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**For immediate release**

### **Greater Moncton Councils consider plastic bag ban**

**Greater Moncton, NB** – In November 2018, two surveys were launched to determine the habits and opinions of consumers regarding the use of single-use plastic bags, as well as the needs and perceptions of business owners.

At the request of the Greater Moncton councils (i.e. all elected officials from Dieppe, Moncton and Riverview), a staff working group was formed to conduct research and explore options for reducing the consumption of single use plastic bags. Representatives from Eco360 also participated in the exercise.

Over 1,700 responses were received for the consumer survey. Highlights include:

- Plastic bag use is common (65%), though reusable bag use is quite popular at 74% for fabric bags and 62% for other types of reusable bags.
- When asked if they would agree to pay a fee for a single-use bag, 78% of respondents said yes, with 22% disagreeing. Nearly 750 open-ended comments were submitted with regards to this question!
- When asked about their level of concern about the environmental impact of plastic bags, 95% of participants indicated that they were either greatly or moderately concerned.
- Nearly 78% of participants were in favour of a single-use plastic bag ban, while 14% were against, and 8% undecided.

Sixty businesses, from a wide range of industries, participated in the survey aimed at understanding their context.

Highlights include:

- Just over half of respondents, at 53%, indicated that they currently offer typical plastic bags, while 15% use biodegradable or compostable plastic bags, 28% offer paper bags, and approximately 26% offer different types of reusable bags.
- Ninety-eight percent of respondents do not currently charge a fee to customers for a single-use bag.
- When asked what limitations exist for their business to offer reusable bags, 58% indicated cost, 12% selected 'store policy and procedures,' and 36% noted that there was no demand from their customers.
- When asked about their business' level of concern about the environmental impact of plastic bags, 91% of participants indicated that they were either greatly or moderately concerned.

#### **Next steps**

Each Council will review the survey results and the option of adopting a single-use plastic bag ban by-law.

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#### **Media Contacts:**

**Annie Duguay**

City of Dieppe  
506-877-5045

[annie.duguay@dieppe.ca](mailto:annie.duguay@dieppe.ca)

**Isabelle LeBlanc**

City of Moncton  
506-853-3592

[Isabelle.leblanc@moncton.ca](mailto:Isabelle.leblanc@moncton.ca)

**Meghan Cross**

Town of Riverview  
506-387-2072

[mcross@townofriverview.ca](mailto:mcross@townofriverview.ca)

**Gena Alderson**

Eco360  
506-877-1050

[gena.alderson@nbse.ca](mailto:gena.alderson@nbse.ca)