



The Corporation of The Township of The Archipelago
Council Meeting

Agenda Number: 15.13.
Resolution Number 23-178
Title: Cigarette Producer Responsibility
Date: Friday, October 13, 2023

Moved by: Councillor Sheard
Seconded by: Councillor MacLeod

WHEREAS cigarette manufacturers play a crucial role in the creation and distribution of cigarette products. Cigarettes, are responsible for significant environmental damage and contribute to waste and pollution; and

WHEREAS cigarette butts are the most common form of litter worldwide and pose a threat to aquatic life and ecosystems. As reported 26 July 2023 to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, Pollution Probe's Great Lakes Plastic Cleanup identified cigarette butts one of the top five items of microplastics found in the Great Lakes, and

WHEREAS cigarette filters are composed of non-biodegradable materials that can take several years to degrade, exacerbating the problem of waste accumulation; and

WHEREAS the concept of producer responsibility promotes the idea that the party that profits from the creation and sale of a product should also be responsible for managing the product's end-of-life environmental impact; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has successfully implemented producer responsibility programs for various industries, such as electronics, packaging, and batteries, resulting in significant improvements in waste management and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS the exclusion of cigarette manufacturers from current producer responsibility programs in our province creates an inconsistency in environmental policy and hampers our overall efforts to reduce waste and protect our environment. It is imperative to address the environmental impact of cigarette manufacturing, usage, and disposal.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of The Archipelago hereby requests the Province of Ontario to include cigarette manufacturers within the scope of producer responsibility regulations and programs;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Government takes necessary steps to develop and amend legislation to ensure cigarette manufacturers are responsible for the collection, recycling, and proper disposal of cigarette waste and the Province of Ontario be encouraged to work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders, including public health organizations, environmental groups, and retail associations, to develop comprehensive and effective strategies for the inclusion of cigarette manufacturers in producer responsibility program, taking into account the unique challenges posed by tobacco products;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Ontario allocate adequate resources and establish monitoring systems to ensure compliance with the newly imposed responsibilities by cigarette manufacturers, including penalties for non-compliance;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Ontario adopts regulations and policies that require cigarette manufacturers to:

1. Take financial responsibility for the collection, transportation, recycling, or safe disposal of discarded cigarettes and related waste materials.
2. Develop and engage in public awareness campaigns to educate the public about the environmental impact of cigarette butt litter and implement programs to educate the public on the safe disposal of cigarette butts.
3. Implement measures to minimize the environmental impact of their products through the use of sustainable materials, reduced packaging, and improved recycling initiatives;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED The Ministry of the Environment actively collaborates with other provinces and territories within Canada to encourage a nationwide approach towards including cigarette manufacturers in Producer Responsibility initiatives;

AND FURTHER BE FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, the Honorable Andrea Khanjin Minister of the Environment, Conservations and Parks, relevant Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), Leader of the Opposition parties, All Municipalities in Ontario, Pollution Probe, Georgian Bay Forever, Georgian Bay Association, and other pertinent stakeholders as appropriate, urging their support and action in this matter.

Carried