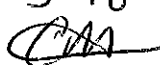


## Allen Roach - Letter from CFIB re: Plastic Bag Ban Legislation

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**From:** Erin McGrath-Gaudet <Erin.McGrath-Gaudet@cfib.ca>  
**To:** "afroach@assembly.pe.ca" <afroach@assembly.pe.ca>  
**Date:** 5/22/2018 2:07 PM  
**Subject:** Letter from CFIB re: Plastic Bag Ban Legislation  
**CC:** "crlavie@assembly.pe.ca" <crlavie@assembly.pe.ca>, "samyers@assembly.pe....  
**Attachments:** Roach re plastic bag ban 052218.pdf

Roach  
 23.5.18  


Dear Mr. Roach,

I am writing today regarding your Private Member's Bill proposing a ban on single-use plastic bags and to share recent findings from a CFIB survey of our PEI members which show support for a possible, province-wide plastic bag ban (letter attached). In the survey, we asked our members to comment on their level of awareness around a possible ban on single-use plastic shopping bags in PEI, the use of single-use plastic bags in their business, their support or opposition to a ban on single-use plastic bags, the potential impact of a plastic bag ban on their business, and alternatives to a ban for governments to consider.

If you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss these findings, please feel free to contact me at 902-620-4914 or email [erin.mcgrath-gaudet@cfib.ca](mailto:erin.mcgrath-gaudet@cfib.ca).

Sincerely,

E.

Erin McGrath-Gaudet  
 Director, PEI & Intergovernmental Policy  
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**CANADIAN FEDERATION  
OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS**

*In business for your business.*

87 Pownal Street  
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1A 3W4

May 22, 2018

Mr. Allen Roach  
MLA for Montague-Kilmuir  
Legislative Assembly of PEI  
PO Box 2890  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 8C5

**Subject: Small- and medium-size business perspective on the distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags**

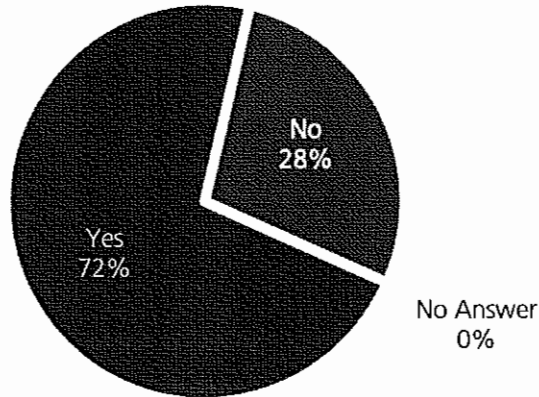
Dear Mr. Roach,

I am writing today regarding your Private Member's Bill proposing a ban on single-use plastic bags and to share recent findings from a CFIB survey of our PEI members which show support for a possible, province-wide plastic bag ban. In the survey, we asked our members to comment on their level of awareness around a possible ban on single-use plastic shopping bags in PEI, the use of single-use plastic bags in their business, their support or opposition to a ban on single-use plastic bags, the potential impact of a plastic bag ban on their business, and alternatives to a ban for governments to consider.

In regards to communication, a majority of members (72 per cent) reported that they were aware of a possible ban. Only 28 per cent were unaware of a possible ban prior to receiving the survey (see Figure 1). This indicates a high level of awareness of the issue across the small business community including those who provide single-use plastic shopping bags to their customers as well as businesses who do not.

Figure 1:

Prior to receiving this survey, were you aware the PEI government is considering a ban on single-use plastic shopping bags being provided to customers at the point-of-sale? (% response)

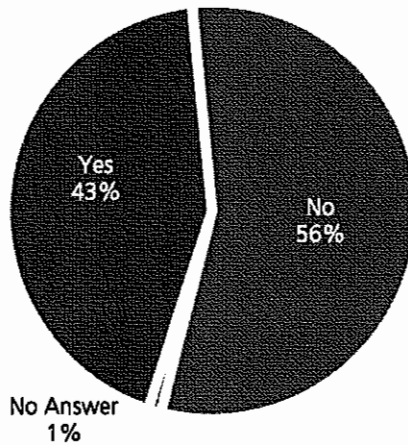


Source: CFIB, Plastic Bag Ban Survey, May 8-22, 2018 (Preliminary results). N=67

When asked if their business currently provides single-use plastic bags, 56 per cent indicated that they do not provide single-use plastic bags to their customers while 43 per cent said they do provide single-use plastic bags at point-of-sale to their customers (see Figure 2).

