

From: [Tricia deMacedo](#)
To: [Tricia deMacedo](#)
Subject: FW: Ban on Plastic Bags - Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce input.
Date: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 9:48:46 AM

Tricia deMacedo
Planner 2
Tel: 1-250-414-7114

From: Bill Brown
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 7:16 PM
To: Tricia deMacedo
Subject: FW: Ban on Plastic Bags - Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce input.

FYI

Bill Brown, MCIP
Director of Development Services
Tel: 1-250-414-7146

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chris Edley <chris@edley.ca>
Date: February 8, 2019 at 4:35:43 PM GMT-7
To: <mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca>
Cc: "'Brandle, Mark'" <[REDACTED]>, 'Ron Sandor' <[\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])>, 'Kiki Fox' <[\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])>, "Ash Knightley" <[\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])>, 'Helen Edley' <[\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])>
Subject: Ban on Plastic Bags - Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce input.

Dear Mayor and council,

As President of the Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce I am writing on behalf of the Esquimalt business community. I was asked by staff to provide some thoughts and input about the plastic bag bylaw that would be coming down the pipe. I noticed that the recommended bylaw did not include consideration for some of the concerns I had shared. I request that you consider these while making your decisions about the bylaw. I do understand that there is going to be a consultation period, but I would like to share these concerns early in this process given that the first reading has taken place already and the momentum is underway to bring this bylaw to life.

1. The bylaw will force companies to charge their customers for paper bags; but there is a problem with blanket application of this. Many in the fast-food business already use paper bags, and in some cases will not want to add this cost to their services; this issue can be compounded if their pricing is set by a corporate structure located elsewhere. I have even heard of cases, such as MacDonald's restaurants in other jurisdictions, where they have decided to ignore similar bylaws because they don't feel it makes sense for them. In the case of take-out restaurants, re-useable bags are not really an option, so a fee to encourage use of reusable bags serves no purpose for this industry. In many of these cases, companies like Macdonald's, Lum's Chinese food, and others could argue that they have been leading the way in environmentally sustainable packaging for years, and should not be punished for doing so because others need to be forced to do the same. In cases such as this, the you-must-pay-for-paper-bags part of the bylaw is going to be very difficult to enforce; and arguably, unenforceable.

2. The proposed bylaw is close to a carbon-copy of the Victoria and Saanich bylaws. We understand the desire to be on the same page as these municipalities, however we have an opportunity to learn from the areas where their bylaws don't work well and make ours a better one. The people that we have talked with do not feel it is necessary to force a charge for paper bags, especially where the use of a reusable bag makes no sense. We also feel it is certainly not necessary to charge for re-useable bags if a company wants to give them away.

3. Although not solid research, anecdotal evidence through discussions we've had show that people find it to be a petty annoyance when charged a few cents for a bag when they buy groceries. To the best of my knowledge, View Royal is not currently implementing the same bylaw (or any bylaw) on this issue; so while it is an incentive for people to bring their own bags, having major shopping competitors on our View Royal doorstep will divert some shoppers away from Esquimalt towards Admiral's Walk to do their shopping. It's a little annoyance factor they won't have to deal with if they shop outside of our community.

Bylaws need to make sense and be enforceable, or else they are meaningless. Esquimalt has one bylaw enforcement officer, and in order to force compliance, especially with take-out restaurants, the question should be asked: "does Esquimalt want to invest in trying to enforce this rule?" because you will have to invest in enforcement if you want it to be adhered to. Or is it better to put something into place that is easily enforceable, makes sense, and doesn't penalize the businesses that have already led the way to reducing plastic waste?

The recommendation from your Chamber of Commerce is to create a bylaw that

makes sense for all businesses, accounts for the take-out industry, accounts for those that have let the way to-date on sustainable practices, and is enforceable and fair given our place nestled among other competing municipalities.

We also think that as plastic bag ban comes into effect, Council should pressure View Royal to do the same, helping to bring the whole region onto a similar page with this matter.

Respectfully,

Chris

Chris Edley CD P.Eng.

President Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Greg Wilson](#)
To: [Bill Brown](#)
Cc: [Tricia deMacedo](#); [Mark Startup](#)
Subject: RE: New York State to Introduce Plastic Bag Ban
Date: January-14-19 8:49:15 AM

Bill,

Thanks – I had not seen this yet – I think retail’s preferred ban thus far is PEI’s (already enacted): http://assembly.pe.ca/bills/pdf_chapter/65/3/chapter-38.pdf. Modelled on Victoria’s the PEI ban has much less impact on store costs and operations.

