

Marilyn Toft - PLastic Bag Fee Redirect and Bag Motion for June 6/7 Council meeting

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From: "Joe Hruska" <jhruska@cogeco.ca>
To: <clerk@toronto.ca>
Date: 6/1/2012 11:12 AM
Subject: PLastic Bag Fee Redirect and Bag Motion for June 6/7 Council meeting
Attachments: VOTE TO RESCIND THE BAG FEE Myths vs Facts F.pdf

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Dear Ms. Toft,

Attached is information for distribution to the Mayor & Council. If you have any questions please call me at 416-930-1796.

Regards,

Joe Hruska

**Canadian Plastics Industry Association
Plastics Post-Use Recovery - Consultant**

Intelligent Plastics, learn more at: <http://www.plastics.ca/IntelligentPlastics/index.php>

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VOTE TO RESCIND THE BAG FEE BY-LAW – HERE’S WHY

MYTHS VERSUS THE FACTS

MYTH	FACT
<u>MYTH: The bag is only 5 cents. Why are we worrying about it?</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It’s not just 5 cents, but a <u>\$5 MILLION</u> problem for residents per year. • And it is an attack on working families who have seen food costs increase 3.7% over the past year
<u>MYTH: The City has saved taxpayers \$100,000 in landfill costs because of the bag fee.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not true, taxpayers have paid \$5 million to save that \$100,000; albeit it did not go into City coffers.
<u>MYTH: The bag fee by-law has diverted millions of bags from landfill.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is more plastic, not less going to landfill. • While the number of bags has been reduced, the amount of plastic being consumed or purchased by residents has increased +17%. • Why? Because residents use plastic bags for their garbage. Residents have had to purchase heavier kitchen catchers as a substitute and kitchen catchers contain 85% more plastic. • (Data Sources: Stewardship Ontario Carry Out Bag Study 2005 & Ireland 21% Increase in Plastic Consumption Her Majesty’s Customs Service)
<u>MYTH: Plastic shopping bags are an environmental problem.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOT TRUE. Bags are not environmental problem in the City of Toronto. • Toronto has built a state-of-the-art reuse and recycling system for plastic shopping bags. • 82% of the bags distributed in the City of Toronto are reused or recycled and never end up in landfill. • This means very few bags end up in landfill. • (Data Sources: Stewardship Ontario Carry out Bag Study 2005)
<u>MYTH: Plastic bags are a landfill problem.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOT TRUE. BAGS HAVE NEVER BEEN A LANDFILL PROBLEM – before or after the fee. Bags are less than 0.8% of landfill. • (Source: City of Toronto Waste Data &

	Stewardship Ontario 2006 Carry Out Bag Audit)
<u>MYTH: Plastic bags are a litter problem.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOT TRUE. Plastic bags represent only 13/100's of 1% of Toronto litter • Source: Toronto 2006 Litter Study)
<u>MYTH: Plastic bags are not reused.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOT TRUE. 70% of the bags distributed in Toronto are reused for the green bin and other used. • (Source: City of Toronto Waste Data & Stewardship Ontario 2006 Carry Out Bag Audit)
<u>MYTH: Plastic bags are not recycled.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOT TRUE. The bag recycling rate in Toronto is 40%. • (Source: Provincial Bag Study 2010) • Plastic bags are recycled in the blue bin and sent to EFS in Elmira to be recycled and then remanufactured into water pipes, outdoor furniture, and plastic wood. • The Toronto Western Beaches Boardwalk is made from 32 million plastic bags recycled in the City of Toronto! Made from plastic wood, it requires almost no upkeep, is pest resistant, and will last more than 50 years.
<u>MYTH: The five cent bags are not produced in Canada, But China.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOT TRUE: 90% of the bags are made right here in Ontario employing 11,000 Ontarians; 5,000 in Toronto. • (Source: Provincial Government, Legislative Library)
<u>MYTH: The bag fee has changed consumer behaviour and if I vote to rescind, people will stop using reusable bags.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOT TRUE. The bag has done its job. It has converted a majority of residents. • Those who have converted will stay converted. Those who have not converted after 3 years, never will.

VOTE TO RESCIND THE BAG FEE BY-LAW