



300 Dufferin Avenue  
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**London**  
CANADA

To the members of the Civic Works Committee

April 25, 2023

As per our Strategic Plan under the Climate Action and Sustainable Growth, Outcome 1, Item 1, Council has committed to working towards a circular economy. This strategic outcome aligns well with the federal government's current undertaking of reducing plastic pollution.

The federal government is currently requesting feedback from across Canada to provide input on new regulatory frameworks they are developing in regard to plastic pollution. As such, I would like to make the following motion.

**That the following actions be taken with respect to public consultation released April 18, 2023 from Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste":**

- a) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to provide written feedback on the proposed plastic regulatory framework and technical document through the federal government process by May 18th 2023 deadline;
- b) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to provide a copy of the written submission to Civic Works Committee at a future meeting; and
- c) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to provide a copy of the written submission to the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee for information as part of ongoing discussions dealing with Blue Box transition in London.

Sincerely,

Councillor Skylar Franke



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## **Background - read more about this proposed framework [here](#)**

Canadians are concerned about plastics littering beaches, parks, streets, shorelines, and other places they value. It is time to stop the harmful impacts of plastic pollution on nature and wildlife. The Government of Canada is taking ambitious action to reduce plastic pollution through a comprehensive approach that protects the environment, conserves biodiversity, and strengthens the economy.

As part of its broader commitment to move toward zero plastic waste, the Government of Canada is consulting on:

1. A regulatory framework that serves as the starting point for the proposed *Recycled Content and Labelling for Plastic Products Regulations*.
2. A technical paper that outlines the reporting requirements for the federal plastics registry.

The Government of Canada is continuing to work with governments, stakeholders, and Canadians to bring forward these new measures to prevent plastic pollution and improve how plastics are made, used, and managed.

Canadians who are concerned about misinformation and greenwashing want to make informed decisions about the products they buy. Today, too many plastic products that Canadians buy that are labelled with the chasing-arrows symbol or labelled “biodegradable” cannot, in fact, be recycled or composted in local waste management systems.

New mandatory labelling rules for recyclability and compostability would help Canadians make informed decisions on what to buy and how to properly dispose of products at their end of life. The rules would also improve the quality of materials entering recycling and composting facilities in Canada. Accurate labelling would help protect Canada’s environment by preventing or minimizing the creation of new plastic pollution and waste.

The proposed rules would prohibit the use of the chasing-arrows symbol and other recyclability claims on plastic packaging and single-use plastics unless 80 percent of Canadians in a province or territory have access to recycling systems that accept, sort, and re-process these plastics. They would also prohibit the use of terms such as “degradable” or “biodegradable” in the labelling of plastic packaging and single-use items, and set minimum standards for products to be labelled compostable.

The new proposed requirements for minimum recycled content in certain types of plastic packaging would help support stronger and more reliable end markets for recycled plastics. This will drive improvements to recycling systems and product design, reduce greenhouse



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gas emissions, and promote a circular economy for plastics that minimizes plastic pollution and the associated harm to the environment.

To achieve Zero Plastic Waste by 2030, we need to be able to track plastics in the Canadian economy. That's why the Government of Canada is committed to establishing a federal plastics registry that would require annual reporting of plastics placed on the Canadian market and how these products are managed at the end of their lives. The registry would also collect and publish data for Canadians on the entire lifecycle of plastics in Canada. A draft information-gathering notice for the federal plastics registry is targeted for publication and public comment before the end of the year.

Stakeholders, provincial, territorial, and local governments, and Canadians are invited to review the regulatory framework and the technical document and provide feedback before May 18, 2023. The Government plans to publish the proposed *Recycled Content and Labelling for Plastic Products Regulations* later this year.

### Quick facts

- In 2019, Canadians threw away 4.4 million tonnes of plastic waste, only 9 percent of which was recycled. Plastic waste is a lost resource and plastic pollution has harmful impacts on nature and wildlife.
- The new proposed recycled content and labelling rules and the federal plastics registry are important parts of Canada's comprehensive plan to promote a circular economy and prevent plastic pollution through a lifecycle approach.
- On June 22, 2022, the Government of Canada published the final *Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations* in the *Canada Gazette*, Part II. Over the next decade, it is estimated that these Regulations will eliminate over 1.3 million tonnes of hard-to-recycle plastic waste and more than 22,000 tonnes of plastic pollution, which is equivalent to over a million garbage bags full of litter.