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**To:** [Infrastructure and Environment](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor Tory](#); [contact@stopplastics.ca](mailto:contact@stopplastics.ca)  
**Subject:** Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy – Stage 1 staff report  
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Dear Infrastructure and Environment Committee

The suggestion put forward by Solid Waste Services to implement a Voluntary Measures Program makes engaged Torontonians feel as insubstantial as a plastic bag blowing in the wind!

Now is the time to take charge of single-use plastic by applying strong means such as bans. Not only is there very strong public support for restrictions of single-use and take-away items, but the city's Reduction Strategy clearly states that its primary goal is to reduce the use and disposal of these articles. This isn't going to be accomplished voluntarily so legislation is required.

Both the city and federal governments have acknowledged very high environmental and disposal costs associated with plastic, but seem unable to impose meaningful solutions. Indeed, both levels of government have unveiled plans that are woefully inadequate. We suggest that the city use its powers to ban **ALL** single use plastic from production and use. Businesses that produce plastic could be charged additional fees that would make their product too expensive or at least equal to the cost of other materials. The federal government, of course, should impose similar bans and continue with its strategy to list plastic as a toxic substance. Given that a federal election is imminent, we believe Toronto should act irrespective of the federal government's plans.

We appreciate that legislated change must be introduced gradually so that businesses have time to adjust and, in fact, some are already managing to do this. Implementing bans now, with clear compliance time limits, would give others the time they'd need to prepare. Continuing to kick the plastic water bottle down the road can only lead to further harm to an already very damaged planet.

Infrastructure and Environment Committee, please insist on a better plan to enact immediate restrictions on single use plastic.

Sincerely,

Donna-Marie Batty for StopPlastics