

From: [Carolyn Jenkinson](#)
To: [Carolyn Jenkinson](#)
Subject: Letter from CRD Board Chair Colin Plant Re: Ocean Legacy Foundation Report – British Columbia's Beverage Container Legacy
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 1:48:19 PM

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX [<mailto:ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 1:02 PM
To: CRD Chair <crdchair@crd.bc.ca>
Cc: Kelly Myers <kmyers@crd.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Letter from CRD Board Chair Colin Plant Re: Ocean Legacy Foundation Report – British Columbia's Beverage Container Legacy

Reference: 350091

November 18, 2019

Colin Plant, Chair
and Directors
Capital Regional District
Email: crdchair@crd.bc.ca

Dear Chair Plant and Directors:

Thank you for your letter September 27, 2019, regarding the Ocean Legacy Foundation report, *British Columbia's Beverage Container Legacy: The Missing Millions*. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I appreciate that you took the time to highlight the Ocean Legacy Foundation's report and recommendations for me. Our government appreciates the work being done by the Foundation and recognizes the pervasive impacts of plastics, especially in the ocean environment.

The ministry has reviewed the Ocean Legacy Foundation's recommendations to reduce ocean plastics, including the potential for increasing deposit/refund levels. In general, these recommendations are in keeping with the ministry's goal to continuously improve our existing extended producer responsibility programs, particularly in targeting plastics and other single-use items.

To this end, on July 25, 2019, I was pleased to [announce](#) the Province's [Plastics Action Plan Policy Consultation Paper](#) and engagement process. Through the release of this consultation paper, the Province has been engaging on developing new policy options and seeking feedback on action in four connected areas to reduce plastic pollution and use less plastic overall. British Columbians were encouraged to share their opinions in an online survey at www.cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/plastics or through written submissions. I appreciate the Capital Regional District's participation in this process. The survey and engagement closed on September 30, 2019, and ministry staff are now preparing a "What We Heard" report along with the appropriate policy or regulatory responses. In anticipation

of the B.C. Government implementing a change to deposit refund amounts, on November 1, Encorp Pacific (better known as Return-It) raised deposits from 5 cents to 10 cents on all ready-to-drink beverage containers for soft drinks, juice, water, energy drinks and sport drinks up to and including 1 litre in size.

B.C. also continues to be a North American leader in extended producer responsibility policy and is very involved in responding to the G7 Ocean Plastics Charter through development of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste. In addition, Premier Horgan has appointed MLA Sheila Malcolmson as Parliamentary Secretary for Environment with a focus on marine debris protection to help find solutions to protect our marine environment from plastic pollution.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman
Minister

cc: Kelly Myers, Executive Services Coordinator, Capital Regional District