

<<Insert date here>>

The Honourable Graham Letto
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Minister Letto,

The Council of <<insert name of municipality here>> strongly supports the provincial government taking a leadership role in protecting our marine environment by banning single-use plastic bags in Newfoundland and Labrador. Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador has been advocating for a provincial ban on single-use plastic bags since 2015 when the idea was first raised at our Annual General Meeting and approved. We have since had a second resolution approved in 2017. We have even had individual municipalities undertake bans. While we applaud these efforts, it is not feasible for all 276 municipalities to do so. Until we have a comprehensive solution, we don't have a real solution.

Single-use plastic "carry-out" bags pose a significant and preventable threat to our marine environment and are an unnecessary source of pollution here on land. These bags do not biodegrade, they simply break down into microplastics which remain in our soil and water. While they are recyclable, we know that in this province over 90% are simply landfilled – not reused or recycled. Significant investment is made every year to contain these bags within landfills and yet they remain an unsightly and common part of our viewscapes.

Cities, states, countries around the world are moving to deal with unnecessary plastics, and single-use plastic bags are a priority. Several US states have banned these bags already and more are planning to do so in the near future. Several Canadian cities have banned them or about to ban them. Municipalities in Nova Scotia are asking their provincial government to enact a province-wide ban. They've lost their only market for plastic bags as China no longer accepts waste plastic from other countries. The Retail Council of Canada has confirmed they prefer a province-wide ban over a municipality-by-municipality ban here in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Today we have an opportunity to work together to show residents that real change can happen in our province. To demonstrate the kind of leadership that really does improve our environment for the future. We stand ready to support you and to work with you in implementing a provincial ban on single-use plastic bags because it is the right solution for so many reasons.

Sincerely,

Mayor <<insert Mayor's name here>>