necessary: Meat products are wrapped already, baked good are good in paper, newspapers?? Why?

Meat and seafood (they're usually already wrapped in plastic), frozen food (same, already in a package), and large bulky items (why would plastic be necessary for this, and not a reusable bag?)

Is plastic a necessity? What if they were compostable bags that could be placed in the compost bin or used as a compost bag?

I don't think laundry, drycleaning or newspapers need to have plastic bags.

No, and I don't agree with any of the exemptions, there should be none. Retailers must support patrons bringing their own re-usable packaging for all transactions.

It should be an option for all food. People rarely wash reusable bags.

Restaurant take-out bags containing cooked foods should also be exempt from the proposed bylaws.

The ONLY thing that should be exempt is something that might potentially leak bacteria/non-hygienic liquids (so basically just poultry/fish/meat). None of the rest should be an excuse to use plastic, ESPECIALLY fruit/veggies. Bakery things can go in a paper/cardboard box that can be recycled (or encourage people to bring reusable containers when possible). Same with bulk items. Thank you.

Shopping for Seniors, if they forgot their reusable bag and they need to walk back to their residents. More than one paper bag is very difficult to carry any distance.

I don't feel exemptions are required for bakery items (use paper), fruits and veggies or prescription drugs. Reusable alternatives exist.

I don't think plastic bags are a necessity at any time. Paper would do fine for bakery items, cloth or mesh produce bags could be made available for produce and bulk (most produce items don't even require bags) and stores could look at implementing a "bring your own" container for meats and poultry. I understand these will be challenging changes for many consumers but we need to change our mindset. Any plastic at all is not sustainable and we need to stop seeing it as a "necessity"

Do you have any additional comments, questions or concerns?

Respondents: 299

Do you have any additional comments, questions or concerns?
I have been using reusable bags since the 1970s, and so has all of Europe. North America is way behind in this initiative that is long overdue. It's discouraging to see how many young people just don't give a damn about the environment and use plastic bags for everything. BC, as a coastal community, should be leading the way in this and not, as usual, lagging behind every other place. Get on with it - people are obviously not going to do it on their own voluntarily so get the regs done!
More of a supply chain issue. Esquimalt needs to join with other municipalities and lobby senior levels of government for regulations more sustainable use of plastics.
Thanks!
The reality is that we having been "phasing this in" for the last five to ten years and people need to get with the program. It is time for people to stop being so lazy and think a little, for the sake of the planet and future generations.
Thank you TOE for implementing this bylaw!!
Great initiative!
I believe the next step is to ban plastic takeout food containers, take out cups that are plastic or have plastic lids, plastic straws and reduce the exemptions on bags. Thank you for taking this initiative
I think it's wonderful that you are taking this step! I know there are some that will resist the change, but I think downtown Victoria has shown that it was a relatively painless process. With the right messaging and by providing residents with solutions for non-plastic alternatives in various situations, this will go without a hitch. E.g. Many re-use their plastic bags for garbage. Remind them of composting & recycling options - not much needs to go in your bin and if you compost, it's all dry!
This is a great initiative and i am proud that Esquimalt is moving forward with it!
We are running out of time to take action to reduce waste. Please act now!
Plastic Free July is a great time to put on a big event and get the word out! Considering this was on a 2018 agenda at council giving folks til 2020 is a "phase-out" period. This is absolutely necessary step. Please also ban styrofoam, bottled water (even flavoured ones- so weird to allow that loop-hole), straws, ramekins, single use condiment packets, disposable coffee cup lids, etc. Human behaviour will ALWAYS allow to fall back on our crutches of laziness at least most will at some point.
Having a table or a box for free reusable bags/jars from community members will help people shop when they forgot to bring reusable bags and containers. Just like what Esquimalt Farmers Market does.
I don't think it will be the challenge it would have been a few years ago. Most have reusable bags. There could be a campaign of giving out Esquimalt Reusable bags to promote further - the ones that fold into themselves - could be given out at local events as prizes - like the stuff given out by the Parks and Rec Staff for some events
It infuriates me that some stores in Esquimalt charge for bag ... that's ok ... but the bag is plastic! Obvious tetail money grab.
See previous comments - imposing more expectations on retailers, suppliers, manufacturers; non environmentally friendly, excess packaging on products, within stores is a bigger problem than checkout bags. Retailers need to provide better options for containing bulk foods, fruit veg, meat, fish, cheese etc. Am tired of recycling packaging that comes with any purchase. Would like stores to provide bins at exit where I can remove and place packaging from bought items so I don't have to

**bring it home**

**I think this is nonsense**

**Please don't outlaw single use plastic bags. Even if the entire country outlawed them there would be no gain on the fight for climate change. It would be a moral victory only that comes at the inconvenience and cost to us. Please don't let the loud minority dictate to the silent majority. Make it a referendum.**

**Not sure I understand why retail businesses need to charge the customer for paper bags. Paper and plastic were free in the past, why is this cost now put onto the consumer?**

**People will complain at first and then they will get used to it**

**Good initiative as there are far too many bags blowing around outside. Any I get are really single use for me as I use them for garbage and cat litter. I put a phase in period of 3-6 months but in hindsight there will already be a period before the effective date for retailers to stop ordering stock and to use up what they have. Is a phase-in needed?**

**I'm concerned at the lack of public awareness/conversation about the carbon footprint of reusable shopping bags, and we need to choose options that are practical and not costly to the environment in other ways. People need to know the impact of using cotton bags, for example, vs paper bags, etc.**

**If switch to paper bags make sure they are sturdy and with handles**

**Thank you for making this change! I work and frequently shop in downtown Victoria and have not found it difficult transitioning at all in that city. Also, I really appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback in this survey. Thank you!**

**When u read the rules & regulations it sounds like the Nazi Plastic Police. Perhaps i missed something but it looks like a thrift shop could be fined for offering you a used plastic bag? Give it a rest if i read that right. These places never have enough of them for people that forget. How many men carry spare bags in the purses into these stores. I bring my own bags to stores 95% of the time. The ban sounds too heavy handed. If you want to improve waste go after the fast food establishments .**

