

# **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH**

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA**

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 6:30 pm**

**Council Chambers**

**Municipal Administration Building**

**285 Beech Hill Road**

**Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4**

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1. Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron
  2. Approval of Agenda
  3. Approval of December 19, 2018 Committee of the Whole Minutes
  4. Business Arising from the Minutes
  5. Continuing Business
    - a. Discussion with Representatives with ESREN  
This subject matter falls within Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act as that which a committee may discuss in a closed session. It is recommended a motion be made to initiate an in-camera session to discuss Contract Negotiations. Materials will follow.
  6. New Business
    - a. Discussion about Private Road Maintenance Levy Options  
A preliminary discussion regarding a request for consideration of system for the municipality to collect maintenance levies on behalf of private road societies, similar to what is done in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.
    - b. Update on Single-Use Plastic-Film Shopping Bag Initiatives  
The Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Committee has provided an update on their efforts in seeking action on single-use plastic-film shopping bags. A memo is attached with information for the Committee's consideration.
  7. Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions
    - a. Antigonish Heritage Museum Board
    - b. Antigonish Arena Commission
    - c. Antigonish Crime Prevention
    - d. Eastern District Planning Commission
    - e. Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee
    - f. Eastern-Straight Regional Enterprise Network
    - g. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library
    - h. RK MacDonald Nursing Home
  8. Community Events  
This item provides Councillors with an opportunity to briefly bring to the attention of Council events that are taking place in their communities.
  9. Additions to the Agenda
  10. Adjournment

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES CHART December, 2017 (amended Mar. 2018)

COUNCIL PRIORITIES	
<b>NOW</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>BROADBAND PROPOSAL: Agreement</b> – Jan.</li> <li><b>INTERNET SERVICE: Business Case</b> – March</li> <li><b>CELLULAR SERVICE: Business Case</b> – May</li> <li><b>NEW BUSINESS PARK: Options</b> – June</li> <li><b>REN STRATEGY: Review</b> – Mar.</li> </ol>	
<b>NEXT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACCESSIBILITY: Audit</li> <li>INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING: PLAN</li> <li>WATER: Assessment &amp; Projects</li> <li>SEWER: Assessment &amp; Projects</li> <li>GUYSBOROUGH: Collaboration Meeting</li> <li>TOURISM PROGRAM: Review</li> </ul>	<b>ADVOCACY/PARTNERSHIPS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Broadband Funding (Province)</i></li> <li><i>Long-Term Care Facility Funding (Province)</i></li> <li><i>Aging In Place Program (Province)</i></li> <li><i>NS Broadband Study (Province)</i></li> <li><i>PFN: CEDI Initiatives</i></li> </ul>
CLERK TREASURER	FINANCE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>REN STRATEGY: Review</b> – Mar.</li> <li><b>INDUSTRIAL PARK –LAND AD, SALE &amp; NEW BUSINESS PARK: Options</b> - June</li> <li>Asset Management System: Phase 1 – June <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Management Coordination</li> <li>Leadership Team Development Program</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING: Plan – Jun</li> <li>Water Meter System: Integration</li> <li>Landfill Billing System: Review – Mar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Utility Rates: Review – Oct.</li> <li>Information Technology Strategy: Sept</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
PUBLIC WORKS	RECREATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEWER TREATMENT: Assessments &amp; Problem ID – Sept.</li> <li>WATER SYSTEM: Assessment – Mar.</li> <li>WATER SYSTEM: Upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate Asset Condition Assessments</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active Transportation: Action Plan – April.</li> <li>MPAL: Recreation Plan – June.</li> <li>Part Time Staff Leadership Program – April</li> <li>Support Community Initiatives – Jan 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation for All Program – Jan 2019</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
SUSTAINABILITY	PLANNING
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACCESSIBILITY: Audit – Mar.</li> <li>Emergency Business Continuity Plan – May.</li> <li>Renewable Energy: Options – June (Prov.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PFN: CEDI Initiative Next Steps – April</li> <li>Municipal Awareness Strategy – September</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EASTERN ANTIGONISH PLAN REVIEW – Sept.</li> <li><i>Civic Address Internal Audit</i> – April</li> <li>Amendments – PAC Jan/Feb. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antigonish Affordable Housing (Phase 3)</li> <li>MacDonald Dairy Warehouse</li> <li>Levy's Leather Warehouse</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
ADMINISTRATION	ADMINISTRATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>BROADBAND PROPOSAL: Agreement</b> – Jan.</li> <li><b>INTERNET SERVICE: Business Case</b> – March</li> <li><b>CELLULAR SERVICE: Business Case</b> – May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newsletter Review</li> <li>Online Media Refresh</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GUYSBOROUGH: Collaboration – Mar.</li> <li>TOURISM Review/Scan – Mar.</li> <li>Internet Upgrades – Mar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Court House: Assessment - Mar</li> <li>Dog Control Program: Review - June</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

