

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs



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OCT 03 2019

357-2019-2613

Mr. Sebastian Prins
Director of Government Relations
Retail Council of Canada
1881 Yonge Street, Suite 800
Toronto ON M4S 3C4

Dear Mr. Prins:

Thank you for your letter expressing the Retail Council's support for province-wide direction on reducing the use of single-use plastics.

Addressing the issue of plastic waste requires a coordinated province-wide effort to reduce plastic waste and keep it out of the Great Lakes and waterways, as well as our parks and communities.

Ontario is committed to shifting to a waste management approach where producers are responsible for the waste generated from their products and packaging, and waste is seen as a resource that can be recovered, reused and reintegrated back into the economy. This will support the health of Ontario's environment and communities, while ensuring that Ontario businesses remain competitive.

Ontario is taking action to improve recycling across the province and address the serious problem of plastic pollution and litter, as committed to in our Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan. We have announced the next steps for improving the Blue Box Program and transitioning the costs away from municipal taxpayers to make the producers of products and packaging responsible starting in 2023.

The first group of municipalities or First Nations will transfer responsibility of their Blue Box programs to producers starting January 1, 2023. By December 31, 2025, producers will be fully responsible for providing Blue Box services provincewide.

Over the coming Fall, we will begin engaging stakeholders to develop and consult on the new producer responsibility model for the Blue Box Program. Ontario will look to put in place a Blue Box program that standardizes the list of materials to be collected across the province, improves diversion and provides industry the flexibility to use innovative approaches that minimize costs to business.

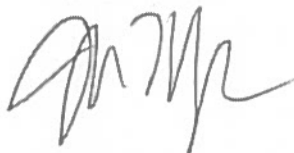
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Mr. Sebastian Prins
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I commend the Cities of Toronto, Cornwall and Woodstock, and the Region of Peel for their commitment to keeping our environment healthy and clean, and I invite them to participate in the upcoming consultations which will include discussing solutions to the problem of single-use plastics with municipalities and producers across the province.

Thank you again for your Council's support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Yurek', written in a cursive style.

Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks