



Sobeys Inc.  
4980 Tahoe Blvd.  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L4W 0C7

July 31, 2019

Mr. Geoff Meggs  
Chief of Staff to the Premier of British Columbia  
Office of the Premier of British Columbia  
West Annex Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC  
V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Meggs,

Our customers and employees have told us loud and clear that they want us to use less plastic – and we agree with them. We are investing in unique ways to remove avoidable plastic from our stores and our products, and we are prepared to take significant action now.

Sobeys Inc. is pleased to inform you that today we will be announcing our plan to remove plastic grocery bags from Sobeys stores across the country, as well as a number of initiatives to eliminate the use of avoidable plastic from our stores.

This change will take 225 million plastic grocery bags out of circulation at Sobeys' 255 locations across Canada each year.

And we won't stop there. In 2020, we will also focus on removing plastic grocery bags from our 1,500 retail locations across Canada. Over the course of 2020 we will phase plastic grocery bags out completely from all our other banners across Canada, including Safeway, IGA, Foodland, FreshCo, Thrifty Foods, Farm Boy and Lawton's Drug Stores.

This initiative represents an important first step in a long journey towards eliminating unnecessary plastic from grocery retail. For customers who have not yet transitioned to reusable bags, Sobeys will provide paper bags at a cost of five cents per bag.

While plastic bags are phased out of each Sobeys Inc. banner, we will also launch innovative and unique programs to reduce plastics in other areas of the store and encourage customers to choose reusable bags that can be used repeatedly and returned for recycling at Sobeys stores.

- In August, in the produce aisle, Sobeys will introduce a line of reusable mesh produce bags made from recycled water bottles to provide customers with an alternative for their fresh produce. The reusable mesh produce bags were launched in IGA in Quebec in June and received highly positive feedback from customers.
- Sobeys has started phasing unnecessary plastic from snacking tomatoes in their Sobeys Urban Fresh store locations in Toronto. Customers are provided with recyclable paper bags which they can use to carry their tomatoes.



As part of our commitment, Sobeys is excited to partner with student organization Enactus Canada on a “Sobeys Carrying the Future Project Accelerator”, challenging young Canadians to find innovative alternatives to plastic use, work towards more sustainable operations and drive behavioural change.

Our company will continue to find ways to demonstrate leadership at this critical moment for Canada’s environment and economy. We recognize that unnecessary plastic is a significant challenge facing both the government and the private sector. We not only want to do our part, we would be open to exploring ways to a helpful partner to government to encourage other retailers to do the same.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our sustainability commitments and plan for the elimination of avoidable plastics in more detail. If you have any questions about our announcement, please contact my colleague Jacquelin Weatherbee, Director of External Communications, at [Jacquelin.Weatherbee@sobeys.com](mailto:Jacquelin.Weatherbee@sobeys.com) or (416) 200-0372.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Medline". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Medline  
Chief Executive Officer  
Empire Company Limited

Cc: Vittoria Varalli, Vice-President, Sustainability & Jacquelin Weatherbee, Director, External Communications  
Mark Zacharias, Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

**ABOUT SOBEYS INC.**

Proudly Canadian, with headquarters in Stellarton, Nova Scotia, Sobeys has been serving the food shopping needs of Canadians since 1907. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Empire Company Limited (TSX: EMP.A), Sobeys owns or franchises more than 1,500 stores in all 10 provinces under retail banners that include Sobeys, Safeway, IGA, Foodland, FreshCo, Thrifty Foods, Farm Boy and Lawton’s Drug Stores as well as more than 350 retail fuel locations. Sobeys, its franchisees and affiliates employ approximately 123,000 people. More information on Sobeys Inc. can be found at [www.sobeyscorporate.com](http://www.sobeyscorporate.com).