

Monday, June 20, 2022 | For Immediate Release

## Statement from Mayor Helps on Federal Announcement to ban harmful single-use plastics

VICTORIA, BC — Today Mayor Lisa Helps issued the following statement on the Federal government's announcement to ban harmful single-use plastics:

"Today marks a significant victory for our environment with the announcement of the elimination of Canada's most harmful single-use plastics. I applaud the federal government for continuing their work to beat plastic pollution.

"The single-use items included in this national-level ban have been shown to be the most prevalent in our environment and landfills, and all have more sustainable and reusable alternatives.

"The science is clear that plastic pollution threatens our oceans and shorelines. Every day in Victoria, we throw away 75,000 single-use items, a habit we need to stop.

"The City of Victoria was the first municipality in Canada to take action to reduce single-use items with our Checkout Bag Bylaw, and we are continuing to take steps that will align with these new federal actions. This week, the City is holding consultation sessions with businesses to help us craft a new single-use item bylaw that aims to shift our community to the regular use of reusable alternatives from harmful single-use plastics and other disposable items.

"Tackling single-use items and packaging waste is a priority of Zero Waste Victoria, the City's [plan](#) to reduce all waste by 50% by 2040 and build a circular economy where nothing is wasted.

"Action by all levels of government, businesses and individuals working together is required to get us to this goal. We encourage our food service business owners to attend our remaining two engagement sessions to provide input on the City's proposed single-use item regulations, which will complement these federal actions." Learn more at [www.victoria.ca/reducesingleuse](http://www.victoria.ca/reducesingleuse).

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### For More Information:

Bill Eisenhauer  
Head of Engagement, City of Victoria  
250.858.1061 | [beisenhauer@victoria.ca](mailto:beisenhauer@victoria.ca)