**CODES:** BOLD CAPITALS = NOW Priorities; CAPITALS = NEXT Priorities; *Italics* = Advocacy; Regular Title Case = Operational Strategies

# **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH**

## **Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, December 19, 2018, 5:30 pm  
Council Chambers  
Municipal Administration Building  
285 Beech Hill Road  
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were:           Warden Owen McCarron  
                              Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart  
                              Councillor Mary MacLellan  
                              Councillor Donnie MacDonald  
                              Councillor Vaughan Chisholm  
                              Councillor Remi Deveau  
                              Councillor John Dunbar  
                              Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Regrets:                Councillor Gary Mattie  
                              Councillor Neil Corbett

Staff Present:         Glenn Horne, Clerk-Treasurer  
                              Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk  
                              Allison Duggan, Director of Finance  
                              Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation

### **Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron**

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 5:36pm.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Councillor MacDonald requested that 5(c) - Update on Single-Use Plastics Initiatives, be deleted and referred to the January 8, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting. Mr. Horne requested to move the in-camera item up in the agenda. Councillor MacFarlane requested to add an item: Business around Beech Hill.

**Moved By** Councillor MacDonald

**Seconded By** Councillor Deveau

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

### **Approval of December 4, 2018 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Warden McCarron asked whether there were any errors or omissions in the December 4, 2018 Committee of the Whole minutes.

**Moved By** Councillor MacLellan

**Seconded By** Councillor Chisholm

*That the Committee of the Whole minutes of December 4, 2018 be approved as presented*

**Motion Carried**

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **In Camera Items**

**Moved By** Councillor Deveau

**Seconded By** Councillor MacLellan

*That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Acquisition, Sale, Lease, and Security of Municipal Property and Contract Negotiations at 5:40pm.*

**Motion Carried**

**Moved By** Councillor MacLellan

**Seconded By** Councillor Dunbar

*That the In-Camera session be adjourned at 6:41 pm*

**Motion Carried**

### **Continuing Business**

#### **Consideration of Adjustments to Council Stipends**

Mrs. Duggan provided an overview of the upcoming federal taxation changes of remuneration for elected municipal officials. Staff has calculated an estimate of what the stipend increase would need to be in order to create a net-zero impact on after-tax income, factoring in that different members of Council are in different tax brackets. Staff are recommending a stipend increase of approximately 12% to cover this expected tax increase. Discussion followed.

**Moved By** Deputy Warden Stewart  
**Seconded By** Councillor MacDonald

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council amend the Council Remuneration Policy to eliminate the following:*

*“3.3 One-third of the annual remuneration shall be considered an allowance for expenses incidental to the discharge of the duties of such persons as elected officers of the Municipality.”*

*And amend section 3.1 as follows:*

*“3.1 commencing on January 1, 2019, elected officials shall be compensated for their services to the Municipality at the following annual rates:*

- 1. Warden \$47,953*
- 2. Deputy Warden \$29,423*
- 3. Councillors (excluding Warden & Deputy Warden) \$25,045*

*and that these amendments be effective January 1, 2019.*

**Motion Carried**

## **New Business**

### **Legal Services RFP**

Mr. Horne provided some background regarding the need to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for legal services for the municipality. This RFP does not require the municipal solicitor to be present at every Council meeting, but only when requested; otherwise, the services requested are fairly similar to what were offered Boudrot Rodgers. Discussion followed.

A question was raised regarding interim legal services. Mr. Horne reviewed options and the information that staff has gathered. Mr. Horne noted that the closing date on the RFP is January 18th, with a recommendation expected to be before Council at their February meeting.

### **Pilot Program to Remove CAP**

Mr. Horne reviewed the summary of the request that came from NSFM to participate in a pilot program to remove the capped assessment program. Members of the Committee had a number of questions regarding how NSFM proposes to run this program. Consensus was given not to participate in the pilot, but staff was requested to reach out to NSFM and request more information.

### **Discussion of Community Partnership Grant Funding**

Warden McCarron summarized a discussion that he had with representatives from the Arts Fair regarding arrangements with Music on Main regarding the use of Community Partnership Grants awarded in 2018. The Warden and Mr. Horne will be meeting with

representatives from Music on Main in the near future. The Committee was asked what they wanted to do regarding the request for assistance received from the Art Fair.

