

## Single-use and takeaway items jurisdictional scan

Table 1 below is a sample of single-use and takeaway items restrictions in Canada. It is ordered alphabetically and by country, then provinces, then municipalities. The information is based on information found on government websites as of January 18, 2021.

### Key Points:

- Of the 10 provinces and three territories in Canada, only three (23%) have **province-wide regulations**, of which all three are **plastic bag bans**.
- Of the 12 municipalities sampled, seven municipalities have restricted or are planning to restrict **only single-use bags**.
- Of the 16 jurisdictions sampled:
  - Nine jurisdictions (44%) have either **proposed or implemented restrictions** since the COVID-19 pandemic.
    - Two of these nine jurisdictions **have delayed the enforcement** of the restrictions.
  - Five jurisdictions (31%) **have suspended restrictions, or have delayed proposing or implementing restrictions** that were in a development stage prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Two jurisdictions (13%) have **not changed restrictions** that were implemented prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Table 1: Single Use Reduction Measures / Actions Taken in Other Canadian Jurisdictions**

Jurisdiction	Item(s)	Strategy prior to COVID-19 and the Government of Canada's proposed strategy	Changes to strategy since COVID-19 and the Government of Canada's proposed strategy
Canada <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bags</li> <li>• Plastic cutlery</li> <li>• Plastic straws</li> <li>• Plastic stir sticks</li> <li>• Plastic six-pack rings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Released the Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste (November 2018)</li> <li>• Released the Draft science assessment of plastic pollution (January 2020)</li> </ul>	Released the Discussion Paper: A proposed integrated management approach to plastic products to prevent waste and pollution to <b>advance</b> the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/canadian-environmental-protection-act-registry/plastics-proposed-integrated-management-approach.html>

Jurisdiction	Item(s)	Strategy prior to COVID-19 and the Government of Canada's proposed strategy	Changes to strategy since COVID-19 and the Government of Canada's proposed strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food service ware made from problematic plastics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signed the Oceans Plastic Charter (March 2021)</li> </ul>	Plan for regulation to be released December 2021
Newfoundland and Labrador <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bags</li> </ul>	Started <b>drafting</b> regulations in 2019	<b>Implemented</b> July 1, 2020
Nova Scotia <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bags</li> </ul>	<b>Passed</b> the <i>Plastic Bags Reduction Act</i> in 2019	Ban <b>implemented</b> October 30, 2020
Prince Edward Island <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bags</li> </ul>	<b>Banned</b> July 1, 2019	No Changes
Calgary, Alberta <sup>5</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic and paper shopping bags</li> <li>• Take-out food and beverage containers</li> <li>• Plastic straws</li> <li>• Plastic utensils and cups</li> <li>• Paper coffee and fountain drink cups</li> <li>• Plastic drink lids</li> <li>• Coffee stirrers</li> <li>• Coffee stoppers</li> <li>• Expanded polystyrene (foam) cups and containers</li> </ul>	Began the <b>development</b> of the Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy in 2018	<b>Delayed</b>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/annualregs/2020/nr200001.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://novascotia.ca/single-use-plastic-bag-ban/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/environment-water-and-climate-change/plastic-bag-reduction>

<sup>5</sup> <https://engage.calgary.ca/single-use>

Jurisdiction	Item(s)	Strategy prior to COVID-19 and the Government of Canada's proposed strategy	Changes to strategy since COVID-19 and the Government of Canada's proposed strategy
Dawson City, Yukon Territory <sup>6</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bag</li> <li>• Plastic drinking straw</li> <li>• Plastic utensils</li> <li>• Plastic or expanded polystyrene (foam) take out containers or cups</li> <li>• Paper bags</li> </ul>	<b>Drafted</b> the bylaw beginning in 2019	Ban (plastic Items) and Ask First/By Request (paper bags) <b>implemented</b> April 22, 2020
Fort Francis, ON <sup>7</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded polystyrene (foam) cups and containers</li> <li>• Plastic bags</li> <li>• Plastic straws</li> <li>• Plastic stir sticks</li> </ul>	As of January 1, 2020: <b>Banned</b> the distribution of plastic bags, expanded polystyrene (foam) containers and cups, and stir sticks  Plastic straws are available <b>By Request</b> only	Enforcement <b>Delayed</b> until January 1, 2022
Moncton, Dieppe and Riverview, New Brunswick <sup>8</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bags</li> <li>• Paper bags</li> </ul>	Targeted July 1, 2020 to <b>ban</b> plastic bags and require fees for paper bags	<b>Implemented</b> October 1, 2020
Montreal, Quebec <sup>9</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bags less than 50 microns</li> </ul>	<b>Banned</b> in 2018	No Changes