Figure 2:

Does your business currently provide single-use plastic shopping bags to customers at point-of-sale? (% response)

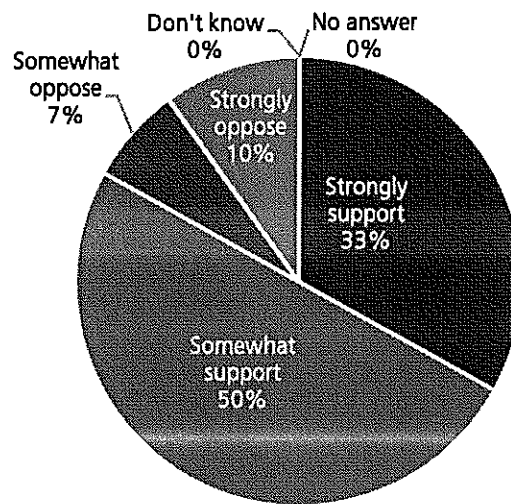


Source: CFIB, Plastic Bag Ban Survey, May 8-22, 2018 (Preliminary results). N=67

When those who currently provide single-use plastic bags were asked to what extent they would support or oppose a ban on single-use plastic bags to protect the environment, 83 per cent reported that they either strongly support (33 per cent) or somewhat support a ban (50 per cent). Opposing a ban included 10 per cent strongly opposing and a further seven per cent somewhat opposing a ban (see Figure 3).

Figure 3:

To what extent do you support or oppose a ban on single-use plastic bags as a way to protect the environment? (% response)