**Moved By** Councillor Deveau

**Seconded By** Councillor Chisholm

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide \$3400 to the Arts Fair to assist with unexpected outstanding expenses from their 2018 operations.*

**Motion Carried**

### **Street Light Request - Brierly Brook Road**

Councillor Chisholm spoke to a request for a streetlight at the intersection of Brierly Brook and Hawthorne Street, to increase visibility.

**Moved By** Councillor Chisholm

**Seconded By** Councillor MacFarlane

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the installation of a streetlight on Brierly Brook Road.*

**Motion Carried**

### **Community Events**

Councillor Deveau noted that there is a fundraiser dance at the Antigonish Legion to raise funds for the family of Dylan Bowie, to help following his car accident.

### **Additions to the Agenda**

#### **Businesses Around Beech Hill**

Councillor MacFarlane spoke to the change of Beech Hill and the number of businesses that are in operation within a 1km radius of the intersection with Trunk 4. Councillor MacFarlane asked for consideration to be given to explore opportunities for branding and creating a name for referencing the area. Discussion followed.

### **Adjournment**

**Moved By** Councillor Dunbar

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:25 pm.*

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Warden Owen McCarron

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Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer

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## REQUEST FOR DIRECTON

**TO:** Committee of the Whole  
**FROM:** BETH SCHUMACHER, DEPUTY CLERK  
**SUBJECT:** UPDATE ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS INITIATIVES  
**DATE:** 08/01/2019

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### SUMMARY

**The Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Committee has provided an update on their efforts in seeking action on single-use plastics (e.g. plastic shopping bags). The following is information for the Committee's consideration of next steps for the Municipality.**

### BACKGROUND

Further to the discussion that took place at the December 20<sup>th</sup> Joint Town & County Council meeting, staff from Eastern Region Solid Waste Management (ERSWM) has provided a summary of the actions and correspondence from the last 18 months taken by ERSWM and NS Solid Waste-Resource Regional Chairs Committee, regarding efforts to encourage the Province to consider restrictions on the use of single-use plastic films, such as plastic shopping bags, as a waste-reduction measure.

At the end of 2018, the Province responded to the request from the NS Solid-Waste Resource Regional Chairs, noting that the Province is not looking to move forward with a ban on single-use shopping bags at this time. The NS Solid-Waste Resource Regional Chairs are looking at setting up further discussions with the Minister on the matter.

Staff is bringing this information forward to the Committee for consideration, and is requesting direction on how to proceed on the matter.

### OPTIONS

The Committee may choose to:

- Take no action at this time, and wait to see what actions the Province takes; or,
- Explore options for reducing single-use plastic bags in the community.

If the Committee chooses to give staff direction to explore options for reducing single-use plastic bags in the community, further direction will be necessary regarding whether to look at "going it alone", working in collaboration with the Town of Antigonish, or working with our regional partners that are a part of ERSWM.

12.19.2018

## MEMO

To  
Region 2A  
Municipal Councils

From  
Nicole Haverkort

Re  
Plastic bag ban

### Comments:

On Thursday, December 6, at our regular ERSWM Committee meeting,

It was mentioned that some municipalities are planning to ban retailers from using single use plastic shopping bags through municipal bylaw and asked if there would be interest moving forward as a region, since the province is not showing any leadership.

After much conversation there was direction for Nicole H. to create a report for councils with background on the topic, a motion was made and seconded, **“That, each Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Committee member share the report from the region with their councils on the status of the provincial single use plastic shopping bag ban, for individual councils to determine if there is interest in the municipal banning of single use plastic shopping bags and support for the region to develop a region wide plan with or without provincial regulation requiring the ban.”** **MOTION CARRIED**

The attached report has been circulated for review as directed by this motion.



## **Background: To consider need to move forward with a Regional Plan**

- July 2017, China announced that by January 1, 2018 they would cease accepting plastic film (and a few other material types) to help their local environment  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-07-20/china-s-war-on-foreign-garbage>
- On January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - Regional Chairs held a meeting with Minister Rankin where there was an expressed interest to ban the plastic bag. Endorsing this interest with a resolution would encourage follow-through by our provincial government.
- On January 12, 2018 – The Municipal – Provincial Solid Waste-Resource Priorities Group share facts with regions complied to have a consistent public message so that the public not lose faith in the recycling program due to the publicity on China and stockpiles of plastic film. An advertisement was also created and shared through the provincial Chronicle Herald and through social media. *(Attached A1 & A2)*
- January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - A background document was prepared by Regional Chairs and circulated for the consideration of Regional Committees. *(Attached A3)*
- February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – A letter to Minister Iain Rankin, thanking for the meeting of Jan. 11. Which includes reference to discussing a ban in our communities. *(Attached A4)*
- On April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - A resolution was approved by the ERSWM Committee supporting a province wide ban on single use plastic shopping bags, provided that it is part of a province wide-strategy (that focuses on Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper to involve industry in the solution) and a promotion campaign to reduce use of all single use products, China imported from 51 -56% of the world's plastic film and other low grade plastic to feed their marketplace of making lawn furniture, and other products for export back into our marketplace. *(Attached A5)*
- May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Letter sent from the Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee to Minister Iain Rankin, NSE, supporting a province wide ban on single use plastic shopping bags. It also mentions collaborating on a province wide waste reduction campaign/strategy and support for any initiative to reduce the use of single use plastic shopping bags. *(Attached A6)*
- June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Response from Minister Iain Rankin, thanking for the letter and identifying that they want the plastic shopping bags reduced and recycled rather than landfilled and are investing options to reduce the amount landfilled in Nova Scotia. *(Attached A7)*