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cityofdawson.ca/Home/DownloadDocument?docId=847a340b-faac-4d3d-ab3a-7d6811af0ee3>

<sup>7</sup> <https://fortfrances.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/131?preview=111477>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.mybagplan.ca/>

<sup>9</sup> [https://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?\\_pageid=7418,142803238&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](https://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=7418,142803238&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

Jurisdiction	Item(s)	Strategy prior to COVID-19 and the Government of Canada's proposed strategy	Changes to strategy since COVID-19 and the Government of Canada's proposed strategy
Nanaimo, British Columbia <sup>10</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic bags</li> </ul>	Began <b>development</b> of the bylaw in 2018	<b>Submitted request for approval</b> from the Government of British Columbia in October 2020 to ban item
Regina, Saskatchewan <sup>11</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic bags</li> </ul>	Began <b>drafting</b> report in 2019	Ban <b>approved</b> , but implementation <b>delayed</b> until August 1, 2021 due to COVID-19
Richmond, BC <sup>12</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded polystyrene (foam) containers</li> <li>Plastic straws</li> <li>Checkout bags</li> </ul>	The Province of BC has <b>approved</b> the City's Bylaw to ban the items.	<b>Delayed</b>
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario <sup>13</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic bags</li> </ul>	Began <b>drafting</b> report in January 2020	<b>Delayed</b>
Vancouver, British Columbia <sup>14</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic and paper bags</li> <li>Disposable utensils</li> <li>Disposable cups</li> <li>Plastic straws</li> <li>Expanded polystyrene (foam) cups and takeout containers</li> </ul>	<b>Implemented</b> ban January 1, 2020 (Expanded polystyrene [foam] cups and takeout containers)	<b>Implemented</b> April 22, 2020 (plastic straws ban, disposable utensils ask first / by request)  <b>Delayed</b> until January 1, 2022 (plastic bag ban, paper bag fee, disposable cup fee) due to COVID-19
Victoria, British Columbia <sup>15</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic bags</li> </ul>	Originally <b>banned</b> in 2018 but <b>challenged</b> in court and the ban	<b>Approved</b> ban on October 15, 2020 to be implemented on April 15, 2021

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.nanaimo.ca/your-government/projects/projects-detail/single-use-checkout-bags>

<sup>11</sup> <http://reginask.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileView.aspx?Type=12&ID=2639>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.richmond.ca/services/recycling/singleuseplastic/SingleUseBylawOverview.htm>

<sup>13</sup> [https://saultstemarie.ca/Cityweb/media/City-Clerk/Council-Agendas/2020/2020\\_06\\_08\\_Agenda.pdf?ext=.pdf](https://saultstemarie.ca/Cityweb/media/City-Clerk/Council-Agendas/2020/2020_06_08_Agenda.pdf?ext=.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <https://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/single-use-items.aspx>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/climate-change/waste-reduction/single-use-plastic-bags.html>

Jurisdiction	Item(s)	Strategy prior to COVID-19 and the Government of Canada's proposed strategy	Changes to strategy since COVID-19 and the Government of Canada's proposed strategy
		was rescinded. Province of BC later <b>approved</b> the bylaw in March 2020	
Wood Buffalo, Alberta <sup>16</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bags</li> </ul>	<b>Implemented</b> ban October 2012	<b>Suspended</b> ban due to COVID-19

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.rmwb.ca/en/news/council-defers-municipal-utility-payments.aspx>

Table 2 below is a sample of single-use and takeaway items restrictions from international jurisdictions as of January 18, 2021.