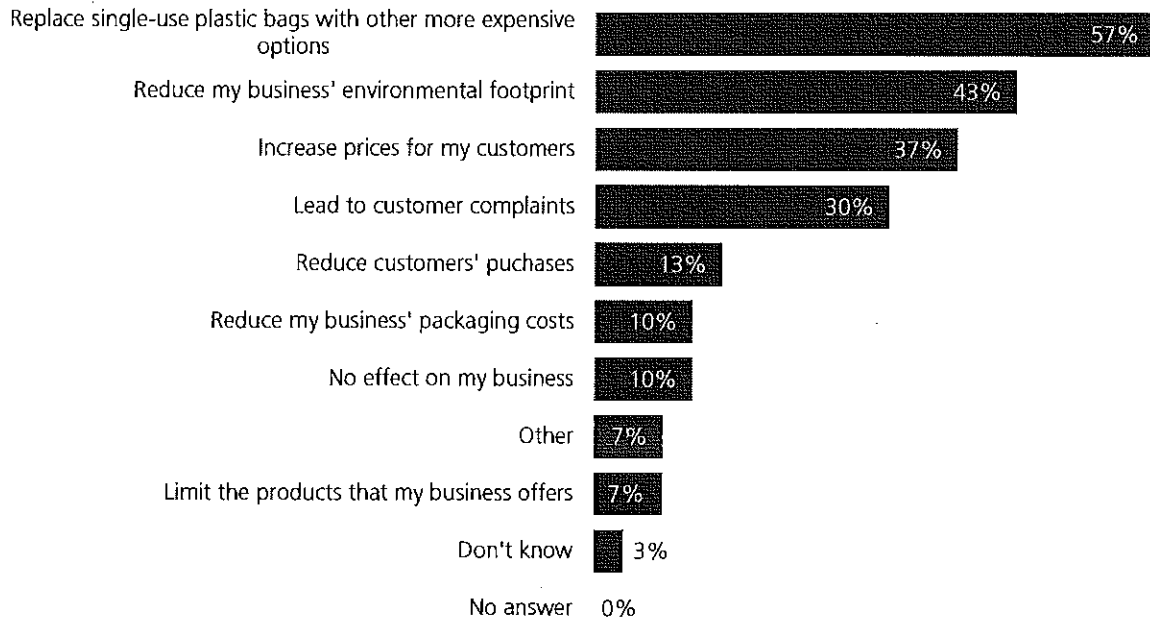


Source: CFIB, Plastic Bag Ban Survey, May 8-22, 2018 (Preliminary results). N=30

If providing single-use plastic bags were banned the majority of business owners would replace single-use plastic shopping bags with more expensive options like multi-use or paper bags (57 per cent) which could in turn increase final prices for many customers (37 per cent). On a positive note, 43 per cent of our members see a plastic bag ban as a way of reducing their business' environmental footprint. There were, however, some concerns that a ban on single-use plastic bags would lead to customer complaints (30 per cent) (see Figure 4).

Figure 4:

**If providing single-use plastic bags were banned, how would it affect your business? (% response)**

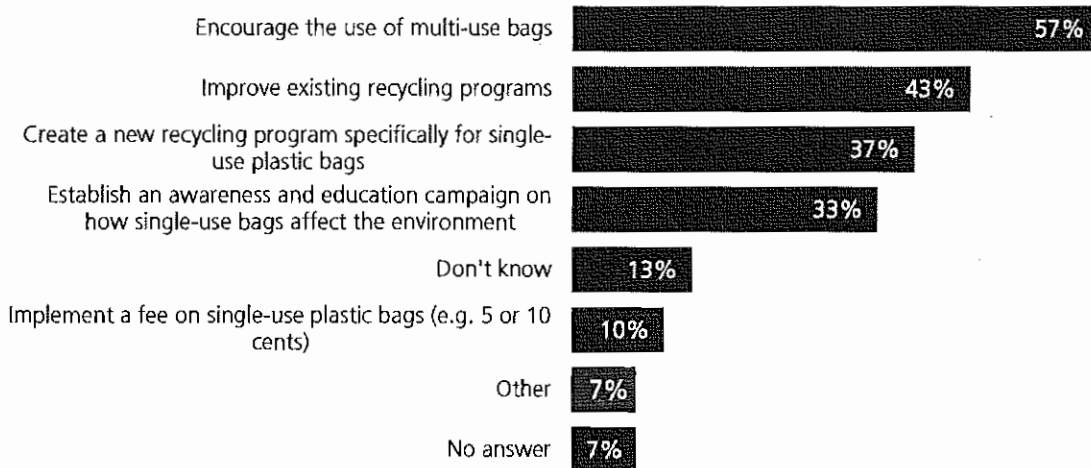


Source: CFB, Plastic Bag Ban Survey, May 8-22, 2018 (Preliminary results). N=30

We also asked what alternatives government should consider to protect the environment instead of a ban on single-use plastic shopping bags, the popular option was for government to encourage the use of multi-use bags (57 per cent), followed by improving existing recycling programs (43 per cent) or creating a new recycling programs for single-use bags (37 per cent) (see Figure 5).

Figure 5:

**What alternatives should governments consider to protect the environment instead of a ban on single-use plastic bags? (% response)**



Source: CFIB, Plastic Bag Ban Survey, May 8-22, 2018 (Preliminary results). N=30

We are hopeful this feedback will be helpful in your deliberations on the treatment of single-use plastic shopping bags. As always, our hope is that any legislation or regulation is easy for small business owners to understand and implement with minimal cost or administrative burden.

If you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss these findings, please feel free to contact me at 902-620-4914 or email [erin.mcgrath-gaudet@cfib.ca](mailto:erin.mcgrath-gaudet@cfib.ca).

Sincerely,

*Erin McGrath-Gaudet*

Erin McGrath-Gaudet  
Director, PEI & Intergovernmental Policy

c.c.: MLAs