- July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Cabinet Shuffle – MLA Margaret Miller replaces MLA Iain Rankin as Minister of Environment.
- October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 – NS Solid Waste-Resource Regional Chairs Committee discussed the status of the province-wide ban on single use plastic shopping bags. It was directed that a letter be sent to Minister Margaret Miller for an update.
- October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - A letter requesting the rationale that lead to the decision to not support a province-wide ban was sent by the Regional Chairs Committee to Minister Miller. *(Attached A8)*
- October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Minister Miller responds to the letter with reason to not move forward at this time, including our success as leaders in recycling and waste diversion, encouraged by new, innovative markets and retailers taking new approaches and consumers changing how they shop. *(Attached A9)*
- November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Regional Chairs meet to discuss next steps, which include arranging another meeting with Minister Miller and a strategy meeting of the Regional Chairs Committee. The province has decided to wait and see, however some municipalities are restless and are working on their own plans to enact a municipal ban.
- **December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – The direction for this document came from the Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Committee meeting. The purpose is to determine if the municipality is interested in considering banning plastic shopping bags through municipal by-law; if so, is there interest in the Region developing a plan for our five municipalities to follow if banning retailers from the distribution of single use plastic shopping bags; further 2) that a letter be prepared and sent to Minister Miller identifying dismay with the Ministers response and seeking provincial leadership for a consistent approach to waste management programs including a retail plastic shopping bag ban.**
- December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – The letter to Minister Miller was prepared and sent from the Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Committee. *(Attached A10)*

**The following points are a summary from the Halifax Environmental and Sustainability Standing Committee Report, Subject: Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy**

**A Review of the Global Status**

**International:**

- Meeting of G7 Environment, Oceans & Energy Ministers in Halifax in September 2018 – resulted in the signing of the Oceans Plastics Charter.
- 2018 UN Environment Report identifies that it's too early to tell if bans are effective, as there have been mixed results. It also identifies that bans address some symptoms of plastic bag overuse but longer-term solutions are key.

**Canada:**

- A national survey was conducted by EcoAnalytics, which identified the top three concerns relate to plastic pollution in the oceans. There was 65% agreement from those surveyed that governments should ban single use plastics.
- CCME endorsed in principle a Canada – wide strategy on zero plastic waste. Provincial and Territorial staff have been tasked with producing plastics reduction action plans that their Ministers will bring to the table for discussion at the CCME 2019 meeting. Minister Miller will assume the presidency of CCME in 2019.

**Nova Scotia:**

- It is estimated that 300-500 million grocery bags are used each year.
- Further it is estimated that plastic bags make up 3% of the total litter on land.
- 41 or 50 municipalities have made motions in support of a distribution ban for single use plastic shopping bags and support a province wide approach and EPR legislation.
- Halifax Environment and Standing Committee, at their December 6th meeting approved the following motion to be considered by Halifax Regional Council January 11, 2019.

**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE December 6, 2018**

*Motion approved with **added alternative** that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council direct staff to:*

- 1. Initiate an education campaign for residents and the ICI sector focused on the reduction of single-use plastics;*
- 2. Review and update the 2009 HRM Corporate Guidelines for Greening Meetings and Catering Requirements; and*
- 3. Collaborate with the ten largest NS municipalities, and to draft a By-law for Council's consideration as soon as possible but no later than December 2019, to eliminate the distribution of single-use plastic bags without first attempting a voluntary approach.***

- Divert NS is developing a provincial waste reduction campaign.

### **Eastern Region 2A:**

- It is estimated that 8.5 to 13 million shopping bags are consumed annually.
- Clean plastic shopping bags are captured through the blue bag recycling program and diverted from landfill through the Colchester Material Recovery Facility, this includes approximately 74 metric tonnes of plastic film recycled annually from the Eastern Region. Approximately 18.5 tonnes of this is plastic shopping bags.
- Some plastic bags enter the landfill through the garbage stream, when soiled, used for pet waste and as privacy bags.

