

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Wednesday, June 19, 2013
TO: Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
RE: **Reduction, Reuse and Recycling of Single-Use Drink Cups**

It is estimated that 1 million single-use hot drink cups are used in Toronto each day. Many of these cups could end up in landfill as they are currently not compatible with the City's multi-material recycling program due primarily to sorting and marketing challenges associated with the cups. There are also similar challenges associated with recycling single-use cold drink cups. Hot and cold drink cups also contribute to litter on City streets. Some major hot drink chains encourage source reduction by providing customers with a price discount to use a refillable mug; however, others do not offer such an incentive.

More responsibility should be on the retailers and producers of hot and cold drink cups to make their packaging compatible with municipal recycling programs and to offer financial incentives to customers to encourage reuse. Further study on this issue is needed. It is recommended that the General Manager of Solid Waste Management Services report back to Public Works and Infrastructure Committee in early 2014 on a strategy for the reduction, reuse and recycling of single-use hot and cold drink cups.

Sincerely,



Anthony Perruzza
City of Toronto Councillor