**I strongly disagree with the bag ban and will likely do my shopping in the Westshore**

**I don't think paper bags should be charged a fee. Although we don't have many high end shops, it seems ridiculous when a huge amount has been spent, say on clothes, and a bag needs to be purchased. Paper bags only. There should be no plastic offered!**

**I would like to see less single serving plastic in general. Go after manufacturers that wrap everything in plastic way too much and not consumers. Make recycled and compostable utensils a decent price. We tried to buy compostable cutlery to use on the food bank at my work (post secondary students) but now the prices have gone up to about 70 per box where the plastic ones are about 1/7 of that cost. That would break our budget? Does it cost that much to make? I doubt it. That would break bank.**

**I don't think there should be a ban, just promote reusable bags.**

**In the words of Jean-Luc Pickard: "Make it so.**

**There are other options to use for produce than plastic. I'm pleased that Esquimalt is proceeding with this bylaw!**

**I disagree with the bag bylaw and like the current system of charging for bags. Most shoppers have voluntarily embraced using reusable grocery bags anyway, but occasionally need a plastic shopping bag when they forget, and a paper bag is not the best option. And I reuse plastic shopping bags multiple times before discarding them. The final way I use them is to line my kitchen garbage can.**

Without these bags I will be forced to buy plastic garbage can liners, which seems ridiculous.

The elimination of "single use" plastic shopping bags drastically increases the need for people to purchase much thicker garbage bags, which are worse for the waste stream. The term "single use" is a misnomer, as everyone I know reuses these plastic bags until they are too soiled or damaged. Paper bags may actually be worse for the environment overall. I suggest no ban, but a fee on both plastic and paper to encourage reuse. I suggest reading <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2019/04/09/711>

I think this is an overdue first step, but I would recommend starting additional initiatives- drinking straw bans, encouraging use of re-usable cups and water bottles (not by giving more away, everyone has a dozen in their cupboards, by encouraging the use of them), encouraging restaurants to have better eat-in options with reusable serving items, encouraging restaurants to have less plastic or Styrofoam for their to-go containers and similar initiatives.

Notification by billiards would be useful too.

Victoria proper led the way & now its easier for neighboring municipalities to jump on board. Maybe purchase pocket sized reusable bags available for sale at a reduced price to esq residents to encourage compliance? (They are soft, rollable bags, currently sell for \$6 at a dollar store & fit in a pocket when rolled up - super handy as opposed to grocery store size reusable bags - and hold just about as much!). I'd 100% buy some if they were available for \$3-4.

This is a step in the right direction, but I do feel strongly about the elimination of produce bags. It drives me bonkers when I see a person with their reusable shopping bag at the till with three oranges in a plastic bag inside of it. It's still plastic and will be around forever. I have purchased the reusable produce bags online for \$4/three bags. It's a great opportunity for stores to stop the use of the plastic ones and see a profit on the reusable ones.

Why are we waiting until January 2020? That's seems unnecessarily long. Inform business owners now not to replenish plastic bag supplies now and begin the phase out period ASAP. We didn't need 8 months to stop using plastic. We could easily phase out and be plastic free by September 1st. While you're at it can we please ban styrofoam???

Enforce escalating littering fines. Look at all of the junk frequently picked up along E&N. A few people getting escalating fines and beaches & streets will be much cleaner. 1 warning, then \$50 fine, then \$250, \$500, ... will clean up our municipality. Cigarette butts take 10+ years to break down and they are a fire hazard. They are litter not a right to drop because small.. We need a focus on reuse of plastic bags that are recycled.

By announcing early enough, no phase-in or transition period should be necessary; merchants and shoppers should build in transition over the coming year so as to be prepared for Jan. 2020. Please revisit the exemption list - there are so many alternatives and questionable 'need' for plastic bags with the items listed. It must be questioned why we phase-out plastic bags yet propose artificial turf on the playing fields! The shedding of plastic from the fields is well documented.

Thank you for considering this carefully. But be brave and limit all unnecessary plastic bags wherever possible!

1. The Chamber of Commerce newsletter should have been an option on the previous question :). 2. Please don't spend taxpayers money on newspaper, radio or tv ads. That's not necessary. Instead start promotion of the change early enough so that no Phase In time is required. Businesses should be encouraged to use up our stock of plastic bags and make the switch when they run out (maybe before the bylaw comes into effect).

This is getting ridiculous, people are being ruled, regulated and by-lawed to death. Leave things as they are and stop with this plan. I absolutely hate going into a store in Victoria and going through the "would you like a bag for \$.05 routine. I shopped, I'm spending money, I expect the goods to go

into a bag, just like they always have. I have a solution for this, shop in the Westshore instead of locally in Esquimalt, Saanich or Victoria.

People converted easily to re usable shopping bags because they recognized the environmental benefit of eliminating plastic wherever possible. We do not need plastic bags for any groceries. Period.

I wish this was happening sooner than scheduled.

Why not use the bag we had about 10 years ago, who dissolve after a certain time. I liked them. I reuse the shopping bags again for other things, paper shopping bags are just not sturdy enough. And i forget my cloth bags sometimes when i just go for a quick shop. So many other items are packed in huge plastic containers, why not get rid of those first?

Implement it earlier.

Thank you for being bold and taking this action. Change of habits take time but in the end we will have become better citizens of earth.

I'm old enough to have lived completely and happily without plastic bags of any sort. I wish you would also ban the plastic packaging that almost every food comes in now. This blanketing everything in plastic only happened in the last few years. Our blue box used to be only 1/3 full and now it is over-flowing. We shouldn't be wasting oil reserves on something we don't need or want! Judith.

The rec centre could advertise it on their outdoor sign, CBC, hand delivered into mailboxes (we don't have a Vic News carrier on our street) Flyer in the rec guide (all for advertising to let residents know it's coming). Charge .05 cents for paper more for plastic...Same with restaurants , they would need a phase out time though imo. Maybe the Esquimalt liquor stores could send their empty boxes to the grocery store for people :P IDK!! Lol (At least for the country grocer)

This is a great initiative! Looking forward to seeing more our community can do for the environment.

Excellent news that City of Esquimalt is approaching this. I hope you take a strong principled stand. It is past time packaging was mandated to minimal use.

Encourage grocery stores to 'buy' less plastic. Tired of seeing all the wasted plastic and styrofoam (3 cucumbers all individually shrink wrapped in plastic AND then also shrink wrapped into a 3 pack, etc.)

