

July 13, 2018

PW31.10 Options to Address Single-Use Items, Misleading Advertising, and Textile Waste in the City of Toronto

The Toronto Youth Cabinet, the City's official youth advisory body, would like to emphasize our support for PW31.10 Options to Address Single-Use Items, Misleading Advertising, and Textile Waste in the City of Toronto.

We ask that City Council vote in favour of PW31.10 at their July council meeting, but we would also ask that they strongly consider banning single-use plastic items like plastic bags, black plastic containers, plastic straws and utensils, and foam take-out containers and cups. In any of these cases, accessibility needs should be accommodated.

There are alternatives already available to single-use plastics such as bamboo straws and paper bags. A ban on single-use plastics could also provide an opportunity for businesses to incentivize the use of environmentally friendly options by their customers.

Single-use plastics have a profoundly negative effect on the health and futures of children and youth, not only in our city, but also in Canada and around the world. According to [Environmental Defence](#), **Canada only recycles 11% of its plastic waste and Canadians alone throw out 57 million plastic straws a day; 80% of litter in the Great Lakes region is plastic.** It's not too late to make a difference – small actions to reduce plastic waste can have great impacts.

When it comes to the regulation of single-use plastics, Toronto still lags behind several other cities around the world. Among many others, Malibu has moved to [ban single-use straws, utensils and stirrers](#); [Boston has banned plastic bags](#); and Vancouver will be the first Canadian city to [ban plastic straws and foam take-out containers and cups](#). Local environmental organizations like the Toronto Environmental Alliance have been calling for the reinstatement of the plastic bag ban that was supposed to come into effect in 2013. It's time for Toronto to follow suit and take the strong action that is needed to combat plastic waste.

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Created by City Council in 1998, the Toronto Youth Cabinet is a youth-led advocacy organization and the official youth advisory body of City of Toronto. Through outreach, engagement and training, the TYC provides a critical gathering place for diverse young people interested in making change within a municipal governance context.