



## Bottled Water Restriction CSI-02-10 comments for Feb. 9/10

My name is Barbara Frensch and I am representing [BurlingtonGreen](#). We congratulate Lynn Robichaud on her great report as Burlington continues to demonstrate true leadership in the pursuit of its Zero Waste strategy.

A restriction and eventual ban on bottled water will certainly support the city's waste reduction goals. Eliminating a waste type eliminates the concern over #1 plastic bottle waste ending up in blue boxes, the garbage or as litter. I always tell students zero waste is better than recyclable waste and recycling still takes energy.

BurlingtonGreen is pleased to support the approval of this implementation plan including the \$15,000 funding for outreach and awareness programs. We offer these comments.

We are particularly pleased to see the following included in your report:

- The restriction of all bottled waters and their variations - flavoured, unflavoured, enhanced – to stop suppliers from evading the intention of these regulations.
- That bottled water is no longer provided at staff meetings/events and Café 426.
- The removal of the leased filtration system, as it is not necessary & will save you money.
- The provision of more fountains in indoor facilities, like Discovery Landing.
- The retrofitting of fountains & installation of spouts for easy refilling of reusable bottles.
- Working with the Region to promote our safe tap water.

We strongly recommend the following be considered as you implement this plan:

- That fountains are a mandatory provision at all indoor facilities.
- That more outdoor fountains are provided, especially at large parks like Spencer Smith where there are currently only two and at the Beachway Concession where there are none.

- That bottled waters are banned from all vending machines when current contracts expire. (Downtown Transit Terminal, rinks, pools, etc.)
- That it become mandatory for all sports organizations or groups renting City parks to communicate the City's waste reduction goals to parents & patrons and in particular to encourage coaches/parents to supply water in jugs &/or reusable bottles only. Discourage single serve water bottles.
- Encourage the privately run Restaurant, The Bite, to support your restriction by ceasing to sell bottled water & direct patrons through signage to the new fountain.
- Find an alternate location for Velocity Youth Drop-in Centre since they will not install a water fountain or at least ensure the requested water is served in reusable cups.

We believe your emphasis on communication is critical to the success of the plan. We recommend that the following points be included in your public awareness campaigns:

- Encourage the public to Bring Your Own Bottle (B.Y.O.B.) to parks, events, pools, rinks, etc. like we all did before bottled water existed. Hikers, campers and others remember to pack water. Park and event goers must learn to include water when they pack their snacks, diapers, blankets, etc.
- Awareness should include web site, posters and newspapers.
- Signage will be particularly important to communicate why bottled water is not available and how water is being made available.
- Tyandaga Golf Course patrons should be made aware water refills are available at the bar for reusable bottles.
- Large events should be required to have water trucks & provide free refills for anyone with a reusable bottle. For those who did not bring their own bottle they may purchase a reusable bottle.
- Instead of selling bottled water as a fundraiser, sell water in compostable cups for the same price. (Collect paper cups in GreenCarts or totes for composting)

In addition to the environmental health benefits of reducing plastic waste, reducing litter, reducing energy production and reducing greenhouse gases, I would like to briefly comment on the human health benefits this restriction would also provide. Single serve plastic water bottles #1 contain antimony. In the Royal Society of Chemistry Journal Dr. William Shotyk,

**“...found that antimony, a toxic chemical can leach from the plastic into the water. The risk of chemical leaching and contamination increases the longer the water stays in the bottle. Antimony is a suspected carcinogen.”**

Source: the Polaris Institute in Ottawa & I have a copy for your reference.

Thank you for your leadership in making the direct link between slowing down climate change and managing waste properly. I commend you for your sustainable management of our resources in making Burlington a greener, cleaner and healthier city. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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Paul Haskins

Kale Black

[BurlingtonGreen](#)

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