



123 Franklyn Road, Kelowna, BC V1X 6A9 • Phone: **250-763-4837** • www.PathwaysKelowna.ca

September 17, 2019

CleanBC
Via Email: plastics@gov.bc.ca

To whom this may concern,

Re: Plastic Action Plan: Policy Consultation Paper

This letter serves to address the question "Do you have comments or suggestions on the ministry's proposal to create a uniform 10 cent deposit-refund for all beverage containers?"

Pathways Abilities Society is a not-for-profit organization that has been providing services to people with diverse-abilities in Kelowna, West Kelowna and Lake Country since 1953. The organization was created by a group of committed parents, teachers and doctors who wanted to ensure children with developmental disabilities received an education. The society's mission is "to assist people with diverse-abilities to reach their individual goals and contribute as equal members of community".

Pathways Abilities Society partners with our local bottle depot, Columbia Bottle Depot to provide employment to people with diverse-abilities in our community. Over the past 10 years our partnership has enable many individuals who had (70 plus) limited opportunities, to work, earn a living and be socially active in our community.

Through our partnership, the community can donate their unsorted bottles directly to our organization at any three of the Columba Bottle Depot locations in Kelowna. We hire people with diverse-abilities to sort the donations and the proceeds of the sorted product pay their respective wages. I am very pleased to say that over the 10 years, product donation increases every year. Unfortunately with minimum wage increasing, the employer health tax, and additional employment related increased costs, it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain this program. While we applaud the deposit increase, a 10 cent deposit refund is not enough to sustain a program like ours. We hope you will reconsider and reflect a rate that sustains community and progressively promotes recycling across our province.

If you require additional information, please feel free to contact me via email at ed@pathwayskelowna.ca or via phone at 250-763-4837.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,


Charisse Daley
Executive Director

Serving people with diverse-abilities since 1953.