Ideally the ban comes in force regionally at the same time; for the sake of businesses and residents can there be one common bylaw across the CRD? I'm in full support of the bylaw but having a patch work of slightly different bylaws across the CRD isn't a great option

I wish you saw more urgency in this.

Glad to see you are following other municipalities on this one.

Limit the phase in period. We don't want stores sticking up on bags in anticipation. I have been travelling with my family for the last year. Plastic waste is EVERYWHERE. I can share pictures if you want.. So happy that Esquimalt is finally taking this step. I encourage you to go as far as they can. We can change the mindset of easy plastic convenience. There are TONS of great solutions out there. Thanks for making me proud to live in Esquimalt.

I always carry reusable bags, however, some food items do require plastic. I take care never to treat a plastic bag as "single use". I save any plastic bags to reuse instead of plastic wrap for refrigerated foods, garbage bags, transporting items in the rain. I am concerned that I now have to buy heavier, single use garbage bags in my garbage bins.

We have been given ample info about the dangers of plastic in our environment. If there is to be a phase-in period, then start it prior to the ban going into effect. By the time it goes into effect in 2020

the public should be well aware of this and shouldn't need any more time to prepare. Have store owners Advertise NOW, with signs everywhere that this will be coming into effect on ? Stores should have reusable bags at their til for those who say they didn't know. Congrats Esquimalt for this

I agree with reducing single use bags but believe they should still be available, even if there is a cost. Sometimes paper is not an option for use when a trip is unplanned.

Requiring businesses to charge for paper or reusable bags is wrong. If the business wants to give away these things for free, that should be their decision. Banning single use plastic bags is an ineffective approach. Many low income people use these bags for trash bags. Because the garbage collection WILL NOT collect the trash unless it is in a plastic bag, we will just have to buy them instead. Requiring trash collection to allow trash NOT in plastic would be a much better solution.

No

I think stores should be able to give away reusable bags if they wish, rather than charging \$1. Going beyond plastic bags... I would love to see a municipal bylaw completely banning styrofoam. And then perhaps a move to mandating all food establishments use compostable/reusable take out containers.

You shouldn't be banning plastic bags this is going to hurt the poor and it just causes more plastic garbage bags to be bought increasing the amount of plastic heading to the landfill

DON'T DO IT!! I work in Esquimalt and as a result do much of my grocery & other shopping in Esquimalt. Although I very often use re-usable bags, having the option of plastic is something I don't want to lose. I always reuse my plastic bags. Either as garbage bags in my home, again for groceries, or I take them for recycling. Rather than making rules that frustrate, why not put efforts into a community recycling program that includes all soft & flexible plastics. Think outside the bag.

It's inevitable.

This is ridiculous! Office all the pollution problems we have..our officials are controlling too much of our everyday lives! But out!

Is this sponsored by garbage bag manufacturers?

Wonderful to see this happening in Esquimalt. It works well in Victoria from what I have seen. I have concerns about the amount of plastic in the ocean. A tour of the dump a few years ago showed loads of plastic bags all over. Yuck. Let's end this. Good job Esquimalt!

Just do it. No need to spend money to notify the community. We will learn quickly enough through our experience. The time for action is now.

Thanks for listening.

I don't think it is necessary to charge for any bag at all when you're spending money to buy those products that are going into the bag . First customer service second you might get more customers and if you start charging for the stupid bags

Perhaps charge less for paper bags as they are recyclable.

Advocation for recycling small plastics and bags.

This needs to happen everywhere! plastic bags are a terrible thing and need to be completely eradicated.

I feel that no phase in period is necessary. Everyone will know the effective date so the stores should the time between now & then to deal with their stock. No one will mind of the store actually implements the by-law early. Thrifty's no longer uses plastic bags & hasn't for a few years now.

Fruits & vegetables should not be exempt from the by-law. Everyone washes their produce (I hope !!) prior to eating, so what is the benefit of using plastic bags ??

Why not simply use biodegradable "plastic" bags instead of paper, or reusable bags (which still contain a lot of plastic). Provide residents with a way to properly dispose of plastic bags instead of creating additional cost and inconvenience to consumers at the checkout.

Have an incentive for those who do use their own bags

why not recycle plastic bags in the curbside blue box like Calgary ?

<http://www.calgary.ca/UEP/WRS/Pages/Recycling-information/Residential-services/Blue-cart-recycling/What-Can-Be-Recycled.aspx>

There were no demonstrations in the late 70's demanding plastic bags. They were forced on consumers. To ask people who are living on a tight budget to pay for bags is criminal. The plastic bags are reused for kitty litter, garbage, and storing things. No they are not ideal, I hate them, but I also think it is reprehensible to mandate stores to charge for paper bags. The cloth or reusable bags yes, a small fee. It's hard enough for a lot of people to get by, stores should supply bags free.

Might be a nice to create an "Esquimalt" cloth bag to be distributed to residents, one per household.

It was surprisingly easy for my wife and I to transition over to reusable bags. We always keep some at home and in the trunk of our vehicles. Very Easy and worth while

People will be against this at the beginning... but people are creatures of habit and they always come around and get used to it. I think this is wonderful for Esquimalt. Good work.

Single use plastic bags aren't single use. They also get used as garbage bags, dog poop bags and for cleaning up nasty messes.

There is no such thing as single use plastic bags they are reused around the house for diapers and cat shit. Focus on the real problem like straws and disposable coffee cups

Thanks for looking out for our future!

This will only increase the sales of plastic garbage bags, sold in every store. It's another cash grab and the consumer loses again. I shop often at Country Grocer, though I live in Saanich. Their checkout bags are strong and get used more than once, at least in my house.

I applaud the Township of Esquimalt for this initiative to ban the use of plastic bags. Using reusable bags is an easy habit for consumers to develop. Perhaps the Township could offer specially-branded reusable shopping bags that residents can pick up at City Hall? Similar to what the City of Victoria did - there could be a competition or open call to designers or students to produce a concept for the bag's design - something special to show our civic pride as residents of Esquimalt!

Stores need to supply paper bags (to be bought by customer) or sell reusable bags

I fully support this initiative. Using reusable bags is merely a question of habit. Any perceived inconvenience is offset by the environmental benefits of single-use plastic reduction. Thank you!

