

Plastic Bag Reduction Consultation

October, 2017

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Consultations

- Information session by the City in Spring 2017
- Round table hosted by Chamber and Retail Council of Canada in Summer 2017
- Follow up consultation by the City in Fall 2017

6 Main Messages

- 1. Agreement that reducing plastic bag use is important for the environment and aligns with public expectations.**

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6 Main Messages

2. Retailers have taken action:

- Huge reduction by asking if bag is needed
- Many offer reusable bags
- Many charge for single use bags
- Many offer bag return for recycling

6 Main Messages

3. Education and information for consumers is critical.

The transaction between retailers and their customers at the check-out counter can't be the only place where we try to change consumer behaviour.

6 Main Messages

- 4. This needs to be a regional strategy so it has more impact and is manageable for business.**

Each of 13 municipalities doing its own thing is another nightmare for business trying to function in this region

6 Main Messages

5. People need to carry things

and sometimes need bags for privacy, protection, sanitation, help with volume or unplanned purchases

or because they are visitors.

6 Main Messages

6. There is no ideal choice:

- No bags v. bags
- Paper v. plastic
- Reusable v. single use
- Biodegradable plastic v. non-biodegradable

4 Requests on Behalf of Retailers

1. One Year Phase in Period

- To allow for public education
- To avoid bag inventories becoming useless garbage
- To allow business to further shift to alternatives

4 Requests on Behalf of Retailers

2. Make it Regional

- To have more impact
- To reduce consumer confusion
- To help businesses to cope if they operate regionally
- To ensure downtown businesses don't bear all the burden

4 Requests on Behalf of Retailers

3. Don't Make Retailers the Meat in the Sandwich

- They can't be the only ones educating consumers and enforcing bag regulations
- Shopping in a store can not become such a hassle that on-line shopping is preferred

4 Requests on Behalf of Retailers

4. The City will only be able to reduce bag use by working with retailers

- Make sure whatever you do works for them and not against them.

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