### **Legislative Authority: Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act (MGA)**

With help from Municipal Affairs, we learned there are a couple of options to move forward with a ban using Municipal By-law. I am not sure which section would be best to use or be a better fit therefore I would suggest working with your solicitor in creating a ban should you decide to move forward. Halifax's Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee is considering enacting a ban through their Charter under section 188 (1) (d)(f), further section 188 (2)(a) and Section 335, which is a copy to section 325 below from the MGA.

### **Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act (MGA)**

#### **Power to make by-laws**

172 (1) A council may make by-laws, for municipal purposes, respecting

(f) businesses, business activities and persons engaged in business;

172 (2) Without restricting the generality of subsection (1) but subject to Part VIII, a council may, in any by-law (a) regulate or prohibit;

(b) regulate any development, activity, industry, business, animal or thing in different ways, divide each of them into classes and deal with each class in different ways;

(d) adopt by reference, in whole or in part, with changes that the council considers necessary or advisable, a code or standard and require compliance with it;

#### **By-law regarding solid waste**

325 The council may make by-laws respecting solid waste, including, but not limited to,

(j) respecting anything required to implement the integrated solid-waste resource management strategy of the municipality.

### **Current Status**

Plastic Markets – waiting on an update from the Colchester Material Recovery Facility.



# MEMO

**Municipal-Provincial  
Solid Waste-Resource  
Priorities Group**

PO Box 639  
Mahone Bay, NS B0J 2E0

**CO-CHAIRS:**

Tom Taggart  
Amanda McDougall

**SECRETARY:**

Valda Walsh

**REGIONAL CHAIRS**

Tom Taggart  
Amanda McDougall

**REGIONAL COORDINATORS**

Valda Walsh  
Laurie Lewis

**MANGERS & DIRECTORS**

Stephen Rayworth  
Gus Green

**UNSM**

Betty MacDonald

**MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**

Nancy Bray  
Ahmad Shawan

**NOVA SCOTIA ENVIRONMENT**

Bob Kenney  
Ashley David

**DIVERT NS**

Alanna McPhee  
Dale Lyon

**TO:** Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Regional Chairs

**FROM:** Amanda McDougall & Tom Taggart

**DATE:** January 12, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Plastic Film messaging

**REQUEST FOR COMMENT:**

On December 11, 2017 there was a lot of media attention around the issue of China blocking many recycled items from entering their country, including plastic film. This was discussed as a priority at our meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Because of the nature of this issue, Priorities identified the need for all Municipal Units to provide clear and consistent messaging to the media and public when addressing it and have drafted a list of facts to help with that messaging.

In the spirit of collaboration, it would be great if all municipal units used the facts until consistent public messaging can be pulled together.

Currently the facts we have are:

- Nothing has changed – continue to recycle
- Use Reusable bags (or refuse a bag altogether!)
- This problem is global but we all have a role to play in dealing with plastic film.
- Besides plastic film, we continue to market more than 95% of our blue bag materials.
- Municipalities (and private MRFs) are having difficulty marketing this material.
- The material can no longer be stored. It is a safety risk (fire hazard) and it is a market risk as it continues to degrade.
- The material cannot be landfilled in any of our 7 MSW sites without Ministerial approval for an exception. This, however, is not a solution but a short-term fix.
- We are working with colleagues at Nova Scotia Environment to address the issue and develop public messaging.

**Recycling is great**  
**REDUCING is BETTER**

*plastic*  
**JUST SAY NO THANK YOU**  
*bags*

**BRING YOUR OWN BAG**



**Practice the 3Rs for a healthier environment**

Reduction has the greatest impact on natural resources and our environment.

If you don't need it, why take it? When you need anything new, consider durable reusable options that can be recycled at the end of their life.

Less waste reduces the opportunity for litter too.

01.15.2018

## Memo

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To  
ALL REGIONAL CHAIRS

From  
LELAND ANTHONY

Re  
Plastic bag ban

**Comments:**

On Thursday, January 11, Minister Rankin asked our members if they support a ban on single-use plastic bags.

Please use the attached template letter to communicate your regional support for such an action.

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**Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Regional Chairs**

Tel 902-624-1339

PO Box 639 Mahone Bay

Valda.Walsh@Region6SWM.ca

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**TO BE CONSIDERED AS A RESOLUTION FROM THE REGION:**

(Date)

Dear Mr. Anthony,

**Re: Plastic bag ban**

Thank you for offering to collaborate on this issue. The overall goal is to cut down on Nova Scotian's use of single-use plastic bags. If putting a provincial ban in place will help achieve this, we support any initiative to reach the goal.