**Table 2: Actions Taken in Other International Jurisdictions**

Jurisdiction	Item(s)	Strategy prior to COVID-19	Changes to strategy since COVID-19
European Union <sup>17</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic cutlery</li> <li>• Plastic plates</li> <li>• Plastic straws</li> <li>• Plastic cotton bud sticks</li> <li>• Plastic balloon sticks</li> <li>• Oxo-degradable plastics and food containers and expanded polystyrene (foam) cups</li> </ul>	<b>Approved</b> directive to ban items by 2021	<b>Approved</b> directive to ban items by 2021
California, USA <sup>18</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bags</li> <li>• Paper bags</li> </ul>	<b>Implemented</b> ban on plastic bags and fee on paper bags in November 2016	Ban was <b>suspended</b> for 60 days between April and June 2020 due to COVID-19. The Ban is currently in effect
New York State, USA <sup>19</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bags</li> <li>• Paper bags</li> <li>• Expanded polystyrene (foam)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Implemented</b> ban on plastic bags and fee on paper bags on March 1, 2020</p> <p>Expanded polystyrene (foam) ban in development</p>	<p>Enforcement is currently <b>in effect</b>, but was previously delayed until October 2020 due to COVID-19 and a lawsuit by the plastics industry.</p> <p><b>Approved</b> Expanded polystyrene (foam) ban to take effect January 1, 2022</p>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190321IPR32111/parliament-seals-ban-on-throwaway-plastics-by-2021>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/N-54-20-COVID-19-text-4.22.20.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/121415.html>

Jurisdiction	Item(s)	Strategy prior to COVID-19	Changes to strategy since COVID-19
Mexico City, Mexico <sup>20</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bags</li> <li>• Plastic utensils</li> <li>• Plastic straws</li> <li>• Plastic food containers</li> <li>• Plastic cotton buds</li> <li>• Plastic cups</li> </ul>	<p><b>Implemented</b> plastic bag ban on January 1, 2020</p> <p>Banning of other items in development</p>	<p><b>Implemented</b> ban on all items effective January 1, 2021</p>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.sedema.cdmx.gob.mx/comunicacion/nota/inicia-hoy-segunda-etapa-de-la-prohibicion-de-plasticos-desechables-de-un-solo-uso-en-la-ciudad-de-mexico>

Table 3 below is a sample of single-use and takeaway items restrictions from private companies as of January 18, 2021.

**Table 3: Actions Taken by Private Companies**

<b>Company (Jurisdiction)</b>	<b>Item(s)</b>	<b>Strategy prior to COVID-19</b>	<b>Changes to strategy since COVID-19</b>
Sobeys Inc. (Canada) <sup>21</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic bags</li> </ul>	<b>Stopped</b> distributing plastic bags in stores	No changes
Loblaw Companies Limited (Canada) <sup>22</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic bags</li> </ul>	<b>Implemented</b> fee in 2009	<b>Suspended</b> March 19, 2020 due to COVID-19
Starbucks (Canada) <sup>23</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coffee cups</li> </ul>	<b>Implemented</b> discount for reusable cups	<b>Suspended</b> the acceptance of reusable cups due to COVID-19
Tim Horton's (Toronto) <sup>24</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cups</li> <li>Food packaging</li> </ul>	<b>Implemented</b> discount for reusable cups	<p><b>Suspended</b> the acceptance of reusable cups due to COVID-19</p> <p><b>Planning</b> to pilot deposit program for reusable cups and food packaging in 2021</p>
McDonald's (United Kingdom) <sup>25</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cups</li> <li>Food packaging</li> </ul>	N/A	<b>Planning</b> to pilot program for reusable cups and food packaging in 2021

<sup>21</sup> <https://corporate.sobeys.com/corporate-responsibility/plastic-packaging/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.pcoptimum.ca/galen-updates>

<sup>23</sup> <https://stories.starbucks.com/press/2020/managing-courageously-through-the-dynamics-of-covid-19/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.rbi.com/English/sustainability/packaging-and-recycling/default.aspx>

<sup>25</sup> <https://corporate.mcdonalds.com/corpmcd/our-purpose-and-impact/our-planet/packaging-and-waste.html>