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The Honourable Jim Bradley
Minister of the Environment
77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

Dear Minister Bradley,

Re: Cigarette Butt Litter Reduction in the City of Toronto

The City of Toronto prides itself on being a clean city and has seen a reduction in litter over the last several years, yet litter, particularly cigarette butts, remains an area of concern. A 2012 litter audit found that the percentage of cigarette butts more than doubled, making cigarette butts the largest component of small litter at 31%.

Littered cigarette butts are problematic as they contain toxic substances that adversely affect wildlife, fish and the environment as well public health and quality of life. In an effort to reduce these adverse effects, the City of Toronto devotes significant time and money to removing cigarette butts from public spaces. It is estimated that the City of Toronto spends annually hundreds of thousands of dollars for the cleanup and removal of cigarette butt litter.

The City of Toronto has many initiatives to discourage cigarette butt littering including:

- Public promotion and education campaigns;
- Annual spring litter cleanup events that involve the participation of thousands of City of Toronto staff, residents, community groups, school and businesses;
- Street litter bins with cigarette butt receptacles and a pilot project of adding decals to increase visibility; and
- Increasing the number of litter bins (from 6,000 to over 12,000) over the next 14 years; and
- Establishment of an Inter-Divisional Working Group to improve coordination between divisions and strengthen existing anti-litter initiatives.



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Littering, which includes improper disposal of a cigarette butt, in the City of Toronto is a ticketable offence under Municipal Chapter Code 548 – Littering and Dumping Refuse (By-law 1066-2009) and carries a fine of up to \$365. However, there are challenges in enforcing and issuing fines for butt littering.

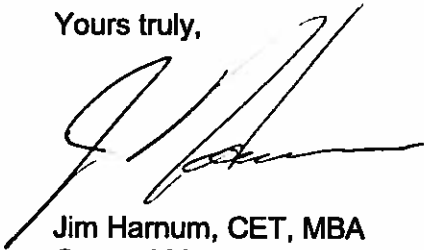
All of the above noted current initiatives and planned strategies to reduce cigarette butt litter require financial investments by the City of Toronto. This is in addition to the City of Toronto's ongoing costs of removing cigarette butt litter and emptying cigarette butt receptacles in street litter bins.

In November 20, 2013, the City of Toronto, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, reviewed Solid Waste Management Services litter reduction initiatives and strategies to specifically target the reduction of cigarette butt litter. As part of this review, the Committee requested that the Solid Waste Management Services explore the feasibility of the provincial government implementing a fee for cigarette manufacturers to cover the costs of cigarette butt cleanup.

In accordance with the November 20, 2013, City of Toronto, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee Report PW27.6 – Strategy to Reduce Litter in the City of Toronto, we ask that you consider under the *Waste Diversion Act, 2002*, or any other related legislation, the introduction of steward fees for cigarette producers/manufacturers/first importers to cover the costs of cigarette butt management, including public education, signage, cleanup and disposal.

We look forward to receiving a prompt response and to working with your Ministry to develop an innovative and effective solution.

Yours truly,



Jim Harnum, CET, MBA
General Manager
Solid Waste Management Services

JM/vs B

Copy to: Vincent Sferrazza, Director, Policy, Planning & Support, Solid Waste Management Services
Robert Orpin, Director, Solid Waste Collections, Solid Waste Management Services
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