



NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HALIFAX - The **Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)** applauds the plastic bag ban as a great way to start targeting single-use, disposable items and to keep plastics out of our environment.

Some of the largest municipalities in the province are working with Halifax Regional Municipality staff to draft a model plastic bag ban by-law as soon as possible.

While banning plastic bags is a highly visible way to make an impact, they equate to less than 1% of what goes in our blue bags.

“We need to continue to target the bigger issue of changing behaviour and start looking at the rest of the packaging that goes into our system,” **NSFM CEO Juanita Spencer** said Thursday.

Last fall, Nova Scotia's municipalities voted to do that by making Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) one of their top five priority issues.

The NSFM presented an EPR proposal, which included consultation with 2,000 small and large businesses in the province, to the Government of Nova Scotia in June.

Language in the bill tabled Thursday opens the door for EPR for packaging and municipalities look forward to working with the government on that initiative.

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) agree that EPR programs are one of the best ways to protect the environment and make progress on the other 99% of materials in our blue bags.

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