

Attachment-2 Single Use Items - Other Government Actions

Federal Actions on a Single-Use Plastics Ban

On June 10, 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the Federal Government of Canada intends to ban harmful SUPs as early as 2021 including plastic bags, straws, cutlery, and stir sticks.

The Federal Government followed through with its promise by adding “plastic manufactured items” to the List of Toxic Substances set out in Schedule 1, Section 163 of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (S.C. 1999, c. 33) (CEPA) which provides the federal government with the authority to regulate and limit certain products and is key to implementing the Federal SUI ban. In May 2021, the Responsible Plastic Use Coalition (RPUC), which is comprised of 33 plastic industry leaders, legally challenged the Federal Government’s decision to list “plastic manufactured items” to CEPA’s Schedule 1 List of Toxic Substances.

The Federal Government has conducted extensive public consultations and scientific research confirming that plastic products are harmful and warrant prohibition. In December 2021, the Federal Government released for public comment the draft Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulation, which bans six categories of harmful single-use plastics including checkout bags, cutlery, foodservice ware made from or containing problematic plastics, ring carriers, stir sticks and straws. The Federal Government intends to finalize these regulations by late 2022, which is a year later than initially planned. The proposed Regulations state the timeframe for the prohibition on the sale of all categories, excluding straws, would come into force two years after the proposed Regulations are registered.

Provincial Actions on Blue Box Regulation

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) released its final Blue Box Regulation in June 2021. The Blue Box Regulation is making producers individually and fully responsible for the management of their paper products and packaging (PPP) in the Blue Box and other management systems.

One of the stated objectives of the new regulations is to “address the serious problem of plastic pollution”. With regards to SUIs, the proposed regulation expands collection requirements to include single-use packaging-like products (such as foils, wraps, trays, boxes, bags) and single-use (mainly plastic) food and beverage products such as straws, cutlery, plates and stir sticks.

While the Provincial legislation supports reducing waste from SUI, the Blue Box Regulation is limited to residential sources of waste which represents less than 40% of the total waste generated in Ontario. The Blue Box Regulation also has limited targets for producers to achieve: rigid plastics are

assigned a recycling target of 55% from 2026-2029 and 60% from 2030-onwards; the flexible plastics target is 30% for 2026-2029 and 40% from 2030-onwards.

Municipal Actions on Single Use Items

City of Vancouver - The City of Vancouver adopted a Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy that included several specific measures targeted towards licensed businesses (acknowledging affected businesses are largely retail and food service) including: a ban on the distribution of polystyrene foam cups and foam containers (beginning January 2020); bans on the distribution of plastic straws and SUI utensils unless requested by a customer (beginning April 2020); and a ban on SUI plastic checkout bags (beginning January 2022). Council postponed several of the by-laws originally slated to begin in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

City of Toronto - On June 9, 2021, Toronto City Council adopted its Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy – Stage 1 report as the first stage of a Reduction Strategy to help reduce single-use and takeaway items in Toronto. A Voluntary Measures Program (VMP) was announced as the first stage of the Reduction Strategy, which encourages businesses to voluntarily implement actions including the adoption of an “ask first/ by request” approach and asking businesses to consider accepting reusable takeout containers and beverage cups.

Towns of Mono and Fort Frances - The City's reduction strategy and single-use items ban will make the City one of the first municipalities in Ontario to ban SUIs, following bans by the Towns of Mono and Fort Frances that came into force in January 2021. The Town of Mono banned plastic check-out bags at businesses and restaurants for take-out or delivery orders. The Town of Fort Frances banned plastic bags and single-use food packaging at businesses, including take out containers made from foam, drinking straws, and stir sticks or swizzle sticks.