We should be able to recycle the plastic bags that are currently available like they do in Calgary.... Here is a link to the city of Calgary website that shows these bags and many other can be recycled... <http://www.calgary.ca/UEP/WRS/Pages/What-goes-where/Plastic-Bags.aspx> I find it very strange that we cannot recycle bags here as this is not a new concept to the residents of Calgary...

Thank you for making this symbolic action, it is great. However, this is just a start. Please continue with your progression.

Plastic one-time use bags aren't nearly as bad as everyone makes them out to be, and for a lot of people who use or re-use them, they're just going to be spending more money BUYING small plastic bags for the same things (cat litter is one example)

This survey is rigged in that it is not looking for real answers but a confirmation to what has already been chosen. It's obvious by the survey the nanny state is going to force this on people whether they want it or not. Banning plastic bags is not going to save anything but make the politicians seem virtuous and feel good about themselves. This ban should not happen it only hurts consumers ...

looks like I have a limit on characters and cannot say it all.

No. Other jurisdictions have done this very successfully and Esquimalt can too!

I believe that phasing out plastic packaging on items would have a bigger impact and also not allow stores to profit off of customers. Make the price of bags (if you must do it) 5cents or a donation and all moneys go to a local Esquimalt charity.

Perhaps help offset the costs of recyclable shopping bags for seniors etc.

Knock it off. Stop offsetting environmental issues on to consumers. Regular people are not the issue. There are better ways to help the environment. What about addressing businesses' food waste?

If people want to stop using plastic bags, let them do so on their own volition.

I think plastic bags are useful..I use them for lots of things around the house...you still have to buy plastic bags for the garbage can anyways and dog poop bags for dog poop so why cant we just use these plastic bags from the grocery store? People are going to buy tons of these reusable bags and keep leaving them at home and will have tons of these reusable bags to have to try and get rid of. No one will ever remember to bring them into the store or want to be bothered by bringing them in.

**STOP ALL SINGLE-USE PLASTIC, NO MATTER WHERE IT IS !!!!!!**

January 1 2020 is still very far away. If you let businesses know now, they don't need a phase in period. Please consider banning the small plastic bags produce use as well.

Organizing a free to attend Zero waste workshop with experts will be a good idea. People often complain that they don't know what to do without plastic bags so this workshop could offer solutions. Promote local store selling reusable bags, jars...

For produce bags, meat bags, etc it should be stipulated that only biodegradable bags should be used. Many grocery stores are moving this way and Esquimalt should make a push for it also.

Why not make stores use biodegradable bags that are available. Then everyone is happy.

Not a fan of this approach. Instead of making businesses use biodegradeable bags, now the onus and expense transfers to the consumer who has to shell out for re-usable bags, and some sort of biodegradeable garbage bag. My prefered option for garbage removal will be loose dumping in storage bins as 1) no cost and 2) won't have me stinking up my unit while slowly filling a garbage bag. Shopping size disposable bags were ideal for garbage

I can see switching to paper but why do we have to be charged for the bags? It's another fee people can't afford. We're being taxed right off the island.

People use plastic bags all of the time to line garbage cans - how will that be reduced; provide paper bags free of charge;

Thankyou for not using the term "single use plastic bags. I have NEVER EVER used a checkout bag only once unless it has accidentally become contaminated with some substance. I believe Esquimalt residents have all along been very conscientious about not littering the environment with plastic bags. The issue of plastics is bigger than shopping bags and it should be managed by a higher and broader level of government. (See Newfoundland). Do you think Langford will ever ban checkout bags? Never.

I am in favour of reviving the filth of the Middle Ages. We need more rats and plague, and the plastic bag ban will help achieve this. California, who is leading the way in banning plastic bags, has had an impressive revival in the instances of Medieval diseases. We need to follow their example.

<https://dailycaller.com/2019/03/21/jackson-california-illness/>

Why is it that single use plastic bags sold in quantities (ie kitchen catchers, black garbage bags, etc) will still be sold? Perhaps this could be answered but doubt it will be

I agree that we should not be using plastic bags. I don't think businesses should be required to charge for paper bags if they choose to continue to offer them to their customers. But yes, charge for reusable bags as they are also made of plastic and will not biodegrade. I'm assuming the question that asks about the use of "checkout bags" means plastic ones. The question is not clear.

waste of effort and money to ban something that isn't a true problem in this area ... it is ultimately a feel good project that will accomplish nothing environmentally and cause considerable disruption and cost to the retail sector and the general public.

Great step forward!

Fully supportive of this Bylaw - it's a great idea. Please consider having fewer exemptions rather than more. It seems inappropriate that we exempt/subsidize a for-profit business (Black Press) for a free item (newspapers and advertising) that most people throw straight in the recycling. Maybe we just need a longer phase-in period for some of the proposed exemption items so shoppers can get used to not having bags, e.g., the Esquimalt Farmers Market doesn't provide plastic bags and it works fine

I support this change and am happy to see Esquimalt moving forward with it. Thank you!

This survey is incomplete. On the previous question, all the answers said "choice 1" and "choice 2" etc. Might want to read up on what the acronym "Q.A." stands for.

I would like the bylaw to require that employees ask before bagging meats etc. as well as before they bag groceries as a whole. Those bags are rarely needed and get thrown out if refused after they start bagging. Also, the reuse of shipping boxes etc should be offered as a bag alternative (like Costco) so that those boxes can get more use AND cut down on paper bag use.

if you take away plastic bags what will i use for garbage in my truck and use for putting fish in.

The science (not the politics) is pretty clear that re-usable bags cause more environmental harm per bag. Some bags (e.g. organic cotton) need to be re-used more than one hundred times to meet the impact. Including ways to easily recycle (or even collect and send to landfill) regular single use bags would be better than getting rid of them.

Single use plastics in general should be reviewed, not limited to plastic bags!

I am a cashier at Country Grocer in Esq. and I am very pleased to see this brought forward. Thank you for doing this, Esquimalt!

I don't know why stores are not being given the option to use biodegradable bags. Yes this will keep some plastic out of the landfill but mostly this is saving retailers money not providing bags as a convenience to the customer.

