

Sunshine Coast Regional District

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September 26, 2019

The Honourable George Heyman
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy – Recycling Regulation Amendments
PO Box 9341 Stn Prov Gov
Victoria, BC
V8W 9M1

Dear Minister Heyman,

Re: FEEDBACK FOR CLEANBC PLASTICS ACTION PLAN POLICY CONSULTATION PAPER

Thank you for your response received on August 20, 2019 regarding the regulation of single-use plastics and the Sunshine Coast Regional District's (SCRD) concerns for the community and environment. The SCRD is encouraged that the Province has prepared the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan Policy Consultation Paper and we appreciate your invitation to provide feedback and as such, is submitting the following.

The SCRD is very concerned about the problem of plastic waste. As a coastal community, the Sunshine Coast is deeply connected to the natural environment economically, socially and culturally. A healthy environment is vital for the well-being of all local residents.

Our community, its residents and businesses, would greatly benefit from Province-wide regulations to remove barriers to recycling for both residents and the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector. The SCRD's position on amendments to the BC Recycling Regulation and the inclusion of ICI Packaging and Paper Product was expressed in a letter sent on June 28, 2019.

Additionally, the recycling of packaging is not well understood by British Columbians and the SCRD encourages the Province to ensure a level playing field. For example, the contents of a drink container should not affect where it can and cannot be accepted for recycling. As well, some drink containers have a deposit, where others, such as dairy containers, do not.

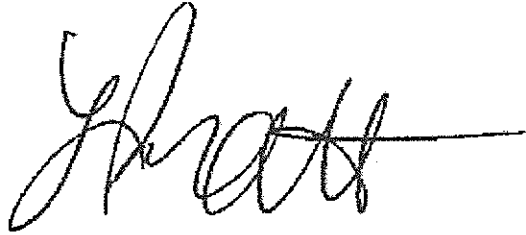
The Province should take a leadership role to protect our oceans, lakes and natural environment from the many harmful effects of single-use plastics. To achieve this, the SCRD supports Provincial and Federal regulations and policies to reduce single-use plastics. As well as, the SCRD supports Provincial and Federal bans on single-use plastics packaging, including polystyrene foam, and others as deemed necessary to protect the environment, with exemptions that consider the safety, medical and accessibility concerns of British Columbians.

To help support single-use plastics regulations and policies, the SCRD encourages amendments to the BC Recycling Regulation that shift costs to the producers of Packaging and Paper Products to ensure residents are not unfairly burdened with the costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Pratt", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lori Pratt, Chair

Submitted via email to plastics@gov.bc.ca