

July 26, 2019

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X4

By email: plastics@gov.bc.ca

RE: CleanBC Plastics Action Plan Stakeholder Feedback

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing on behalf of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and West Coast Environmental Law (WCEL) to provide stakeholder feedback to the Province of B.C. on the proposed plan to reduce plastic waste. This government has acknowledged that plastic is a threat to our marine ecosystems and species. Specifically, Minister Heyman stated in a Government of B.C. Twitter video (July 25, 2019), "Plastic pollution is threatening our ocean life and our ocean environment. British Columbians want us to deal with single use plastics." We support the Province developing new policy to support the four actions proposed to deal with this important issue.

The Province has timely opportunity to develop a B.C. coastal strategy and law which will not only address single-use plastics, but would provide a clear pathway for legislative implementation of plans for additional issues impacting our coast from the Salish Sea to Dixon Entrance. B.C.'s iconic coastal and marine areas are vital to our identity, culture, and economy and issues such as marine plastics threaten the health of our coast. A B.C. coastal strategy and law will further leverage and coordinate the work of provincial ministries, local communities, First Nations, and stakeholder groups to protect our coasts from the diverse, and cumulative issues impacting our coastal waters including plastics in our waters.

To further reiterate sentiments shared by Minister George Heyman, "Tell us what your priorities are so that we can set up a framework for British Columbians to act together with industry, with individuals, with municipalities and with our provincial government to leave a better British Columbia." A B.C. coastal strategy and law will provide that framework to guide actions in the increasingly crowded coastal zone and highlight the importance the government places on these vital areas. In addition to protecting B.C.'s coast, sensitive marine ecosystems, and vulnerable species, a strategy will also protect our coastal communities and economies.

We appreciate the work that the province is doing to protect B.C.'s coastline and coastal communities. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with you to achieve the common goal of protecting the coast and keeping our ocean healthy and secure for the future. Thank you for providing an opportunity for feedback on this important issue.

Yours very truly,



Kate MacMillan

Provincial Ocean and Coastal Coordinator, CPAWS

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Vancouver, BC | Unceded Coast Salish Territories

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