I completely agree with the proposal to phase out plastic bags. Would also encourage a campaign for local businesses to phase out plastic straws.

Let's just do this - the sooner the better. Thank you for bringing forward this important initiative!

I'm concerned that some low income people will be marginalized by this, not being able to shop because they don't have their own bags. I'm concerned that I will have to buy plastic garbage bags now that will only get one use instead of two. What am I going to do when I'm walking or biking around my community and then choose to shop without planning ahead?

Don't like that I have to pay for a bag when I have spent time and money at a business. Was not happy at how much a business in Victoria was charging for bags when I was Christmas shopping. Just a money grab was how I felt. They provided bags before, why do you feel they should charge us now. I always carry a bag but sometimes I buy more than expected. A friend of mine works for a business where people can spend well over 1000.00 dollars and is embarrassed to ask for 15 cents for a bag.

Thank you For taking the initiative to phase out plastic bags.

Stores should be required to provide in-store recycle stations for their customers to leave any excess packaging after product purchase
I could see the need for a phase-in period for retailers to use up old stock, but not for customers. With the ban already in place in Victoria, most customers should be used to it. I would also like to see a ban on styrofoam/non-compostable takeout containers.
I don't feel the Township has the right to impose a required fee for the bags that are available for purchase.
We need to join in with other jurisdictions to lobby producers to stop the use of single use hard plastic. Either that or force the environmental costs of disposal back to the producers.
6 months is more than enough time to phase in this change - why are we just getting to it now? Grocery store chains need to be more proactive in reducing use of plastic and Styrofoam packing i.e. meats - enforce use of butcher paper
I think this is absolutely necessary. We should all be focusing on using less plastic,. I would prefer to see stores offer paper bags for fruit and veg rather than plastic. It would make a huge difference also. And what about less plastic for the meat and fish departments? That should be worked on also.
To ease in the change - stores could offer paper bags with handles (Red Barn offered such for produce on sale and I reuse them...there has been a lot of time for shoppers to get used to the idea - offering alternatives when there are no plastic bags would be a good reminder to bring our own when we come to shop...
Fix the roads lower taxes those are real priorities
I work at the Red Barn on Oak Bay avenue. ( Victoria) Plastic bags are gone and people mostly bring their own. It's working! We still offer plastic for meats, veggies and fruits which bothers me. One potato, one bag, one tomato, one bag. Please offer reusable mesh bags in your produce sections.
How about banning disposable diapers. I totally disagree with any government dictating to a free market how much a business charges for for their product, ie charging for bags (paper or re useable). There are costs of doing business and providing bags for patrons to transport their purchases is one of those costs. Try regulating all of the
I am hoping we can come up with a better idea than paper bags which detrimental in other more troubling ways in many other ways and can't be reused - Plastic bags can be. I think if we put money into finding a better way to make the plastic bags biodegradable we can have find a solution that works for everyone. But cutting them out completely is not a solution to more towards in my opinion. I reuse the bags until they can no longer be used for so many things and I know I am not alone here.
I think it's a fantastic idea, however I encourage the township to continue to look for other ways to reduce the number of single use items being used in the community.
If Esquimalt could actually lead the way by having their retailers implement the use of hemp bags or other type of biodegradable bag, this could be a much better step. Many, many people use grocery bags for multiple uses, other than bringing home food. And insisting on the public to pay what is actually a tax to buy a bag is ridiculous. The other thing Esquimalt should lead in is adding these to the blue bin pickup
This kind of change is overdue and has to happen. Thank you!
Plastic bags are one of the most reusable items available compared to packaging. This is virtue signalling and impeding citizens choice. Its one thing to educate and encourage reduced or alternative use and another to outright 'ban' items. Please dont be like the clowns at Victoria, you are far smarter than that
Start recycling soft plastics.

It is one thing to encourage the use of reusable bags, and quite another to take away our options. Many people don't use plastic bags just once. They become kitchen catchers, lunch bags, wrappers for leftovers, and bags for wet things or wet weather (which is quite frequent in this city). Instead of banning bags, encourage alternatives, like biodegradable substitutes through green business tax incentives. Spread literature on ways to reuse so-called "single use" plastic bags. Smarter ways exist.

this is ridic..

As a citizen whom mainly shops at Country Grocer I will be taking my shopping elsewhere outside of Esquimalt if this bylaw becomes official.

It gives me a chance to promote the idea of re-instating waxed paper (butchers paper) in stores to handle meats and fish like we used to have in the 60's and 70's. Cardboard trays instead of plastic foam trays is another older method. recycling these after cleaning.

Don't ask people to take this survey and then have nothing come of it. Follow through with the ban of single use bags and hell don't even make them an option at stores. You forgot your bags? Ok well you can buy some reusable ones at the store or put stuff in the trunk of your car. Realize and be grateful that you have access to clean drinking water and fresh food. It's not that hard

Esquimalt should also look towards banning all single use plastic including cutlery and take out containers. There are many compostable options for takeaway that are much better for the environment. I am pleased that Esquimalt is following suit with banning checkout bags. People will likely grumble and complain but they will adapt very quickly.

Bans on plastic shopping bags are not based in evidence, research and fact. They are based on emotion. Plastic bags use less resources in the production than re-usable bags. Plastic bags can be recycled into other things but re-usable bags will end up in the landfill. Plastic shopping bags are smaller than purchased garbage bags so account for less plastic in the landfill. Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup stats and research show that plastic shopping bags are not the problem.

the only concern that i have is that i use all my "one time use" more than one time. whether it is to carry things in general or to use as a garbage bag. there needs to be an incentive to find ways to dispose of garbage without the use of a plastic bag and a paper bag does not always become the better answer. it is pretty clear that a 5 cent charge for a plastic bag is nothing in comparison to the cost of garbage bags that you now purposely have to buy for a "one time use".

Do not get rid of the plastic bags. Just make them provide biodegradable ones.

Nope your going to do it anyway so why waste my breath.

The survey is horribly slanted to ban plastic bags - the public input is a sham. Why even ask if your mind is already made up? I don't buy garbage bags - I use the plastic grocery bags, so the net result will be to buy garbage bags and do my grocery shopping in Langford

Thank you for this. Now we need small bin sized compostable bags. Current ones available are too small (for counter top bins only) or too bag (for tall cans only - and \$8 for only 10 bags!)