(For example, because ink reduces environmental outcomes, some retailers prefer plain paper bags to printed paper bags. And as I said on the phone, some of my members are very attached to (not very washable) jute bags – and most are strongly opposed to cloth bags (pointing out that essentially polyester is a plastic, and cotton has terrible environmental and labour input costs). The change in bag costs becomes difficult when a large number of communities are changing the bag fee at irregular intervals. Finally, the legislated fee for reusable bags diminishes the opportunity to encourage customers to use reusable bags – for example by giving away bags on Earth Day – or the first day of a plastic bag ban.)

We’ve been following an array of material bans – although the clippings indicate that the banning the distribution of polystyrene fast-food packaging is the most common material ban right now.

Thanks again. Best,

Greg

Greg Wilson

Director, Government Relations (B.C.) | Directeur, Relations gouvernementales (C.-B.)

RETAIL COUNCIL OF CANADA | CONSEIL CANADIEN DU COMMERCE DE DÉTAIL

Tel: (604) 736-0368 | 1 (800) 663-5135 | Cell: (604) 551-0650

From: Bill Brown <bill.brown@esquimalt.ca>
Sent: January 14, 2019 8:33 AM
To: Greg Wilson <gwilson@retailcouncil.org>
Cc: Mark Startup <mstartup@retailcouncil.org>; Tricia deMacedo <Tricia.deMacedo@esquimalt.ca>
Subject: New York State to Introduce Plastic Bag Ban

Hi Greg,

I thought you might be interested in the following article:

https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ny-metro-plastic-ban-20190113-story.html?utm_source=morning-10-monday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20190114&utm_content=article1-headline

Bill

Bill Brown, MCIP

Director of Development Services

Township of Esquimalt | Development Services

Tel: 1-250-414-7146 | www.esquimalt.ca



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From: Greg Wilson [<mailto:gwilson@retailcouncil.org>]

Sent: January-09-19 4:37 PM

To: Bill Brown

Cc: Mark Startup; Tricia deMacedo

Subject: RE: Township of Esquimalt preparing a plastic bag bylaw

Bill,

Thanks for reaching out. We're always happy to share the retail industry's perspective. Essentially retail craves a strong environmental outcome, with the least operational impacts and most consistent regimes. Sadly, I report, that means we'd prefer a senior level of government took action so that there was one consistent nation-wide or province-wide regime – which would be simplest for retailers, consumers, residents and government alike.

Our members want to be well-informed so that they are able to comply with government regulation – and, to that end, RCC maintains a web page listing those regulations for the ease of our members.

If Esquimalt's draft bylaw is on-line now (with a council agenda?) or at some point, or you have consultation sessions with business, we'd be pleased to help get the word out.

Thanks. Best,

Greg

Greg Wilson

Director, Government Relations (B.C.) | Directeur, Relations gouvernementales (C.-B.)

RETAIL COUNCIL OF CANADA | CONSEIL CANADIEN DU COMMERCE DE DÉTAIL

Tel: (604) 736-0368 | 1 (800) 663-5135 | Cell: (604) 551-0650

From: Bill Brown <bill.brown@esquimalt.ca>

Sent: January 9, 2019 2:50 PM

To: Greg Wilson <gwilson@retailcouncil.org>

Cc: Mark Startup <mstartup@retailcouncil.org>; Tricia deMacedo <Tricia.deMacedo@esquimalt.ca>

Subject: Township of Esquimalt preparing a plastic bag bylaw

Dear Mr. Wilson,

I have just had the opportunity to hear Mr. Startup speak at the Urban Development Institute's luncheon meeting in Victoria. He mentioned the need to ensure that the retail community was consulted early and often (I am paraphrasing so he may correct me) with regard to plastic bag bylaws. He mentioned that the "plastic bag" file for BC was yours. To that end I want to notify you that staff are preparing to take a plastic bag bylaw and consultation strategy to Council on January 21, 2019. We are asking Council to only give the bylaw first reading. That gets the bylaws on the table to start the consultation stage. Giving it first reading makes it easier to amend the bylaw at second reading following the consultation period.

Tricia deMacedo is the planner managing this file for the Township. Feel free to contact her (e-mail above) if you wish to discuss further.

Thanks.

Bill

Bill Brown, MCIP

Director of Development Services

Township of Esquimalt | Development Services

Tel: 1-250-414-7146 | www.esquimalt.ca



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