

AGENDA INFORMATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular Meeting	Date: <u>May 6, 2019</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Date: _____

_____ Dept. Manager	_____ GM/ Director	_____ CAO
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## The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

April 24, 2019  
File:

**AUTHOR:** Megan Curren

**SUBJECT:** Taking Action to Reduce Single-Use Items

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT council support taking action at a municipal level to regulate single-use items (specific items to be recommended by staff);

AND that staff report back to council within 90 days with the costs to create and enforce policy, timeframe, and process (engagement with community, business and stakeholder groups), to regulate single-use items;

AND that staff update council on current action at the regional, provincial and federal level to reduce and regulate single-use items.

**REASON FOR REPORT:**

Single-use items increase waste and create a negative financial and environmental impact to municipal sewers, storm drains, streets, parks, beaches and waterways.

**ANALYSIS:**

UBCM resolutions asking for provincial support on single-use have been ongoing for more than a decade. To date there has been no definitive policy to reduce or regulate single-use items on a regional, provincial or federal level. Policy delays are compounding the single-use/plastic crisis.

While the District of North Vancouver can and should continue to advocate for single-use regulatory policy at the regional, provincial and federal level, we can take immediate action by regulating the distribution of single-use.

A strategy that includes the entire North Shore would be most impactful and staff is directed to invite Squamish Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, the District of West Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver to participate in a North Shore wide strategy.

Municipal governments throughout BC are taking action on single-use at a local level. As well, single-use policies to address the crisis have been implemented around the world.

Recent action taken on a local government level:

- Victoria, BC banned plastic shopping bags (2018)
- Montreal banned plastic shopping bags (2018)
- Squamish voted to ban plastic straws and plastic shopping bags (2019)
- Salmon Arm voted to ban plastic shopping bags (2018)
- Qualicum Beach voted to ban plastic shopping bags and plastic straws (2019)
- Tofino voted to ban plastic shopping bags and plastic straws (2019)
- Vancouver voted to ban multiple single-use items (2018)

Action taken elsewhere:

- The European Parliament recently voted to ban 10 single-use plastic items by 2021
- California, Hawaii, New York have state-wide plastic bag bans
- 14 countries in Africa have banned plastic bags
- New Zealand banned plastic bags (2018)
- Prince Edward Island's plastic bag ban will take effect July 2019
- San Francisco, Seattle and Portland began regulating single-use packaging more than a decade ago
- Peru is restricting carry-in single-use plastics in 76 natural & cultural protected areas (2019)

**Conclusion:**

In response to 2018's UBCM resolution B126, the Province replied:

"The Ministry commends the actions taken by local governments to develop single-use item strategies and other related initiatives to reduce plastic in the environment."

2018 UBCM Resolution B126 Provincial Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy:

"Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia develop a provincial Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy as part of a provincial Zero Waste Strategy, which would include but not necessarily be limited to plastic and paper shopping bags, polystyrene foam cups and polystyrene foam containers, other hot and cold drink cups and take-out containers, straws and utensils, but would exclude all single use items needed for medical use or for people with disabilities."

Through the *Community Charter*, "A council may, by bylaw, regulate in relation to business."

The District of North Vancouver should follow the lead of many other municipalities who have taken action locally to regulate single-use items.

Respectfully submitted,



Megan Curren  
Councillor

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April 24, 2019

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<input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk's Office	_____	<b>External Agencies:</b>	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Development Engineering	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> NS Health	_____
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