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Personalized to retailer mailing address merge:

New City Bylaw – Plastic Retail Shopping Bags

The City of Toronto has a goal of diverting 70% of waste from landfill. To reduce the volume of plastic bags and encourage the use of reusable bags/bins, retailers in the City of Toronto will be required to charge a minimum of 5 cents per plastic bag requested by the customer at checkout, effective June 1, 2009. The requirements are covered under the City's new **Municipal Code Chapter 604, Packaging bylaw** approved by Toronto City Council at its March 31, 2009 meeting. The approved bylaw can be read on the City's website at: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/bylaws/2009/law0356.pdf>

IMPORTANT: If you represent a head office, please forward this information package to your individual retail outlets. If you are not in the retail business, please disregard this information package.

**Here's how the bylaw affects Toronto retailers:
Effective June 1, 2009:**

- Retailers must charge a minimum of five cents for each plastic retail shopping bag requested by the customer to carry out their purchases or if plastic retail shopping bags are not offered, retailers must provide a free alternative (i.e., paper bag, cardboard box).
- Prominent signs must be posted at the checkout to let customers know about the City's requirement to charge customers at the point-of-sale for each plastic retail shopping bag requested.
- The plastic retail shopping bag charge, detailing the number of bags used by the customer and the total amount charged, must be recorded on the receipt (if one is issued).
- Retailers must accept the use of any reusable containers (i.e., cloth bags, bins, boxes) brought in by customers to transport their purchases, in lieu of plastic retail shopping bags.

Retailers are entitled to keep the money received from the plastic bag charge, the money is not remitted to the City of Toronto. While the City does not stipulate what retailers should do with this money, it does support reinvesting the funds in local environmental or community-based initiatives.

The City of Toronto has produced official signs regarding the plastic shopping bag charge in three different size formats (postcard – 3 ½ in. wide by 6 ¾ in. tall; sticker - 4 in. by 5 in.; poster – 8.5 in. by 11 in.), which are available to retailers free-of-charge. Two postcard signs are included in your package. Additional signs in each of the formats are available from the City at the locations listed below and possibly through your industry association, should you be a member of one. Print quality graphic files of the signs are also available on the City's website www.toronto.ca/5centbag and may be downloaded and printed by retailers as required.

(more)

City locations to pick up additional signs (at lobby information desk)

- Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W., Main floor, Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
- Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Dr., Main floor, Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
- North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St., Main floor, Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
- East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Ave., Main floor, Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
- Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall, Main floor, Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Place signs in a prominent place at checkout, easily visible to customers.

For those retailers using their own signs, the City requires you to have, at minimum, one sign prominently posted within your store that clearly features the full name of the bylaw: **The City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 604, Packaging.**

Also included in the bylaw (Section 4 of Chapter 604), effective June 1, 2010:

- Retailers will be prohibited from offering or providing to customers plastic bags that are incompatible with Toronto's recycling program (e.g., biodegradable plastic bags, compostable plastic bags or plastic bags with metal detailing or grommets, rope or hard plastic handles)

Staff assigned to the City's Municipal Licensing and Standards division will be responsible for the education and enforcement of this bylaw.

If you require any additional information, please visit the City's website at www.toronto.ca/5centbag Included on the website is a Question and Answer section. If you still have outstanding questions, call 416-338-2010 or email accesstoronto@toronto.ca

We also invite you to become acquainted with the various measures Toronto is undertaking to assist businesses as identified in the enclosed brochure *Toronto Helps Business*.

Sincerely,



Geoff Rathbone
General Manager
Solid Waste Management Services



Michael Williams
General Manager
Economic Development, Culture & Tourism

Attachments (two postcard signs & brochure)

對多倫多市府新的塑膠購物袋附例有任何疑問嗎？

Avete domande sul nuovo regolamento municipale di Toronto sui sacchetti di plastica?

¿Tiene preguntas acerca de la nueva ordenanza municipal de Toronto sobre las bolsas de compras de plástico?

May tanong tungkol sa bagong tuntunin ng Toronto hinggil sa *plastic shopping bag*?

Tem perguntas a fazer acerca do novo regulamento municipal sobre o saco de plástico das compras?

Вопросы о новом распоряжении городских властей Торонто о пластиковых пакетах для покупок?

Ερωτήσεις περί του νέου νόμου του Δήμου του Τορόντο για τις πλαστικές σακούλες για τα ψώνια

آیا سوالات در باره قانون شهری جدید در مورد خریدن کیسه های پلاستیکی دارید؟

ٹورانٹو کے نئے پلاسٹک شاپنگ بیگ بائی لاء کے بارے میں سوالات ہیں؟

ரொறன்ரோவின் புதிய பிளாஸ்டிக் கொள்வனவுப் பை உபவிதி பற்றிய வினாக்கள்?

टोरन्टो के नये प्लास्टिक शॉपिंग बैग बायन्ला के बारे में कोई सवाल?

Call 416-338-2010 www.toronto.ca/5centbag