

File: 0540-20/CoW

March 15, 2019

Chair and Directors
Committee of the Whole

Re: Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban

In follow up to the delegation from Helen Boyd and Meghan Leahy of the Comox Valley Nurses for Health and the Environment on March 12, 2019, I am requesting the board's consideration of supporting their stated requests for board advocacy to ban single-use plastic bags in the Comox Valley and to ask the Province of British Columbia to support programs and measures aligned with this goal.

As a coastal community, the Comox Valley is deeply connected to the natural environment and rely on it economically, ecologically, socially and culturally. In short, a healthy environment vital for the well-being of all local residents.

The impact of single-use plastics on the environment and water systems is well understood and documented. Single-use bags and other items are now widely regarded as an ecological danger, leaching into soils, groundwater, and the ocean and harming marine wildlife as well as entering our food systems.

As the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) does not have the authority to regulate the use of single-use plastic bags in the CVRD member municipalities or the electoral areas, I am requesting board advocacy to help advance this issue locally and province-wide.

Therefore, I request the committee's consideration of the following resolutions:

1. WHEREAS single use plastic bags are a major contributor to pollution;

AND WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the health and welfare of the residents of the Comox Valley to restrict the proliferation of single-use plastics;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Comox Valley Regional District Board encourages its member municipalities and all businesses within the region to restrict the use of single-use plastic bags.

2. THAT the Comox Valley Regional District write to the Province of British Columbia to request province-wide business regulations to reduce single-use plastic bags and disposable plastic packaging.
3. THAT the matter of restricting single-use plastic bags be referred to the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board for consideration of further action.

Sincerely,

A. Hamir

Arzeena Hamir
Director