

# Douglas W. Judson

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November 20, 2019

Lisa Slomke, Clerk  
Town of Fort Frances  
320 Portage Avenue  
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

*Via Email: lslomke@fortfrances.ca*

Dear Ms. Slomke:

**Re: Single-Use Products By-Law**

I enclose with this letter the text of a by-law I wish to have considered by Council. I would appreciate if this item could appear on the agenda for Council's meeting on November 25, 2019 (presumably for referral, as part of the consent agenda, to the Operations and Facilities and Planning and Development executive committees).

The proposed by-law would regulate the distribution of single-use plastic bags and certain other harmful single-use disposable products within the Town of Fort Frances. The core elements of this by-law are as follows:

- Businesses would be prohibited from distributing plastic checkout bags;
- Businesses would be prohibited from distributing single-use cups and food containers made of foam material, as well as plastic straws and stir-sticks;
- Large retailers would be required to provide reusable bags for sale to customers at their locations; and
- The by-law would come into effect on January 1, 2021, in order to provide businesses and consumers sufficient time to adapt and utilize existing inventories.

This proposed by-law is based on those passed by other Canadian municipalities, as well as on legislation from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. It does not prohibit the sale of plastic bags or foam food containers to customers in bulk packaging (i.e., packages of garbage bags or styrofoam coffee cups) for personal use. There are also a number of practical exceptions to the ban on plastic bags.

I have had the opportunity to consult on this matter with various local organizations – including the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce and the Scott Street BIA. A number of environmental- and conservation-focused local stakeholders have also expressed their general support for this initiative. In addition, I have spoken to Operations and Facilities manager Travis Rob on a preliminary basis. He did not anticipate that this by-law would have significant impacts on the Town's waste management activities or infrastructure.

It is my hope that this proposal will provide Fort Frances with an opportunity to show leadership at the local government level on sustainability, waste reduction, and the fight against climate change and related environmental threats. With alternatives to single-use plastics now widely and economically available, a transition away from single-use plastics and other harmful products has the potential to support the growth of regional industries, such as forest products. Fort Frances is a small drop in the bucket of environmental responsibility, but change requires leadership at all levels of government. Our society can simply no longer afford to pass on environmental costs to its future generations.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Douglas W. Judson

Encl. Proposed By-Law