

Central Saanich Community Association



7032 Hagan Road, Brentwood Bay,
BC V8M 1E5
250 544 1350
brucedelliot@shaw.ca

Dear The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change:

The Central Saanich Community Association (CSCA) would like to express our support for a single-use plastic ban as announced in Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Quebec on June 10, 2019 by The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada:

Working with governments and businesses across Canada, the Government of Canada will:

1. Ban harmful single-use plastics as early as 2021 (such as plastic bags, straws, cutlery, plates, and stir sticks) where supported by scientific evidence and warranted, and take other steps to reduce pollution from plastic products and packaging
2. Work with provinces and territories to introduce standards and targets for companies that manufacture plastic products or sell items with plastic packaging so they become responsible for their plastic waste.

The banning of single-use plastic is an important issue to the CSCA members. Central Saanich has many streams, farms, beaches, water ways and ocean shore line to protect, as well as many environmentally minded residents who are growing increasingly concerned about the state of the environment.



The following is background information on the Central Saanich Community Association:

Central Saanich Community Association is a community association whose members live in the District of Central Saanich. Central Saanich is located north of Victoria, BC on the Saanich Peninsula (green area on the following map).



Single-Use Plastic Bag Task Force - The CSCA has recently completed a task force to look at making recommendations to the Central Saanich Mayor and Council concerning single-use plastic shopping bags as a start to eliminating single-use plastics in our municipality. Attached is the close-out report from the task force.

With the Government of Canada's recent announcement regarding the upcoming federal ban of single-use plastics the CSCA has decided to write a letter in support of the ban instead of working with our local government to obtain a ban at the municipal level. Our members agreed that a national ban was best, as this would provide a consistent standard for all Canadian residents and business.



Area of Concern: If the Government of Canada does not follow through on the promised ban of single-use plastics citizens would have to approach government on a local level to obtain a ban. This would greatly delay the implementation of such a ban and create a patch work of rules concerning single-use plastics.

Thank-you for reading our letter and your governments efforts to eliminate single-use plastics, much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bonny Teichrieb

Central Saanich Community Association Single-Use Plastics Task Force Chairperson

Bruce D Elliot

Central Saanich Community Association – Secretary and Member of the Single-Use Plastics Task Force

CC: Elizabeth May, MP for Saanich — Gulf Islands
Adam Olsen, MLA Saanich North and the Islands
Mayor R. Windsor and Council of Central Saanich



Central Saanich Community Association Single-Use Plastics Task Force

Vision Statement

Within Central Saanich single-use plastic checkout bags will not be used or available, resulting in reduced plastic pollution, plastic bag litter and waste in our community.

What Change is Needed

In order to protect Central Saanich's rich farming history / committee and our many creeks and waterways, we need to move away from single-use plastic products to more sustainable products that do not create harmful waste and pollution. A very significant volume of plastics bags is being used in Central Saanich every year and many of these bags are ending up in the landfill, streams, farmers fields, ditches and our local ocean waterways.

Additional information can be found on the following website.

<https://vancouverisland.surfrider.org/ban-the-bag/>

The main points of the plastic bag ban are as follows:

- A Business may provide a Checkout Bag to a customer only if:
 - (a) the customer is first asked whether he or she needs a bag;

- (b) the bag provided is a Paper Bag or a Reusable Bag; and
- (c) the customer is charged a fee not less than 15 cents per Paper Bag and \$1 per Reusable Bag
- No Business may sell or provide to a customer a plastic bag or provide a checkout bag to a customer free of charge.
- No Business shall deny or discourage the use by a customer of his or her own Reusable Bag for the purpose of transporting items purchased or received by the customer from the Business.
- The ban does not apply to small paper bags or bags used to:
 - a) package loose bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, or candy;
 - b) package loose small hardware items such as nails and bolts;
 - c) contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, poultry, or fish, whether pre-packaged or not;
 - d) wrap flowers or potted plants;
 - e) protect prepared foods or bakery goods that are not pre-packaged;
 - f) contain prescription drugs received from a pharmacy;
 - g) transport live fish;
 - h) protect linens, bedding, or other similar large items that cannot easily fit in a Reusable Bag;
 - i) protect newspapers or other printed material intended to be left at the customer's residence or place of business; or protect clothes after professional laundering or dry cleaning

Process –

- 10 local business owners or managers were interviewed that the task force felt were a cross section of Central Saanich businesses. These businesses selected were Slegg Lumber, Shoppers Drug Mart, Pharmasave, Rexall, Butchart Gardens, Fairway Market, Co-op, Rascals Pet Mart, Buckerfields and Mitchell's Farm.

