



Canadian Federation of University Women
Markham/Unionville

January 24, 2022.

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Markham Civic Centre
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, Ontario
L3R9W9

Re: Single-Used Plastics and Packaging

Dear Mayor,

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

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 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 are extremely proud of the City of Markham's record on curbside waste diversion and congratulate the City for receiving the CAMA and the Peter J. Marshall Innovation Award for the *Taking the Lead Project – Markham Targets Single-Use Plastics*. However, we urge you to:

- take immediate action to implement your commitment to targets that will stop plastic waste and the flow of plastics into the environment under the 2018 G7 Ocean Plastics Charter and Canada's Plastic Science Agenda;
- continue to fund and increase public campaigns and educational programming on the dangers of discarded plastic waste; encourage behavioural changes and the adoption of sound practices for **reducing** the consumption of plastics, in addition to the management and disposal of plastics both in single family

residences and in apartments and condominiums; use clear labelling for proper disposal of plastic products that target industry and consumers;

- aim to make municipal buildings and facilities “single-use plastic free” by, for example installing filtered water stations, providing at-cost non-plastic alternatives such as canvas bags and reusable stainless steel cups branded with the City’s logo - much like the City’s backyard composter and rain barrel programs;
- challenge and provide incentives for businesses to further **reduce** the use of plastics;
- lastly, expand and accelerate the Canada-wide strategy on Zero Plastic Waste to include all problematic and non-recyclable plastics. 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. As less than 20% of plastic in Canada is recyclable, recycling is not enough. It is past time to **reduce** our dependence on single-use plastics and mitigate.

We look forward to your response outlining your position and the actions you plan to take to address this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

M. Victoria Choy

Per

Marg Esaw, President, Canadian Federation of University Women –
Markham/Unionville

c.c. Stuart Cumner, Markham Environmental Advisory Committee

Joe Li, Regional Councillor, City of Markham

Graham Seaman, Director of Sustainability and Asset Management, City of
Markham