



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

Municipal Hall, 1229 Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 3P1
Website: www.esquimalt.ca Email: info@esquimalt.ca

Voice: (250) 414-7100
Fax: (250) 414-7111

October 27, 2020

The Honorable George Heyman, M.L.A.
Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

via email: ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Heyman:

Re: Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw, 2019, No. 2953

The Township of Esquimalt would like to request that the Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw, 2019, No. 2953 be considered for approval by the Minister of Environmental and Climate Change Strategy. The bylaw will regulate the use of plastic and paper checkout bags used in retail operations in the municipality of Esquimalt in order to protect the natural environment and reduce litter and waste in the Township.

At its meeting held on October 26th, 2020, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt approved the following resolution:

*"That Council resolves to rescind third reading of Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw, 2019, No. 2953, attached as Appendix B to Staff Report DEV-20-067; amend and read anew a third time; and further,
That Council authorize the Corporate Officer to submit the bylaw as amended, to the Minister of the Environment for Provincial approval prior to returning the bylaw to Council for consideration of adoption."*

Attached is a certified copy of the above referenced bylaw as having received third reading and the report of the Director of Development Services that was presented to Council.

If you have any questions or require additional information please contact me at 250-414-7135.

Yours truly,

Rachel Dumas
Manager of Corporate Services / Corporate Officer

Encls.



Reference: 364171

February 12, 2021

Her Worship Mayor Barbara Desjardins
and Councillors
Township of Esquimalt
1229 Esquimalt Road
Victoria BC V9A 3P1

Sent via email: Barb.Desjardins@esquimaltcouncil.ca

Dear Mayor Desjardins and Council:

Thank you for your letter of October 27, 2020, regarding the Township of Esquimalt's Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw No. 2953.

Staff from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy have reviewed Bylaw No. 2953 and related documentation. Pursuant to Section 9(3) of the Community Charter, as the Minister responsible for approving bylaws made under Section 8(3)(j) of the Community Charter [protection of the natural environment], I consider Bylaw No. 2953, 2020 approved. Please ensure that a copy of the final adopted bylaw is sent to my office for our records.

My approval should not be taken as a formal approval as to the validity or enforceability of Bylaw No. 2953, 2020 or compliance with any other procedural requirements relating to the exercise of the Township of Esquimalt's bylaw authority. Future amendments to Bylaw No. 2953 will require Ministerial approval.

Our government strongly supports municipal leadership to address single-use plastics and is committed to ensuring that regulation of single-use plastics in B.C. is consistent across communities. As announced in September 2020, the Province is taking steps to address these important issues, including proposed regulatory changes to support municipal bylaws that meet certain parameters for accessibility, public health, and reduction of waste from alternative materials.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Gwendolyn Lohbrunner, Director, Clean Communities, in the Environmental Protection Division of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, at Gwendolyn.Lohbrunner@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,



George Heyman
Minister

cc: Rachel Dumas, Manager of Corporate Services, Township of Esquimalt

British Columbia News

Reducing plastic waste, pollution a shared responsibility

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/23783>

Friday, February 12, 2021 11:45 AM

Victoria - Four new single-use plastics bans have been approved in B.C. communities to reduce plastic waste throughout the province, highlighting the new provincial Plastic Pollution Awareness Day.

“This is a day for us to recognize the progress we’ve made and commit to redoubling our efforts moving forward,” said George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. “Through our CleanBC Plastics Action Plan, we’re reducing plastic use overall, expanding our deposit-refund system, calling on manufacturers to take more responsibility for their products’ end of life, developing better ways to recycle plastics into new products and implementing bans on single-use plastics.”

In proclaiming Monday, Feb. 15, 2021, as Plastic Pollution Awareness Day, Heyman announced the approval of bylaws banning single-use plastics in four more communities. Surrey, Nanaimo, Rossland and Esquimalt have joined five other municipalities that are implementing plastic bans tailored to the needs of their communities. The Province is also moving ahead on the regulatory groundwork to allow local governments to implement bans on single-use plastics without requiring provincial approval.

