



## News Release

### Local Governments Speak as One in Feedback to the Province on Plastics Reduction

Sechelt, BC—October 28, 2019—Local governments across BC, including the Sunshine Coast Regional District, have worked together to present a joint letter to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in response to the Province’s call for input to its Plastics Action Plan.

In all, 29 governments have signed the letter aligning their voices and calling for the Province to adopt bold legislation to significantly reduce and regulate plastics in BC.

“We are excited to work with the provincial government to establish a clear role for local governments, our residents, and businesses to move towards a sustainable economy and environment,” says Lori Pratt, SCRD Board Chair.

Signatories include many local governments who have, or who are in the process of, adopting single-use plastics regulations. The letter represents a unifying voice, which brings a strong message to the Province on behalf of municipalities and regional districts all over BC.

“By collaborating with other local governments as one voice to provide advice on the regulation of single-use plastics, the provincial government is more likely to pay attention,” says Pratt. “This is a valuable approach to identify and implement opportunities for joint initiatives, collaboration and information sharing between local governments.”

The joint letter highlights five topic areas which include:

1. The need for a greater focus on reduction and reuse over recycling and disposal;
2. Clarification of local government authority to regulate for environmental reasons through local bylaws;
3. An appeal for a stepped or phased implementation approach;
4. Improved extended producer responsibilities; and
5. Sufficient consultation with key stakeholders when policy tools are developed and evaluated.

Many of the 29 local governments are also sending individual letters to the Province in addition to the joint letter.

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