Thank you

Next up, styrofoam ban!

It is hard to pack groceries using paper bags, much easier with plastic bags. Especially for those with physical or age related challenges

there are far more important environmental issues that the municipality could focus on - like education and incentives for commercial properties to replace their old 13 liter toilets with newer smaller tanks that use less water at every flush. and monitor restaurant and office recycling - as most are not.

Garbage bag sales will increase. Your fees for alternative bags will have to continue to rise to be

effective. Plastic bags used once as a garbage bag leave less of a carbon footprint than any of the alternatives, including paper. An outright ban is a knee jerk move. Do more research.
A social media campaign about the bylaw if adopted should be strongly considered to help inform people of the change over the phase in period
Thank you for doing this! It makes me proud to live in Esquimalt to see progressive steps like this one being taken.
Don't people just go buy plastic bags for garbage now? Stores sell boxes of plastic bags. Why not have stores give a bag for shopping that decomposes ? Reusable is good sometimes but doesn't help with the home garbage.
Please do not use paid ads. Social media, in stores and word of mouth are very effective.
I am concerned about how places such as the rainbow kitchen will be able to pass on products to their guests
I strongly agree with banning single use checkout bags. I don't think there is any reason for customers not to bring their own reusable bags.
The phase out of plastic bags can't come too soon. It NEEDS to happen yesterday. The faster we initiate this change the better. Businesses do not need a phase in period to "use up their supplies" because no one benefits from this, and this is just prolonging the problem further while our environment, oceans and wildlife cannot wait any longer. One reason for this, is that continuing to distribute plastic bags inevitably leads to higher risk of polluting a greater geographic area & waterway.
I struggle with stores charging for a plastic bag that is "NOT" biodegradable.
I believe that this bylaw is a start and does some good. A better bylaw would look at different ways to reduce plastic packaging and the use of excessive packaging and make stores responsible for excessive packaging. That is the only way that manufacturers will get the message that they must reduce excessive packaging.
I'm a virtue-signalling environmental. How will I signal my moral superiority at the grocery check-out if everyone else is using reusable bags too?
In Britain it is possible to purchase a bag (one use) for a small fee as you are suggesting however all the proceeds go to charity. This prevents businesses from profiting from the sale of bags. I think this survey was an unnecessary expense and the municipal staff and council could have made this decision.
Hey...do you think there are any environmental wackos also gaming this survey? If it shows a majority in favour of this ban, it'll all be totally legit.
Ask stores to supply washable vegetable bags for sale. They can also be used to store vegetables in the frig. I sent to China for mine but perhaps now they are made in Canada
Disagree with the ban as we always reuse plastic bags for garbage. Garbage bags are single-use bags that are made to be disposed of once and only once. We have never bought a single garbage bag but with the ban, it would have to change. Reduce, reuse, recycle - in that order. People should be encouraged to reduce use of plastic bags, which has already happened with the use of reusable bags. They should then be encouraged to reuse these bags for other purposes. Finally, recycling is always avai
This makes people feel good, but does nothing positive for the environment. A 2018 study ( <a href="https://www2.mst.dk/Udgiv/publications/2018/02/978-87-93614-73-4.pdf">https://www2.mst.dk/Udgiv/publications/2018/02/978-87-93614-73-4.pdf</a> ) details that polypropylene reusable bags must be used 43 times in order to be comparable to single-use plastic bags. I've come to own roughly 20 reusable bags, and they do not last 43 uses before deteriorating. Our assumptions about what is environmentally friendly don't always stand up to scrutiny.
This is a poorly designed survey. It does not seek advice or consult, it is merely a mechanism to

enact a poorly thought out bylaw that has the appearance of action while the plague of plastic gets far far worse. This bylaw is simply window dressing on a serious problem. -poor poor work

Paper bags should be made with handles like in other countries

You can't limit or not allow plastic bags. This is not good for tourists and visitors.

It's a same to have an all out ban. At times I forget to bring a reusable bag and require a plastic bag. I then use the plastic bag for garbage vs paper where you can't. It serves two purposes. We use plastic bags for garbage anyway.

as an employee of the township of Esquimalt I feel it is important as a community we make steps towards a greener future; it is essential to preserve not only Esquimalt and its nature but our entire planet. Small steps add up to a big difference.

I think it is reasonable to charge people for bags. While I bring bags when I can, sometimes I forget and I am happy to pay for bags when needed. This is a good middle ground solution to a ban. As such, this isn't truly a ban, which I think is wording that makes people uncomfortable. I would be considerate about how this idea is presented to avoid knee-jerk reactions to a "ban". Thanks and good luck!

We are already used to this as I was working in Victoria. Took a little while to get used to it but we did.

It's the right thing to do.

It's about time. We live in a community within a community. Residents of esquimalt shop in Victoria and have already adjusted their habits

no - just remove them please

There should not be a huge charge for paper bags. They are reusable and recyclable.

Seniors and disabled people trying to carry paper bags without handles. Why charge for paper?

Alot of people get angry at first. Once they see they will have to pay for a bag/ they pick there purchase up and leave. No Bag! The only down fall, is now they have to buy garbage bags.

It's about time

I feel that if plastic bags are to be phased out than more affordable options need to be available. Reusable bags can be pricey and that's a burn for those on fixed incomes

Well meaning but pointless exercise that will do nothing to reduce plastic bag use. People will have to replace them with purchased plastic bags for things like kitchen trash liners, dog poop bags etc.

I fully support banning plastic bags. I don't think a phase in period is necessary if there are paper bags as an option but that wasn't clear in your survey. We never needed a survey or phase in period when plastic bags were implemented so why do we need so much community input to get rid of them? Just make them go away. Those who will be upset by it will not be any happier waiting. It's all just convenience and everyone will adjust over time. The earth needs every bit of help we can offer.

I'm surprised there hasn't been a ban already. I think this is a good thing

Since there are plant based plastic bags that are biodegradable, I fail to see why this has not been an option for business. I reuse plastic bags particularly for pet waste and carrying lots of items. Now I have to buy these...which i can live with, but once again fail to see the lack of option of biodegradable plant based plastic bags. Paper bags are expensive to produce and means a loss of trees. And in our rainy weather - well not great. Food for thought.

