

Pamela Martin

Subject: FW: Letter - Mayor Helps - Bottle Depot Support
Attachments: 2019_05_28 - Bottle Depot Support - Minister of Environment.pdf; Missing_Millions-OLF_2019-REPORT.pdf

From: Honourable <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Date: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 at 1:31 PM
To: "Lisa Helps (Mayor)" <LHelps@victoria.ca>
Subject: RE: Letter - Mayor Helps - Bottle Depot Support

Reference: 345860

July 3, 2019

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps
and Councillors
City of Victoria
Email: mayor@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor Helps and Council:

Thank you for your recent letter, which I received on June 3, 2019, regarding Ocean Legacy Foundation's (OLF's) report: British Columbia's Beverage Container Legacy: The Missing Millions. I appreciate that you took the time to highlight OLF's report and recommendations for me. Our government appreciates the work being done by the OLF and recognizes the pervasive impacts of plastics—especially in the ocean environment.

BC continues to be a North American leader in extended producer responsibility (EPR) policy and is very involved in responding to the G7 Ocean Plastics Charter through development of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste. Additionally, Premier Horgan has recently appointed Sheila Malcolmson, MLA for Nanaimo, as my special advisor on marine debris to make recommendations for provincial action on plastics in the marine environment.

The ministry is currently reviewing all the OLF's recommendations to reduce ocean plastics, including the potential for increasing deposit/refund levels. In general, these recommendations are in keeping with the ministry's goal to continuously improve our existing EPR programs, particularly in targeting plastics and other single-use items. We look forward to working more closely with OLF on solutions going forward.

Although the collection of beverage containers has plateaued in recent years, both of BC's EPR programs for beverage containers are due for renewal in 2019. The consultation period for the Encorp Pacific stewardship plan has recently ended, but the Brewers' Recycled Container Collection Council plan is anticipated to undergo consultation in the next few months and public involvement in this consultation process is encouraged. Your comments and OLF's well-documented report recommendations will be considered as part of our review at that time.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and for sharing your concerns with me.

Sincerely,

George Heyman
Minister