**WHEREAS** film plastic bags including single-use plastic bags are a world-wide source of persistent and widespread pollution on land and in the sea; and

**WHEREAS** markets for film plastic (including single-use plastic bags) are limited and very costly where they do exist; and

**WHEREAS** preferred options to reduce plastic film are available to the consumer; and

**WHEREAS** a province-wide ban in Nova Scotia is an important step in educating Nova Scotian's to use reusable products rather than disposable ones.

**THEREFORE, be it Resolved:**

That Region \_\_\_\_\_ supports enacting a province-wide ban on single-use plastic shopping bags, provided it is part of a province-wide strategy (that focuses on Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper to involve industry in the solution) and a promotion campaign to reduce use of all single use products.

Yours Truly,

Chairman of Region \_\_\_\_\_



## **Member Background:**

- China imported from 51 -56% of the world's plastic film and other low grade plastic to feed their marketplace of making lawn furniture, and other products for export back into our marketplace.
- In July 2017, China announced that by January 1, 2018 they would cease accepting this material (and a few others) to help their local environment  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-07-20/china-s-war-on-foreign-garbage>
- Nova Scotia is one of the many affected by this decision. If your recycling processor is not seeking to bury the material currently, it will in the near future or be paying a lot to store it for an alternative (fuel has been cited as one -  
<http://thechronicleherald.ca/opinion/1528543-convert-waste-plastic-into-fuel>
- The bigger problem is over-consumption of not just plastic film but of all single-use, disposable products. <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/day6/episode-372-china-s-waste-ban-syrian-cuisine-oprah2020-the-colour-of-2018-letterman-returns-and-more-1.4479480/wasted-what-happens-when-china-no-longer-wants-our-trash-1.4479601>
- To help start this change – behaviors must change. Of the plastic film (which is less than 5%, by weight, of what is in your blue bag) only 20% of this (which, if math works right, is less than 1% of all bluebag contents) is shopping bags. However, EVERYONE touches a shopping bag, uses it and/or is quite familiar with it so it becomes a valuable education tool.
- Prior to a ban being implemented EDUCATION on a reduction campaign must ensue.
- Immediately following the announcement of a ban; EPR or some other legislated policy MUST take place to target the bigger issue of changing behavior.
- On January 11<sup>th</sup> the Regional Chairs held a meeting with Minister Rankin where there was an expressed interest to ban the plastic bag. Endorsing this interest with a resolution would encourage follow-through by our provincial government.

February 6, 2018

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**Nova Scotia Solid Waste-  
Resource Management  
Regional Chairs Committee**

PO Box 639  
Mahone Bay, NS  
B0J 2E0

Honourable Iain Rankin  
Nova Scotia Environment  
PO Box 442  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2P8

Emailed  
Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca

**REGION 1:**

Amanda McDougall

**REGION 2a:**

Vernon Pitts

**REGION 2b:**

Jim Ryan

**REGION 3:**

Tom Taggart

**REGION 4:**

Tony Mancini

**REGION 5:**

Jane Bustin

**REGION 6:**

Michael Ernst

**REGION 7:**

Leland Anthony

Dear Minister Rankin,

Thank you for meeting with our Regional Chairs Committee on January 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss materials bans and market pressures. The issue is one that certainly will take a team approach and your willingness to continue to collaborate on this is helpful to us both.

We continue to discuss, within our communities, the opportunity to ban plastic shopping bags. Realizing this is only a very small part of the larger issue, we look forward to working with your team on developing a province-wide reduction campaign/strategy.

We are aware of the opportunity we have while the public are keenly engaged. Now is the best time to bring back the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) conversation for packaging and printed paper (PPP), in particular. We have directed our Priorities Committee to remain focused on the Consensus-based proposal on EPR for PPP. We are expecting the team to present a strategy on engagement and key messages at our March meeting. At that time we will discuss any adjustments that can be made in the timeline to take full advantage of the public's interest. Our Priority Group co-chairs have also discussed bringing the EPR key messages to other MLAs to help educate on the benefits of EPR to all Nova Scotians.

Following our March meeting, we hope to have an update on these initiatives for you.

