



FEDERATION
OF CANADIAN
MUNICIPALITIES

April 9, 2018

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The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), thank you once again for your ongoing and productive partnership with local governments. I look forward to continuing to work closely with you and your officials on our shared federal-municipal priorities this year.

Each year at FCM's March and September Board meetings, and again at our Annual Conference in June, FCM's Board of Directors considers resolutions submitted by its membership. Resolutions adopted by FCM's Board of Directors help inform FCM's policy and advocacy priorities with the Government of Canada. Adopted resolutions represent municipal issues of national significance that fall within federal jurisdiction and therefore require a strong federal partner to help find a solution. The attached resolution, **Marine Litter**, was adopted by FCM's Board of Directors at its March 2018 meeting in Laval, QC.

Coastal communities in Canada are directly affected by the global issue of marine litter, particularly plastics, accumulating in the oceans. Degradation of shorelines due to marine litter can result in lost revenue for local economies dependant on marine tourism and recreation. Polluted shorelines create additional costs for municipalities where municipal staff are responsible for keeping public beaches clear of litter. Contamination of the marine food chain has negative implications for local marine biodiversity and fisheries. Despite frequent involvement in shoreline clean-up efforts, municipalities lack the resources to effectively manage the problem as the scale of the issue is well beyond any one municipality or even a single national government's control.

FCM welcomes measures taken by the Government of Canada to address forms of marine litter, including banning the use of plastic microbeads in toiletries and the recent commitment to promote ocean protection, particularly around plastics recycling and waste reduction, during Canada's G7 presidency.

In support of the attached resolution, FCM urges the federal government to continue this leadership role by developing a national strategy to mitigate marine litter, which would help to protect the environmental and economic well-being of coastal communities in Canada.

FCM looks forward to working with your department and to find practical solutions to address the issue of marine litter. If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact Matt Gemmel, Acting Manager, Policy and Research at mgemmel@fcm.ca or 613-907-6390.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Gerbasi
Deputy Mayor, City of Winnipeg
FCM President

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Marine Litter

WHEREAS, The United Nations Environmental Programme estimates that 8 million tonnes of the plastic produced globally every year finds its way into our oceans, food chains and ecosystems, damaging our health in the process;

WHEREAS, With over 202,080 kilometres of coastline, Canada has one of the longest interfaces with oceans and bodies of water of any country on the planet;

WHEREAS, Well designed laws can help reverse this global trend;

RESOLVED, That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities urge the federal government to develop a national strategy to mitigate and manage marine litter.

Regional District of Nanaimo, B.C.

**MARCH 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS DECISION: Category "A": RESOLUTION
ADOPTED**
