Thank you for the enlightening meeting last month. I look forward to the next session. In anticipation, I thought I would commit a few thoughts to paper.

I was pleased to see that the imposition of the 5 cent fee and public awareness had the effect of reducing waste by about 53%. I suspect that the majority of this came from supermarkets and large chain stores such as Home Depot & Walmart. A total ban would likely result in a modest increase in this percentage but would never eliminate them entirely. People would still need plastic bags for garbage & food waste until a more biodegradable solution can be found. Furthermore it would be impossible for by-law officers to enforce a ban on small merchants due to the sheer number of establishments.

Small retailers which TABIA represents do not account for a significant share of the savings recorded, and while I might stand corrected a goodly percentage have not charged for bags. I of course have no data to support this statement.

We have three broad categories of small retailers

- 1. Small businesses selling one off items, such as dresses, suits, bridal gowns, other apparel and other small items. Re-usable bags for these items are not a viable option for the purchaser, nor are they economically viable for the retailer. Furthermore these retailers are quite often pressured for a 'discount', and the waiving of a fee would be a partial way to satisfy this demand.
- 2. Take- out food establishments. Re-usable bags would not be a solution for take -out food stores, nor would paper bags for obvious reasons.
- 3. Variety stores, selling reasonably large volumes of small items, could possibly substitute paper for plastic bags.

On reflection, I believe the best alternative to be the suggestion that the first bag be free (as suggested by one of the participants) and that subsequent bags be subject to a fee significantly higher than 5 cents.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Gillan
on behalf of TABIA.