Kind Regards,

per



Per Leland Anthony – Chairman  
Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management Chairs

## Eastern Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Committee

Members from the Five Municipal Councils in Antigonish & Guysborough Counties

### REDUCE - REUSE- RECYCLE-COMPOST

P.O. Box 111, Boylston, NS B0H 1G0

phone: 902-232-2563

email: nicole@erswm.ca

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April 26, 2018

Leland Anthony, Chair  
NS Solid Waste-Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee  
P.O. Box 639  
Mahone Bay, NS  
B0J 2E0

Dear Mr. Anthony,

**Re: Plastic bag ban**

Thank you for offering to collaborate on this issue. The overall goal is to cut down on Nova Scotian's use of single-use plastic bags. If putting a provincial ban in place will help achieve this, we support any initiative to reach the goal.

**WHEREAS** film plastic bags including single-use plastic bags are a world-wide source of persistent and widespread pollution on land and in the sea; and

**WHEREAS** markets for film plastic (including single-use plastic bags) are limited and very costly where they do exist; and

**WHEREAS** preferred options to reduce plastic film are available to the consumer; and

**WHEREAS** a province-wide ban in Nova Scotia is an important step in educating Nova Scotian's to use reusable products rather than disposable ones.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Region 2A supports enacting a province-wide ban on single-use plastic shopping bags, provided it is part of a province-wide strategy (that focuses on Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper to involve industry in the solution) and a promotion campaign to reduce use of all single use products.

Yours Truly,



Vernon Pitts  
Chairmen Region 2A  
Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Committee

May 28, 2018

**Nova Scotia Solid Waste-  
Resource Management  
Regional Chairs Committee**

PO Box 639  
Mahone Bay, NS  
B0J 2E0

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Leland Anthony

Honourable Iain Rankin  
Nova Scotia Environment  
PO Box 442  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2P8

Sent via email  
Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister Rankin,

We continue to discuss, within our communities, the opportunity to ban plastic shopping bags. Realizing this is only a very small part of the larger issue, we look forward to working with your team on developing a province-wide reduction campaign/strategy.

Each Regional Chair met within their regions to discuss the ban on plastic shopping bags. Some wrote resolutions while others received individual council motions. Overall, the regions support a province-wide ban on single-use shopping bags.

On May 4, 2018 the following motion was passed:

**MOTION:** that we write to the Minister of Environment informing that we consulted within our regions and have a consensus on a province-wide ban on single use plastic shopping bags. **M/C**

While our Priorities Group continues to evolve the file on an EPR Consensus Proposal for Printed Paper and Packaging we are happy to report that we do have a consensus on any initiative to reduce the use of single use plastic shopping bags.

Kind Regards,

per 

Leland Anthony – Chairman  
Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management Chairs

cc. Chuck McKenna – Mngr Haz. Mat., Contaminated Sites and Solid Waste Unit





Environment  
Office of the Minister

PO Box 442, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2P8 • [www.novascotia.ca/nse](http://www.novascotia.ca/nse)

Our File number:  
10700-40-53235

JUN 28 2018

Valda Walsh and Leland Anthony  
PO Box 639  
Mahone Bay, NS  
BOJ 2EO  
[Valda.Walsh@Region6swm.ca](mailto:Valda.Walsh@Region6swm.ca)

Dear Valda Walsh and Warden Leland Anthony:

Thank you for your letter of May 28, 2018, regarding municipal support for a province-wide single use shopping bag ban as well as your progress toward a consensus proposal on EPR for Paper and Packaging.

Nova Scotia is a leader in recycling and waste diversion, and we will continue to be. We all want to see these materials reduced and recycled rather than put in the landfill.

I encourage all Nova Scotians to use reusable bags and reduce their use of these materials wherever possible. Nova Scotia Environment is investigating options to reduce the amount of polyethylene film landfilled in Nova Scotia. The Province will work with industry, municipalities and others on this issue. It is important that we all work in partnership, to maximize diversion from landfills.

Sincerely,

Iain Rankin, MLA  
Minister of Environment

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**Nova Scotia Solid Waste-  
Resource Management  
Regional Chairs Committee**

PO Box 639  
Mahone Bay, NS  
B0J 2E0

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Michael Ernst

**REGION 7:**

Leland Anthony  
*Chairman*

October 16, 2018

Via email

[Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca)

Honourable Margaret Miller  
Nova Scotia Environment  
PO Box 442  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2P8

Dear Minister Miller,

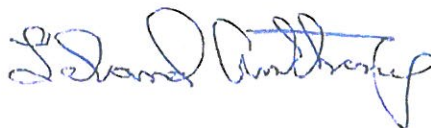
**RE: Plastic bag ban**

I am writing you on behalf of the Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee.

On October 2 the committee discussed a province-wide ban on single use plastic shopping bags. This was in response to your predecessor Iain Rankin's request for municipalities' unified support for a province-wide ban of single-use plastic shopping bags. Municipalities have worked really hard to obtain consensus, not easily achieved on most subjects, to support the province. We were so disappointed to recently hear the interview on CBC that your department is not in support of a bag ban.

