



INTRODUCING THE NEW AND IMPROVED 100-USE REUSABLE BAG

100% RECYCLABLE- 40% RECYCLED CONTENT

MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY – MEANS ZERO WASTE

Mayor and Members of Council
Town of Fort Frances
Ontario

town@fort-frances.com

Dear Mayor Caul and Members of Council:

**Re: Ban Imposed on Plastic Shopping Bags in order to Reduce Material Going to Landfill
and
Ban imposed on Foam Food Containers and Cups**

Recently your council banned recyclable thin plastic shopping bags and foam food containers and cups. The rationale according to the news article is that the legislation is aimed at reducing the amount of single-use products in the landfill.

Bans will only Increase the Amount of Plastic Going to Landfill, Not Reduce it

There is one little problem with the legislation, both products you are banning are highly recyclable and their substitutes are not recyclable. Reusable bags and paper food packaging are not recyclable and will definitely end up in your landfill as waste. The ban will only increase the amount of material ending up in landfill, not reduce it.

Why?

Banning Recyclable Packaging in Favour of Non-Recyclable Packaging is not a Good Idea

Reusable Bags: Most people do not know that reusable bags on the market are not recyclable. Every reusable bag currently on the market will end up in your landfill as garbage at the end of their useful life as a carry bag.

Polystyrene Foam Food Containers and Cups: Paper food packaging is the next alternative to polystyrene foam food containers and cups. But paper food packaging once soiled with food cannot be recycled or composted. Why? Because it has a protective coating that makes it unacceptable for both composting and recycling.

The consequence is that the move to paper packaging will increase the amount of waste in your landfill by 3 to 4 times.

There are Solutions that will only Require Slight Modifications to your Bylaws.

1. **On Reusable Bags:** The industry working with retailers is introducing a new and improved 100-use, 100% recyclable reusable bag that contains up to 40% recycled content.

We will be sending you samples in the mail of these new bags which should solve a number of your city's waste management problems.

To allow these bags, could you consider inclusion of the following in your check out bag legislation:

- **Checkout bags prohibited** - includes Paper Bags, Plastic Bags, but does not include Reusable Bags;
 - **Definition of "reusable bag"** - means a bag with handles that is a) designed and manufactured to be capable of at least 100 uses, and primarily made of cloth or other durable material(s) suitable for reuse.
2. **On Polystyrene Foam containers and cups**: This ban is not only counterproductive, and will result in considerably more waste in your landfill, but it is unnecessary because the province is moving to 100% Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program with stewards responsible for its recycling.
 3. **Straws by Request**: We fully support your bylaw that plastic straws be provided on request to accommodate residents requiring straws.

If you would like to discuss this further, please call and in the meantime expect a package with samples of the new and improved reusable bag in the mail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joe Hruska', with a stylized, cursive script.

Joe Hruska
Vice President. Sustainability
C: 416-930-1796