

November 28, 2023

**TO:** City of Toronto Infrastructure and Environment Committee

**RE:** Update and Action Plan on the Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy, including the Circular Food Innovators Fund

**AGENDA ITEM:** IE9.3

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. through 10. from the staff report from the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services, dated November 15, 2023

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

The Waste Reduction Group of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA) supports the recommendations contained in the subject staff report. Further, it urges both the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and City Council to move quickly and decisively to approve a strong *Single-Use Reduction Strategy* that reduces single-use plastics, avoids unnecessary waste, and aids both the community and small businesses in the shift to zero-waste reusable options. Such a strategy should include:

- requiring businesses to ask-first before giving out bags, accessories, and cups;
- ensuring customers can bring their own clean, reusable cups and bags to avoid waste;
- preventing restaurants from using disposable cups and dishes for dine-in and requiring reusable cups and dishes at all restaurants, and at events and stadiums.

The SLNA Waste Reduction Group also encourages the City to act immediately to ban single-use plastic items like black plastic, foam containers and cups, and plastic bags which are not recyclable. Other cities have taken action to address these plastics which are among the most prevalent litter items, most often end up in landfill (often contaminating otherwise recyclable materials) and are harmful to the environment.

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association's Waste Reduction Group (WRG) is an ad-hoc committee of the Association, founded in 2019, with the goal of improving the effectiveness of waste reduction efforts in the neighbourhood. The SLNA-WRG's mission includes:

- Increasing community awareness of environmental concerns and the steps that can be taken by individuals, residential buildings and local businesses to address these issues;
- Encouraging community members to rethink their consumption and disposal habits;
- Redirecting usable and recyclable materials away from landfill.

An example of the WRG's growing impact – *St. Lawrence Reduces* is an increasingly successful program developed by the SLNA-WRG and the City of Toronto's Live Green



program to help local cafés, restaurants, and St. Lawrence Market vendors reduce waste and cut costs by encouraging their customers to use bring-your-own (BYO) reusables.

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA), incorporated in 1983, represents over 35,000 residents living in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood of Toronto. The neighbourhood – bounded by Yonge St., Queen St. E., Parliament St. and the rail corridor to the south – is a mixed-income, ethnically diverse residential and commercial community adjoining the Central Business District. It contains the oldest neighbourhood in the (now) City of Toronto, the *original ten blocks* of the Town of York (dating from 1793).

The SLNA and its WRG team support the City's efforts to reduce waste on multiple fronts. The initiatives recommended in this report can make a valuable difference in tackling single-use plastic and unnecessary disposables and the full support of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee in these efforts is appreciated.

Sincerely,

p.p.

  
Waste Reduction Group  
St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

cc: Mayor Olivia Chow

Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

Councillor Colle (Vice-Chair)	Councillor McKelvie (Chair)
Councillor Morley	Councillor Pasternak
Councillor Perruzza	Councillor Saxe

City Councillors:

Councillor Malik                      Councillor Moise

Councillor's Staff:

Tom Davidson                      Edward LaRusic                      Bushra Mir

City Managers:

Matthew Green (iec@toronto.ca)

SLNA Board of Directors:

Ms. N. Fung	Ms. V. Ilgacs	Mr. K. Jackson	Mr. S. Linton
Ms. S. McMillan	Ms. D. Patterson	Ms. T. Tenenbaum	Ms. R. Tilson

SLNA-WRG:

Mr. B. Leps