Respectfully, we request a response as to the rationale that lead to the decision to not support a province-wide ban on single use plastic shopping bags.

Kind Regards,



Leland Anthony  
Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management Chairs

A9



**Environment  
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 442, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2P8 • [www.novascotia.ca/nse](http://www.novascotia.ca/nse)

Our File number:  
10700-40-53854

**OCT 24 2018**

Leland Anthony  
Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management Chairs  
[leland@district.yarmouth.ns.ca](mailto:leland@district.yarmouth.ns.ca)

Dear Warden Anthony:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2018, regarding Regional Chair's support for a province-wide plastic bag ban.

Nova Scotia is a leader in recycling and waste diversion, and we will continue to be. I am encouraged that new, innovative uses and new markets for these materials have emerged in the last year. Retailers are taking new approaches and many consumers are changing how they shop.

We will not be moving forward with a bag ban at this time. However, we continue to work with industry, municipalities and others as recycling stakeholders adjust to the changing global plastic markets.

We all have a role to play, and I encourage all Nova Scotians to use reusable bags and reduce their use of these materials wherever possible.

Sincerely,

Margaret Miller, MLA  
Minister of Environment

c: Valda Walsh



## Eastern Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Committee

Members from the Five Municipal Councils in Antigonish & Guysborough Counties

### REDUCE - REUSE- RECYCLE-COMPOST

P.O. Box 111, Boylston, NS B0H 1G0

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December 14, 2018

The Honourable Margaret Miller  
Minister of Environment  
Nova Scotia Environment  
PO Box 442  
Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

Dear Minister Miller,

Re: EPR & Plastic Bag Ban

Thank you for your prompt reply, to the letter from the Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee, dated October 24, 2018 explaining the rationale that lead to the decision to not support a province-wide ban on single use plastic shopping bags.

After 20 years of education and regulatory material bans to support diversion, we recognize that there have been significant waste management program improvements over the years. Our residents dispose nearly half as much garbage as the national average. This is a proud accomplishment. Certainly, the leadership provided by the provincial government in 1995 to implement the solid waste-resource strategy made us leaders in the diversion of materials from landfill and it is clear that Nova Scotians have embraced recycling and other waste diversion programs in their everyday lives.

It is important to also recognize that due to these same regulations there was also a significant increase in management costs. Further, we want to draw to your attention that we no longer agree that Nova Scotia leads Canada in recycling and waste diversion. To our dismay, this past decade, other provinces in Canada have surpassed Nova Scotia in the development and implementation of policies regarding stewardship and waste reduction. EPR Canada published an annual report card on stewardship for each province in Canada from 2011 to 2015. Nova Scotia's report card results are below average, a C minus, and have been on a downward trend year over year.

We are ashamed with inaction on single use plastic bags after overwhelming public and municipal support for a provincial ban; the same is true for expanding extended producer responsibility programs. The stall to act on waste reduction because industry may have a recycling solution is short-sighted; especially during a time when it is becoming more globally understood and accepted that the reduction of unnecessary waste is of much greater environmental importance than recycling.

Like you, we are proud of our accomplishments, however we need to move forward. Our claim to leadership has been resting on the same accomplishments for a very long time and other provinces have advanced their stewardship programs beyond Nova Scotia. The process to advance programs has been incredibly slow, with provincial government causing unnecessary hurdles. This past decade several requests were made to Nova Scotia Environment to enact regulations with the goal to reduce waste and involve stewards to assist with waste management efforts, often to no avail. We are waiting on leadership to reduce disposable coffee cups, single use plastic shopping bags, and industry programs to assist with the management of flammables (household hazardous wastes), expanded electronics, now oil and glycol containers and of course EPR for PPP.

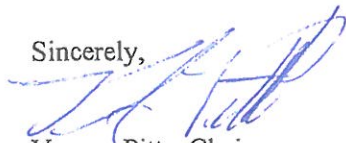


The Honourable Margaret Miller  
Re: EPR and Plastic Bag Ban

p2

The time to rest on our laurels has past. It is best for all when programs are consistently implemented across the province. We need provincial leadership to catch up with other provinces on stewardship and waste reduction programs, which will have a positive environmental, economic and social impact for all Nova Scotians. These advancements will increase our national report card score, and our national standing as a leader in waste management.


Sincerely,



Vernon Pitts, Chair

#### Report Card Results



Jurisdiction	2015	2013
	C-	C

<http://www.eprcanada.ca/reports/2014/2014-Extended-Producer-Responsibility-Report-Card-EN.pdf>