No further comments.

Best of luck with planning, looking forward to seeing the ban introduced.

Hope they keep cost of paper bags reasonable.

I do hope council takes leadership and bans plastic bags for Esquimalt. Plastic waste is such a huge, local and global issue and one that is not always well understood by citizens.

Please keep it consistent with Victoria. It makes no sense creating different rules in each municipality.

BRAVO Esquimalt !!

I like the idea of outlawing plastic bags but I should not be charged a fee to use a paper bag.

Look, this a worldwide change. While many people may grumble about it everyone knows this is coming. There isn't any real need for a long rollout period. Place signs, say September 1st 2019 and allow businesses to use up existing bag supply for up to one year.

It would be nice if store had paper bags option even if you have to pay a small fee. I don't use any bags i carry everything in hands or take the cart to the car when i can. If i was by foot i would like a paper option and not having to buy a reusable bag, i don't use them enough and it gets expensive having to buy new ones because you forget

I am happy Esquimalt is doing this. Please move forward with this and start considering other single-use plastic bans and regulations on wasteful packaging. This may be impossible fiscally, but one way you could announce this is by mailing out free biodegradable, usable shopping bags to Esquimalt residents; or on a smaller scale, you could have a booth at Esquimalt Plaza and a few other places handing them out and educating people!

An advertising campaign should be put in place telling customers to keep the plastic bags they currently have to re-use. Many individuals who currently complain about Victorias ban have been throwing out plastic bags for decades when in reality they could easily be re-used and then they would not have to pay for a paper one or carry cotton ones.

Lets get going on this. No need to wait. There's enough plastic polluting our environment and harming other species. Esquimalt needs to be a leader in this process.

I use one small plastic bag each week for my trash, now I will have to purchase this bag, yes? More cash for big retailers, less cash for me. Doesn't seem right somehow unless retailers drop their prices in lieu of not providing bags.

Where dirs this mobey for the bags go? Into the pocket of the vendor? I think not! If charged it would be pst and gst applicable? If this is enforced by municipality then the moneies must go to the municipality's coffer not the vendor! Please publicity answer these questions... where does the collected monies go?

Its great that Esquimalt is taking the necessary steps to reduce plastic bag waste in the municipality

I think most of the exemptions can be replaced by paper bags. The sooner this comes into effect the better.

Mandating less product packaging overall

This is common place in Victoria so it is not really a big leap. charging people for a bag is a good way to shape behaviour into bringing a bag to the store.

Next step, reduce plastic in store (clam shells, etc) and or require supplier to take responsibility from onset to end

The Victoria bylaw has resulted in me buying plastic bags, with thicker plastic, for use in disposing of garbage and other purposes. No plastic bag that I have gotten at a retailer was used only once. Now I use plenty of bags only once. Carrying a bag with me all the time, especially in the summer when I don't have coat pockets available is a terrible inconvenience. I have no problem with retailers being

required to charge a fee for plastic bags, but they should not be prohibited.

Please ban plastic bags. Cities all around the world are doing it. It's already been proven that plastic is a huge problem in landfills and oceans. We have a responsibility to our environment and our Island.

The proposed minimum fees charged for reusable bags should be omitted as it prevents retailers from offering any type of promotions that would include a fee lower than \$1.00. If reusable bags being disposed unnecessarily ever became an issue in the future, a remedy such as a minimum charge could then be amended to the bylaw.

Good job on banning plastic bags. Now for straws and better recycling programs. Especially at restaurants.

I'm glad that the single use plastic bags are being removed, but I'd like all single use plastic items such as utensils, straws, etc bring considered as well. There are compostable replacements for these items available.

The list of items that do not include banning plastic bags (meats, fish, bakery items, etc.) is quite extensive. It would be amazing if the City of Esq could think of a more innovative and green way for ppl to put their veggies, fruits, and other bulk items in. In Europe, many ppl use light-weight materials such as rope that is easily washed and can be used to put meats, fish, veggies and fruits in.

Your ban is anti- Environmental as the alternatives paper is the worse for the environment - forcing reusables results in more plastic not less as people replace shopping bags with thicker plastic kitchen catchers. Implement a five cent fee and plastics will be reduced more than 50% immediately. This is a feel good bylaw that ignores the science. Check out Denmark, U.K. and Quebec bag life cycle studies - bag bans are not beneficial for the environment.

Thank you

I really don't know why we're waiting so long. Let's get on it! A lot of us have already been using our cloth bags!! Esquimalt resident.

The ability for stores to reuse recycled plastic bags or plastic bags brought in by customers is important. It still reduces waste and promotes good habits by encouraging the public to take responsibility.

Yes. i am not keen on anyone putting my groceries or bought goods in a used bag!

Single-use plastic bags (as labeled) I see quite often re-used multiple times in some businesses and places. The cost of the paper and reusable bags at 25 cents and \$2.00, is this to be a cash cow how was the values determined? Has this council now become sycophants to Victoria, if they jump off a bridge then we should?

The biodegradable, plastic shopping bags are NOT SINGLE USE. They are used as garbage bags. We will all be forced to buy garbage bags if they are discontinues. The fruit/veg bags are generally not needed and overused. 2 apples or a bunch of bananas do not need to be in a bag. Reusable mesh produce bags should be available for purchase. Meats, fish should be packaged so they do not need to be put in a plastic bag. It should be the shoppers choice what type of bag to use.

Why is this an issue. Victoria and Saanich and other communities/towns have eliminated plastic bags. Quit spending money on talking about it and just move forward

Can we also change to allow straight garbage (ie no bag) in the municipal garbage cans?

I think this is the oddest decision since it includes paper bags? Paper bags ought to be given freely if a retailer wishes to do so. How on Earth are you going to get McDonald's or Timmie's or any large franchise charge for their paper bags when it is already included in the price of their sale? Whoever thought this up obviously had no discussion with the larger fast food restaurants in town. Wake up! Paper is recyclable....shakes head at the nonsense here.

I think it's a fabulous idea to no longer use plastic bags. It should be implemented as soon as possible!!!