- Victoria and Saanich Councils were contacted to discuss the process and the feedback they have received
- The Surfrider Foundation was contacted as they were instrumental in the “Ban the Bag” campaign in Victoria. (The Surfrider foundation is a worldwide organization committed to environmental protection)

Overview of Findings:

- The response to the bag ban was very positive. No business owners felt the ban would negatively affect their business or voiced opposition to a ban.
- Shoppers and Rexall managers in the area expressed that they are unable to make any changes to their checkout bag policy without a bylaw in place or a change in policy from head office.
- Many stores were starting to charge for plastic bags and some stores have already switched to paper or were in the process of making the change to paper bags.
- Fairway Market had recently made the switch to paper they said the response from customers had been mainly positive and they were happy with the process.
- The CEO of Buckerfields and The Mayor of Victoria sent emails supporting the bag ban in Central Saanich.
- Representatives from the Surfrider Foundation have offered to collaborate with the CSCA in our efforts to have a plastic bag ban bylaw passed in Central Saanich and are available to present to council if we wish.

Detailed Findings by Business:

| Business Name | Contact Name(s) | For/Against /Neutral | Other comments |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Mitchells | Nicole Verhagen and Tom Mitchell (Managers) | For | Most customers bring their own bags but they find they go through more plastic bags during the summer months because of tourist traffic. |
| Buckerfields | Kelvin McCollough (CEO) | For | Felt the ban was a logical step to protect the environment |
| Rascals Pet Market | Sue (Owner) | For | Their customers are environmentally conscious and they already make an effort to minimize plastic use through paper bags for bulk items. They have ordered reusable bags to offer to customers for purchase as an alternative to plastic |
| Shoppers | Pascal | Neutral | Individual franchises are not able to make decisions regarding checkout bags. They already charge for plastic and had no objections to the ban but weren't able to make any changes on their own |
| Rexall | Christine | Neutral | Individual franchises are not able to make decisions regarding checkout bags. |
| Pharmasave | Garry | For | Pharmasave has already started discussing a move to reduce plastic and move to paper checkout bags. |
| Butchart | Bailey | For | They are already in the process of changing from biodegradable plastic to paper bags |
| Slegg Lumber | | For | They already use paper checkout bags |
| Fairway | Nicole (Manager) | For | Fairway has recently switched to paper bags and have found the response from the vast majority of their customers has been positive |
| Peninsula Co-op | | For | The Co-op will be switching to paper bags on March 3. They plan to charge 10 cents per bag |

Conclusion - No business owners or managers interviewed expressed opposition to the Single Use Check-out Plastic Bag ban or felt the ban would negatively impact their business

Central Saanich Community Association Plastic Bag Pan Task Force Recommendations to CSCA

Note – With Government of Canada announcement on the banning of Single-Use Plastics by 2021 the CSCA will instead write a letter to the Federal Government providing our support for banning Single Use Plastics. But here are the original recommendations of the task force prior to the Government of Canada announcement:

1. A representative from the Plastic Bag Ban task force should contact the Central Saanich Council members to discuss the potential ban and the findings from the interviews with local businesses.

2. A representative from the Plastic Bag Ban task force should make a presentation to Council and present a draft motion as follows:

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council directs the Municipal staff to prepare a draft bylaw, identical to that which has already been passed in Victoria, banning the sale of plastic checkout bags in the Municipality of Central Saanich

3. The CSCA will collaborate with the Surfrider Foundation in their presentation to the Council.