



CV Nurses for Health & the Environment
and
CV Regional Chapter of Nurses and
Nurse Practitioners of BC



Vision Statement

Our Nurses are part of a committed group, dedicated to taking a stand on environmental health issues that threaten the health and well-being of citizens and the planet as a whole.





Awareness

Action

Advocacy

Action: Advocate to Ban Single-Use PLASTIC BAGS in the Comox Valley



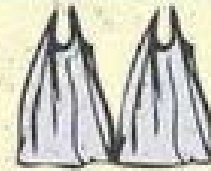
The best option: the Reusable Bag



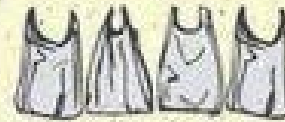


1 reusable bag

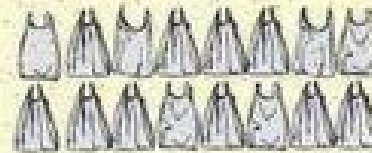
OR



1 trip



1 week



1 month



6 months

You can make a difference

www.natureforever.org



NATURE FOREVER
CONSERVING NATURE FOR THE FUTURE



Why Ban Single-use Plastics?

- Single-use plastic bags, such as those commonly used at the grocery store, make up a significant portion of marine debris.
- Plastics now comprise one of the biggest threats to the marine environment.
- Biodegradable plastic bags are not currently a feasible alternative because of the lack of commercial composting facilities necessary to recycle them.
- 2.86 billion plastic bags are used annually in Canada - 200 for every one of us.
- Bags remain toxic as microplastics, even after they break down

(Vancouver Island Surfrider Foundation)

A recent study by the Vancouver Aquarium documented approximately 4000 particles of microplastics per cubic meter of water in the Strait of Georgia





Progress on Vancouver Island

- Locally, Cumberland Council directed staff to prepare a Single-Use Item Regulation Bylaw to regulate the use of single-use plastics on Nov. 13th, 2018
- Other municipalities considering such a ban are : Nanaimo, Parksville, Qualicum, Tofino, Saanich, Esquimalt, Campbell River, and the City of Victoria
- BC Supreme Court upheld the Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags in Victoria on June 19th, 2018
- Federally, Gord Johns Motion M-151 to Combat Marine Plastic Pollution was passed unanimously in the House of Commons on December 5th, 2018



Blue Dot Municipalities

- A reminder, that we are signatories of the Blue Dot municipalities in support of the right to a healthy environment—clean air and water, safe food, a stable climate and a say in decisions that affect our health and well-being.
- Comox signed on June 4th, 2015
- Courtenay signed on July 4th, 2015
- Cumberland signed on September 9th, 2015



Why Municipalities and the Regional District need to initiate a Ban

- Comox Valley coastlines are central to our community identity and future
- Necessary in order to meaningfully reduce waste
- Business owners need a level playing field
- We need a ban across the whole Comox Valley



Local Groups Support a Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags

- COMOX VALLEY COUNCIL OF CANADIANS
- SUSTAINABILITY ACTION GROUP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (SAGE)
- GLOBAL LEARNING INITIATIVE (GLI)

In addition to the residents of the Comox Valley who have signed our Petition and many Businesses who are in support of a ban



CV Chamber of Commerce in 2009

Hey Comox Valley...
Gen McNamee
President of the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce
introduces you to...

Grab Your Bag!

Thanks for working with us to dramatically reduce, and one day end, plastic bag use in the Comox Valley. When business and consumers work together to change our habits - amazing things are possible. Bring your own bag or purchase a new Eco-Bag at participating businesses and...

Enter to
Win
one of over 25 "Green" prizes
from the Comox Valley Business Community

Comox Valley
Regional District

Comox Valley
Chamber of Commerce

The Comox Valley Regional District proudly supports the Bag Free Comox Valley Initiative. Reusable plastic bag use contributes to several waste reduction efforts. When you choose to reuse, you are "making a Better Choice for a Better Future" and supporting a healthy community.

How Nurses will Support a Ban

Awareness Team

- Newspaper articles about Single-use plastic bags
- ✓ Presentations in school
- ✓ Social media campaign to Ban the bag
- ✓ Movie night and discussion BAG IT!

Action Team

- ✓ Held a public engagement single-use bags at Comox Mall with a trade-in opportunity.
- Meet with businesses and support their efforts to ban single use plastic bags with scripted scenarios
- Sell reusable bags

Advocacy Team

- ✓ Presentations to City Councils & KFN
- ✓ Letters to the Editor /Op-ed
- ✓ Supported municipal candidates in Oct. 2018 who stated their support for a ban on single-use plastic bags

NIC Global Learning Initiative presents

Bag It



Bag It follows Colorado resident Jeb Berrier as he asks the question: What happens to all the plastic we throw away? And what happens when it all catches up to us?

The 78-minute documentary focuses on the environmental impact of everything from grocery bags to baby bottles and has won a host of awards, including 'Best Documentary' at the Durango Independent Film Festival, 'Audience Choice Award' at the Reel Earth Environmental Film Festival and the Port Townsend Film Festival's Special Jury Prize..

Thursday, October 18 | 6:30 pm | Doors open at 6 pm

Comox Valley Campus | Stan Hagen Theatre | Admission by donation

Screening will be followed by a Q&A with Helen Boyd, Coordinator, Comox Valley Nurses for Health and the Environment

Admission is by donation to NIC's Global Learning Initiative, which aims to foster awareness of global issues. Fair trade coffee and chocolate is available for purchase at the event.

For more information,
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www.nic.bc.ca



NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE





- We ask of the CVRD to pass a regional wide Policy Statement to encourage businesses to ban single-use plastic bags, straws and possibly other single use items.
- We ask of the CVRD to send a letter of request to our provincial government asking to support programs, policies and regulations that support the banning single-use plastic bags, straws and other items initiatives.

THANK YOU & QUESTIONS