“Action on plastic pollution is critical to ensuring that our communities and environments remain healthy and safe,” said Chloé Dubois, co-founder and president, Ocean Legacy Foundation. “We applaud the leadership of this ministry and participating municipalities in implementing tailored community action plans on plastic management systems. Enhancing these tools is a necessary step to curb the harmful effects of plastic pollution everywhere.”

Addressing existing plastic pollution in the environment – especially in the oceans – came into sharp focus last summer through the largest coastal marine debris cleanup in B.C.’s history. Small ship tour operators, in partnership with Indigenous Nations and local communities, led efforts that removed over 127 tonnes of marine debris from the central coast and Queen Charlotte Sound shorelines in six weeks.

The shoreline cleanup was Phase 1 of government’s Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative Fund (CCCW) under the Plastics Action Plan. Phase 2 of CCCW funding was recently announced for more marine debris removal projects in 2021 as part of StrongerBC: BC’s \$10-billion Economic Recovery Plan that protects people’s health and livelihoods while supporting businesses and communities.

“Dedicated British Columbians and forward-thinking organizations have made our province a leader in the fight against plastic pollution,” Heyman said. “We’re showing what can be accomplished when we work together to protect our environment and confront this issue head on.”

Manufacturers and retailers are also part of the solution, through extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs that require producers and sellers to manage the waste from their products. British Columbia is a leader in EPR recycling and continues to expand these programs. The recently

announced Recycled Plastics Manufacturing Stimulus (RPMS) Fund will support technologies to turn used plastics into new products, support the circular economy of plastics, increase local processing capacity for recycling and create jobs.

Quick Facts:

- More than 40% of plastic is used only once.
- In 2019, 77% of all beverage containers and 46% of all residential plastic packaging was recovered for recycling.
- Of the plastics collected by Recycle BC, 98% stay in B.C. – supporting the recycling and manufacturing sector and growing the circular economy.
- It is estimated that in 2019, over 340,000 tonnes of plastic items and packaging were disposed of in British Columbia. This equates to more than 65 kilograms of plastic waste landfilled per person in one year.
- Globally, it has been estimated more than 20 million tonnes of plastic waste enter aquatic ecosystems every year.
- In 2019, over 35,000 British Columbians responded to the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan consultation, with 94% of respondents reporting they were concerned about plastic waste and 86% stating it is important to seek out products with more recycled content.

Learn More:

Read the proclamation here:

<https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/proclamations/proclamations/2021procs>
(<https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/proclamations/proclamations/2021procs>)

The CleanBC Plastics Action Plan 'What We Heard Report' is available here:

<https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/plastics> (<https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/plastics>)

Learn more about the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan:

<https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/plastics> (<https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/plastics>)

Marine Debris in B.C. – What We Heard Report:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/zero-waste/marine-debris-protection/marine_debris_what_we_heard_report_final_web.pdf?fbcli
(https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/zero-waste/marine-debris-protection/marine_debris_what_we_heard_report_final_web.pdf?fbcli)

For more information on the CCCW initiative:

<https://www.bccleancoast.ca> (<https://www.bccleancoast.ca/>)

The RPMS Fund web page can be found here:

<https://www.alacritycanada.com/cleantech/bc-recycled-plastics-manufacturing-stimulus-fund/>
(<https://www.alacritycanada.com/cleantech/bc-recycled-plastics-manufacturing-stimulus-fund/>)

Media Contacts

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Media Relations

250 953-3834

Ocean Legacy Foundation
Chloé Dubois
Co-founder and President
chloe@oceanlegacy.ca

Surrey:
Amber Stowe
Communications and Media Relations Lead
Amber.Stowe@surrey.ca
778 846-1480

Nanaimo:
Media Inquiries
MediaRequests@nanaimo.ca

Esquimalt:
Tara Zajac
Manager of Communications
Tara.Zajac@esquimalt.ca
250 414-7122

City of Rossland
Cynthia Anonuevo
Deputy Corporate Officer
dco@rossland.ca
250 362-9396