

Daily Update – 8 October 2020

Canada banning plastic bags, straws, cutlery and other single-use items by the end of 2021

Under the [newly-unveiled list](#) of single-use plastics being banned in Canada, plastic grocery bags, straws, stir sticks, six-pack rings, cutlery and food containers made from hard-to-recycle plastics will be out of use nationwide by the end of 2021.

Environment and Climate Change Minister Jonathan Wilkinson announced the federal government's next steps towards its plan to achieve zero plastic waste by 2030.

As first pledged last year, and re-committed in the Liberal's September throne speech, the government is moving ahead with banning certain "harmful" single-use plastics that are consistently found in the environment and for which there are readily available alternatives, while finding ways to make sure more plastic is recycled.

Citing the need to consult, the government will be soliciting [feedback on a "discussion paper"](#) until December 9. The finalized new regulations wouldn't come into effect until the end of 2021.

The federal government has a target of at least 50 per cent recycled content in plastic products by 2030.

Under the new regulations the government will require:

- A minimum percentage of recycled content;
- rules for measuring and evaluating the amount of recycled content; and
- guidelines and related tools to help companies meet their requirements.

Wilkinson also pledged \$2 million for a zero plastic waste initiative, to go to 14 Canadian-led projects.

Later this week, the federal government will be publishing a proposed order to add "plastic manufactured items" to the list of regulated products under Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA). Greenhouse gasses is among the items already on that list.

Commercial rent relief – CFA letter to federal and provincial governments demanding action

The CFA sent a letter to Finance Minister Chystia Freeland, Small Business Minister Mary Ng and all the provincial Premiers asking for action on commercial rent. in the letter, which is linked below we ask

- Provincial governments to use their powers and resources
- Extend the commercial rent program into the second quarter of 2021
- The new program must have a lower threshold than CECRA
- Inclusion of "Dark Sites" in the program

- Tenants must have support without having to work through their landlord
- Expanding CEBA – in addition to a new commercial rent program
- Provinces must institute a temporary moratorium on commercial rent default evictions for a six-month period

[Read the Letter](#)

Quebec City to Montreal, nearly everything is now in the COVID-19 red zone

Health Minister Christian Dubé announced Thursday that nearly all the municipalities between the Montreal region and the Quebec City area along the St. Lawrence river are now considered red zones.

New red zones include the MRCs (regional county municipalities) of Bécancour, Nicolet-Yamaska, Drummond, Portneuf as well as the city of Trois-Rivières.

New, stricter measures will soon be enacted, along with police checkpoints to protect other zones, such as the Lac Saint-Jean. Police will be checking to ensure people are travelling for essential reasons, the health minister said.

In the new red zones, restaurants, bars, theatres and other restricted businesses will close on Saturday, while masks will be required at all times in high schools starting Wednesday of next week.

For a complete list of which areas are now in the red zone, [Quebec provides a website](#).

Ontario introduces changes to the Business Corporations Act

On Tuesday, Ontario tabled Bill 213, Better for People, Smarter for Business Act that makes a number of changes to the Business Corporations Act. This red-tape reduction legislation that will, amongst other things, repeal the requirement that Ontario corporations have 25% Canadian resident directors. Once the bill passes and is proclaimed companies may no longer need to incorporate in other provinces.

[Text of Bill 213](#)

Ontario Supports Small Main Street Businesses with \$60 Million in Funding through PPE Grant

Ontario's Main Street Recovery Plan and intends to introduce the Main Street Recovery Act, 2020, proposed legislation that would support small businesses and modernize rules to allow them to innovate and meet the challenges of today. If passed, the act will remove hurdles faced by small businesses and allow them to pursue new opportunities — while maintaining or enhancing protections for public health, safety and the environment.

The plan includes:

- A one-time grant of up to \$1,000 for eligible main street small businesses — in retail, food and accommodations, and other service sectors — with two to nine employees to help offset the unexpected costs of personal protective equipment (PPE);
- Ontario's Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Network, which links 47 Small Business Enterprise Centres across the province as places where small businesses can access tailored advice and information on local, provincial and federal programs;
- Digital Main Street Squads to help small businesses grow online;
- Mental health supports for families, frontline workers, young people, children, and Indigenous communities;
- Ontario's Small Business Recovery Webpage to provide single window access to small business supports.