



*Canadian Federation of University Women*  
*Markham/Unionville*

January 26, 2022

The Honourable Mary Ng, MP  
House of Commons  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
[mary.ng @parl.gc.ca](mailto:mary.ng@parl.gc.ca)

**Re: Single-Used Plastics & Packaging**

Dear Minister Ng,

I am writing on behalf of the CFUW Markham/Unionville Club, an affiliate of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) with 146 members in Markham, Unionville and the surrounding areas. We are working to improve the status of women and to promote human rights, public education, social justice and peace.

At its June 2021 Annual General Meeting, the member Clubs of CFUW called on the Government of Canada, and the Provincial, Territorial, and Municipal Governments to work together to expedite the current ban on single-use plastics and expand it to include all unnecessary non-recyclable plastics. Coupled with the full implementation of Canada's Plastic Science Agenda and the Zero Plastic Waste agenda, CFUW also urges all levels of government to fully fund the development of school curricula and public education programs to inform Canadians about the dangers of discarded plastic waste and its impact on all life forms, both terrestrial and aquatic. Plastics, plastic packaging, and plastic wrap labelling form a substantial part of non-recyclable waste.

We commend the Federal Government on its Proposed Regulations for the Prohibition of Single Use Plastics which targets six categories of single use plastics. These include grocery bags, foodservice ware and cutlery made of problematic plastic, plastic straws, stir sticks and ring carriers. We feel this is a good step towards ending plastic pollution in our environment.

**We urge you to:**

- establish national standards or consistent definitions for “compostable”, “biodegradable” and “recyclable” plastics
- fund and increase public education programs that address the dangers of discarded plastic waste and encourage the use of clear labelling for proper disposal of plastic products that targets both industry and consumers; encourages behavioural changes and the adoption of sound practices for the consumption, management, and disposal of plastics and eliminates the contamination of our recycling and composting streams

- continue to take action to create alternative uses for discarded plastics and biodegradable alternatives through start-up funding to industry and academic researchers to develop novel solutions to the existing plastic waste problem
- monitor the latest scientific data available and expand the Canada-wide strategy on Zero Plastic Waste to include all problematic and non-recyclable plastics such as disposable beverage cups, plastic lids, and plastic packaging and wrapping
- honour the Modern Day Treaty Obligations, in consultation with our Indigenous communities, to make exceptions to the regulations when the need for single use plastics (ie. water bottles, plastic cutlery, etc.) arises during boil water advisories

**These steps would markedly accelerate the implementation of the targets aimed at reducing waste and pollution in the Ocean Plastics Charter and Canada's Plastic Science Agenda.**

**Plastic pollution is a global environmental challenge that requires urgent action. It is past time to reduce our dependence on single-use plastics and mitigate their environmental impact.**

We look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Bernabe  
PER:  
Marg Esaw, President  
Canadian Federation of University Women  
Markham/Unionville Club

cc The Honourable Steven Guibeault, Liberal MP, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

The Honourable Joyce Murray, Liberal MP, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and The Canadian Coast Guard

Mr. Dan Albas, PC MP, Shadow Minister for Environment and Climate Change

Mr. Rick Perkins, PC MP, Shadow Minister for Fisheries, Oceans and The Canadian Coast Guard