

May, 26, 2019

Nicole Case
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Re: Single-use plastics ban.

Dear Council,

My name is Nicole Case, I am 20 years old and a second year Biology/English major at Acadia University in N.S. I have been living in the Thornbury area since May 2018. I am writing to you today to show my strong support of the Single-use plastic ban.

With the very grim outlook of our global environment, there has never been a better time to take action. The banning of single-use plastics cannot be put off any longer. Not only do these plastics pollute our land and waters they are also made from non-renewable resources that contributes to climate change. The Blue Mountain area has certainly seen these changes through an increase in extreme weather conditions.

This ban should be a very easy decision for you as I am confident you are aware that 9 billion tonnes of plastic has been produced and only 9% has been recycled? That equates to 8.10 billion tonnes of plastic that has ended up in landfills, lakes and oceans around our planet. These numbers account for single-use plastics on a global scale, but on a local scale which affects our communities directly, 10,000 tonnes of plastic ends up in the Great Lakes every year. This is our back yard, where we swim, fish, boat and kayak. This is the same backyard I am hoping my future children and their children can also enjoy. This has to stop.

The Great Lakes are one of Canadas most important and significant natural resources. This body of water makes up 20% of the earths fresh liquid water, supports 150 fish species and is the resting spot for migratory birds travelling from as far north as the Arctic Circle and Argentina to the south. Environmentalists are predicting that by 2050 these lakes will contain more plastic than fish. This has terrifying implications, as 25% of Canadian agriculture is grown in and around the Great Lakes, 30,000 kilos of fish are are harvest annually and 40 million people depend on these lakes for their drinking and water supply. The micro-climate created by these lakes enable our surrounding communities to grow apples, grapes and many other fruits and vegetables which is a huge part of our local economy. Time is of the essence, change must be made now.

Unfortunately these lakes are facing serious environmental threats of which our behaviours are a huge contributing factor. Not only is the Single-use plastic ban essential for the ecological survival of the Great Lakes and surrounding areas, but also the economic future of our communities. Banning Single-use plastics is the right and responsible thing to do.

Sincerely,

Nicole Case