

Address removed

January 29, 2021

Loblaw Companies Limited
1 President's Choice Circle
Brampton, Ontario L6Y 5S5

Attention: LCL Customer Relations Centre

Dear Loblaw Companies:

I've been a frequent shopper at No Frills Supermarkets in South Etobicoke for a long time. I like the array of products, I can almost always find what I need, and the prices are competitive. But I've been going to No Frills less and less lately, choosing instead to shop in stores that offer unpackaged food, especially produce.

When fresh Ontario fruit comes into season, I really want those strawberries, blueberries, peaches, pears and plums but I can't bring myself to carry home that beautiful fruit encased in plastic. And perhaps more maddening are the instances where organic carrots are offered for sale packaged in plastic. People like me who want to purchase organic produce generally don't want to contribute to plastic pollution!

Being a Lakeshore resident, I see first hand the scourge plastic creates on the shores of Lake Ontario. And what I see is just what washes ashore. I understand that most of the plastic that enters the lake sinks to the bottom, suffocating the lake's floor and causing much harm to wildlife. Recycling isn't the answer as most plastic doesn't get recycled, it goes into landfill or gets incinerated. Not only that but, in the words of Daniel Hoornweg, a one-time waste management advisor to the World Bank, and an associate professor of energy systems at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa "By the time waste gets recycled, 95 per cent of the environmental damage has already occurred – in manufacturing, in oil extraction, in the poisoning of our rivers and air ... the output of carbon."

Fortunately, we don't need all that plastic packaging. There *are* alternatives—unwrapped fruits and vegetables, bottle deposit systems, refillable containers, etc. The Loblaw Corporation could begin its plastic reduction campaign by ceasing to sell one of the most prevalent types of plastic found during shoreline clean-up brand audits: beverage bottles for water and pop and insist that these beverages be packaged in glass, refillable bottles instead. (NB Labatt Breweries provides "bottled water" in aluminum cans for emergency situations).

Loblaw should use its considerable power as one of the biggest grocery chains in Canada to induce suppliers to deliver goods to stores **without** plastic packaging. Only with bold changes to our consumption habits will we be able to save our waterways from death by plastic. The health of this planet affects us all, Loblaw staff and customers alike.

Sincerely,

Name removed

cc Galen G. Weston, Executive Chairman and Director
cc Sarah R. Davis, President, Loblaw Companies Limited
cc Kevin Groh, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Communication
cc Jeff Leger, President, Shoppers Drug Mart