I think that society is going about this the wrong way! First of all the plastic packaging should be banned first ie the plastic container your Oreo cookies are packaged in or why is Meat, Chicken or Fish half in a styrofoam tray wrapped with plastic wrap. How was this done in the 40's and 50's before plastic was used. I saw an article in TC Apr 25, 2019 re the Township of Esquimalt wanting to charge 25 cts for Paper and \$2 for reusable bags should'nt that be up to each business. Where is money

The phase in time period should take into account that the stores already know that the bylaw is coming into effect in 7 months. So I think at most an additional 3 months to use up stock is needed. Can stores really store 7 months of plastic on site? Thanks for taking this issue seriously and taking action to reduce single use plastic bags.

I support this 100 percent. I have fabric bags for all groceries including bulk, fruit and veg and meat. We absolutely have to do this!

Congratulations, Esquimalt Council, on considering taking this progressive step. I wholeheartedly support it!

Thanks for your work on this.

I do not support this. What I am finding with Victoria having done this is that I shop much less in Victoria now. I spend money less in Victoria. Did we not go through a saga of making all the plastic bags biodegradable some years back? What I do find with paper bags now commonplace instead of plastic is that you can carry less with paper bags, so we use the car more. One outcome of this initiative is that people in general will likely drive more (more emissions, etc..) to compensate.

I agree with discouraging plastic bags and encouraging reusable bags. Many of us have been using plastic carry bags for garbage - now you want us to buy them? Also for carrying things we intend to give away - like donations to thrift shops. Please do not assume everybody has a car to carry stuff. (I don't.) My biggest problem is the clear bags which accumulate at an incredible rate (from bulk food). I don't need extra bags on fish or frozen food. I would like less produce marketed in plastic

Yes, I do. Although I understand the importance of eliminating plastic from the landfills, I get that, I really do. How are we to take our trash to the dumpsters? I now have to 'buy' plastic bags, whereas before, I could use the ones I obtained from the grocery or other stores. I think the bags that are compostable would've been a much better option. I also realize that they are not as strong, but if they were doubled up for heavier purchases, what harm is this?

I think we should get on board the sooner the better. Too much talk wastes time. Let's just do it!

When there are no plastic bags available the public will have no choice but to use an alternative. Nylon bags are great because they are compact. We buy ours from Capital Iron. We are seniors & my husband had a hard time remembering the large & bulky plastic bags but now he loves the nylon bags. ☺

Thanks for the opportunity to complete this survey and comment. Victoria has led the way and we're just following. Our citizens shop in Victoria and know how it works so we can keep it clean and simple - just set the start date, get information out as best you can with very little cost, and implement on the start date. No phase in is necessary - Victoria effectively did that for us.

I work at a local Esquimalt grocery store and do support a plastic bag ban for the area. 3 of our other locations are in Victoria and are bag free. I would like to see Esquimalt move in this direction as well.

As Victoria has already adopted this bylaw I feel it will be a very easy transition for Esquimalt residents. Surely residents of Esquimalt and business owners are already used to bringing their own bags or fine with purchasing paper bags from shopping in Victoria. We may be a separate municipality but with the close proximity to Victoria I think you would have to be living as a recluse

to not have a sense that all of greater Victoria would be adopting no plastic bags. Ban plastic bottles next!

Just do it

I would like to see take out containers & cutlery added to the ban. These are not necessary and compostable alternatives can be found down the street at Wholesale Foods, an Esquimalt business. I would support the ban coming in earlier (e.g. September). In this situation then I would support a phased approach.

I support a phase-in period to allow stores to use their existing stocks of plastic - though it risks stockpiling! - but do not support reduced costs for customers. They'll quickly learn.

I think businesses should be financially incentivized to provide customers with free sturdy attractive bags for the first few months so customers can build up a small stock of grocery bags. This would make it quite painless. For all but the taxpayer, I suppose.

Encourage businesses to phase out (and not sell) plastic straws and balloons.

I think it's a good first step and long overdue. For a lot of items there's really no need to put the item in a plastic bag.

Be brave! Change can be painful, or at least be perceived as painful. I'm also interested in cutting down on noise pollution i.e. souped up vehicles, motorcycles.

Instead of grocery store selling reusable plastic bags, consider having a cloth bag option- easier to wash and more eco friendly.

Seriously consider compostable bags as an option. I would, in the event I forgot my reusable bags, take a compostable bag that could be reused as a compost waste bin liner.

It's very easy to always have a reusable bag folding and tucked in a pocket or purse so I always do!

Do this sooner than later.

I do not believe that the banning of some plastic bags is the only option. As the pollution and increase to the land fill need to be addressed on a much larger scale. We need to find a better way to recycle these plastics including the ones not being band. As none of these are part of our blue box program and residents have to pay to recycle them. The plastic quit often just ends up in the garbage instead.

Do it now! Good job folks... thanks!

have a problem with bylaw 3.3 the mandatory charging for bags

I'm a resident of Victoria and it honestly feels weird to me when I am shopping in Esquimalt or Saanich and am offered plastic!

I think the single use plastic ban should be expanded beyond check out bags.

If plastic bags are going to be banned from shops, then businesses must be allowed to maintain the option of providing paper bags to customers. I don't own a car, so all my shopping is done when I am walking around the community. Walking is my important daily exercise. When I walk, I don't carry anything with me but my wallet. Therefore, I don't have any readily-available reusable bags to carry my purchases home with me. I respect the environment by not owning a car, so why punish me?

Let's be a progressive township, and follow in the Esquimalt farmers market's lead. We, as a society, need to remember to put the needs of our precious planet first ahead of the self-serving convenient lifestyles that we've grown accustomed to. I hope Esquimalt shows leadership when it comes to fighting climate change, and decide to choose reducing and reusing as a default before recycling - as a last resort.

Thanks to Esquimalt council for recognizing that this change is necessary.

Jumping on the 'eliminate plastic bag' bandwagon just because other municipalities are doing so is very amateur political decision making. Plastic bags are not the environmental problem in Victoria. Plastic bags are not blowing down our streets like tumbleweeds; our beaches are not fouled by them. Where can you find lots of used plastic bags? In store recycle bins; because Victorians have been educated.

I'm so excited that this is becoming a reality for Esquimalt and other regions! Thank you for being progressive and addressing this problem. The success in Victoria is proof that this concept works and I look forward to seeing the rollout.