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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 6/9/2021 9:34:05 AM

Subject: Memo - Shopping Bag Support

Attachments: ENG - SWM - Shopping Bag Support - Council Memo - 2021-06-02.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire regarding Shopping Bag Support. A brief summary of the memo is provided below:

- Education and outreach for businesses and non-profits will resume for the single-use item by-laws this summer, after a pause due to COVID-19.
- Businesses and non-profits will be able to download or order a toolkit of resources to help comply with the foam, plastic straw and utensil by-laws already in effect, and prepare for the cup and shopping bag by-laws, which come into effect on January 1, 2022.
- In Fall 2020, staff engaged non-profits and social enterprises on the development and roll-out of a Support Plan, to mitigate potential impacts of the Shopping Bag By-law on residents disproportionately affected by income inequality.
- Based on the engagement findings, staff implemented two pilots to collect and re-distribute reusable bags as quick start actions. Pilot findings will be used to identify next steps and actions to include in the Support Plan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

June 9, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis, Civic Engagement and Communications Director
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director, Social Policy and Projects Division
Sarah Hicks, Deputy Chief License Inspector
Albert Shames, Director, Zero Waste and Resource Recovery

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Single-use item by-laws – Toolkit and Shopping Bag By-law Support Plan

The purpose of this memo is to update Mayor and Council on upcoming education and outreach activities for Vancouver's single-use item by-laws, and recent pilot projects to mitigate potential impacts the shopping bag by-law may have on residents disproportionately affected by income inequality. The City's commitment to support businesses and non-profits during the COVID-19 pandemic has helped to inform these actions.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH FOR SINGLE-USE ITEM BY-LAWS

This summer, education and outreach for businesses and non-profits will resume for the single-use item by-laws after a pause due to COVID-19. In June, staff plan to publish a single-use item by-law toolkit that can be downloaded or ordered by businesses, at vancouver.ca/reduce-single-use. The toolkit contains:

- A by-law guide to help business license holders comply with the foam, plastic straw and utensil by-laws already in effect, and prepare for the cup and shopping bag by-laws, which come into effect on January 1, 2022.
- Educational materials to help businesses, charities and not-for-profits communicate these by-law changes to staff and customers.

- Includes posters, till topper tent cards (for point of sale), digital files for checkout and menu screens, a menu icon and sticker sheets for flexible plastic straws (for accessibility), sample flexible plastic straws individually wrapped in paper, and FAQs.
- Available in six languages: English, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, Vietnamese, and Filipino (Tagalog).

Outreach to promote the toolkit is tentatively planned to begin in July, pending progress on the BC Restart Plan for COVID-19. Activities include notification letters, virtual presentations, inviting organizations to share the toolkit with their members, and providing language support.

SHOPPING BAG BY-LAW SUPPORT PLAN

When the shopping bag by-law was adopted on November 27, 2019, Council approved a staff recommendation to collaborate with non-profits and social enterprises on the development and roll-out of a support plan to mitigate potential impacts the by-law may have on residents disproportionately affected by income inequality. (For example, affordability challenges due to the cost of purchasing reusable shopping bags and other substitutes for plastic bags.)

Engagement with Non-Profits and Social Enterprises

Between September 11 to November 20, 2020, staff engaged non-profits and social enterprises on the support plan objectives and potential actions. 68 stakeholders across 45 organizations participated. An engagement summary will be published online this summer. Findings include:

- **Demand for bags:** Participants affirmed there is demand for free reusable shopping bags for residents' individual needs, and to support non-profits and social enterprises with programs for distributing food, clothing and other items.
- **Strength of existing networks:** Staff heard consistent and widespread support for the City to work with non-profits and social enterprises to make free reusable shopping bags available to residents disproportionately affected by income inequality. Participants recommended using existing networks and programs, rather than creating a new system.

Quick Start Actions in the Support Plan

Based on the engagement findings, City staff implemented two pilots to collect and re-distribute reusable bags as quick start actions:

- **Pilot to collect reusable shopping bags.** March – May 2021.
The pilot collected over 5,000 reusable shopping bags donated by residents and businesses, and dropped off at the Vancouver Zero Waste Centre. Donated bags were laundered and inspected to ensure they are in good condition for reuse.
- **Pilot to distribute reusable shopping bags.** June – July 2021.
The City is partnering with a number of local non-profits to test different options for making the reusable shopping bags collected from the above pilot available free to residents disproportionately affected by income inequality. Bags will be given out through the non-profit partners' existing programs such as grocery hampers and clothing rooms.

Staff will use the pilot findings to identify actions to include in the support plan, which could include a wider program for collecting and distributing bags. Staff expect to complete and publish the final Shopping Bag By-law Support Plan later in 2021.

If you have any questions please contact me directly via email (lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca) or phone (604-873-7336).



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General Manager, Engineering Services

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