



Plastics P.O. Box 82811, 467 Parliament St, Toronto ON M5A 3Y2

Hon. Jeff Yurek
College Park, 5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

November 30, 2020

Dear Minister Yurek:

StopPlastics was encouraged to learn of the Ontario government's proposed changes to the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 to make producers responsible for operating blue box programs, but the proposed regulations should be amended in order to deal with the plastic pollution crisis in a much more significant way.

While we appreciate that the government is endeavouring to improve recycling programs by expanding the types of single use plastic allowed into the blue box, this approach conveys the wrong message as it leads consumers to believe that filling a recycling bin with plastic packaging is an effective end of use practice. Many plastics cannot be recycled, others can be recycled only once or twice and then become waste as does all plastic eventually. On the other hand, bans communicate the correct message to consumers: first refuse, then reduce, reuse, and only then recycle. Moreover, bans have the advantage of immediately changing behaviour.

With this in mind, we ask that the Government of Ontario use its legislative power to expand on the federal list to ban single use plastics in order to stem Ontario's contribution to the horrific onslaught of 8 million metric tons of plastics that enter our oceans on top of the estimated 150 million metric tons that currently circulate in our marine environments. Therefore, we are asking you to implement bans on plastic non-grocery store bags, produce bags, water bottles, food packaging, plastic cups and lids, coffee cups, cigarette butts, etc. all of which make up significant and deadly waste in our oceans and lakes, both at the surface and below.

In addition, it is widely reported that the plastics industry intends to ramp up plastic production in order to salvage a declining oil and gas industry. Indeed, we now witness the extravagant use of plastic to perform frivolous tasks such as wrapping boats and hay bales among other disturbing new industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) applications. Therefore, it is important that the changes to the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act include the biggest source of plastic pollution namely ICI.

StopPlastics looks forward to seeing 1) an expanded list of banned single use plastics and 2) the inclusion of the ICI sector in the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Donna-Marie Batty on behalf of the StopPlastics team

CC Jamelia Alleyne, Resource Recovery Policy Branch

PS This letter follows an email sent November 30, 2020

