



Majority of Businesses in Fundy Region Support a Plastic Checkout Bag Ban

November 5, 2020 - The majority of businesses in the Fundy Region say they would support a plastic checkout bag bylaw, according to a survey.

The survey, conducted by the Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce and the Fundy Regional Service Commission, asked businesses in the greater Saint John region about their current usage of plastic checkout bags, if they would support a ban, and about the usage of plastic bags during the pandemic.

The survey found that 75% of the respondents would support a plastic checkout bag ban. When asked how a bag ban would impact their business, 83% reported little to no impact.

The respondents largely represented small business with over 50% from business with 5 or fewer employees. Many of the businesses were small retail, grocery-type stores that currently use plastic bags.

“We are seeing more and more of the larger retail stores adopt plastic checkout bag bans, as regulations come into effect across the country. However, it is much more difficult for a small independent store to implement these changes. A bylaw would create a level playing field for all small retailers in our area, and the survey indicates they would support it,” said David Duplisea, CEO of Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce.

Fundy Regional Service Commission has requested municipalities in the region to adopt the plastic bag reduction bylaw for June 30, 2021.

“The proposed bylaw to reduce plastic checkout bags in the Fundy Region, would remove one of the most difficult items from the waste stream and environment, as PEI has demonstrated, plastic bags disappeared almost overnight with its adoption,” said Marc MacLeod, Executive Director of Fundy Regional Service Commission.

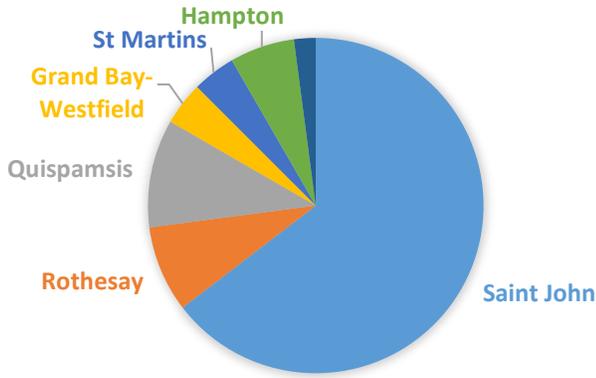
“Our community’s commitment to reducing plastic waste starts here, and this motion is a commitment that council is focused on putting together the pieces on our long term climate change strategy. These are easy, yet impactful decisions that can go a long way in cleaning up our neighbourhood. Thanks to the Fundy Regional Services Commission and The Chamber for leading the way,” said David Hickey, Saint John Councillor.

Regulations restricting the use of plastic checkout bags are in effect in PEI, Nova Scotia and Moncton, Riverview and Dieppe.

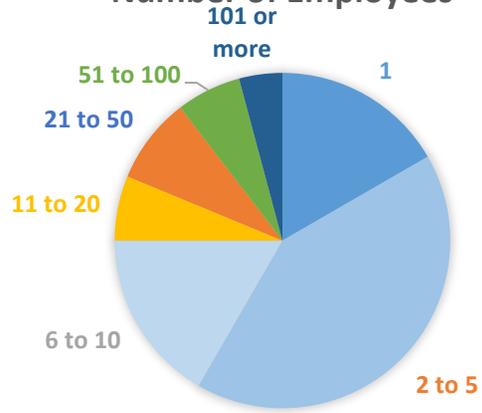
Contact:

Brenda MacCallum
Public Relations and Program Development Officer
Fundy Regional Service Commission
506 738 1214 bmaccallum@fundyregion.ca

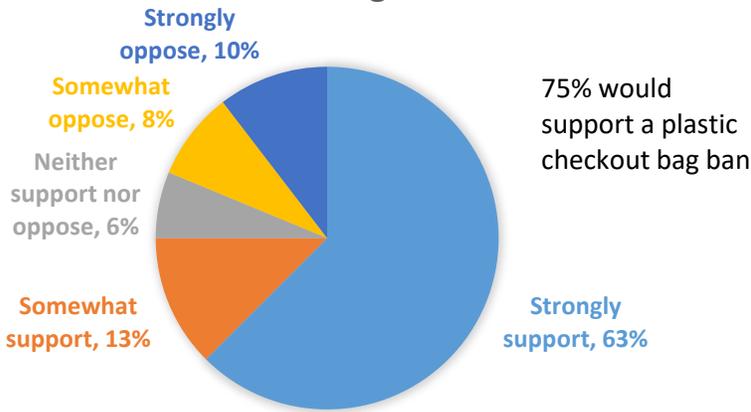
Where is your business located?



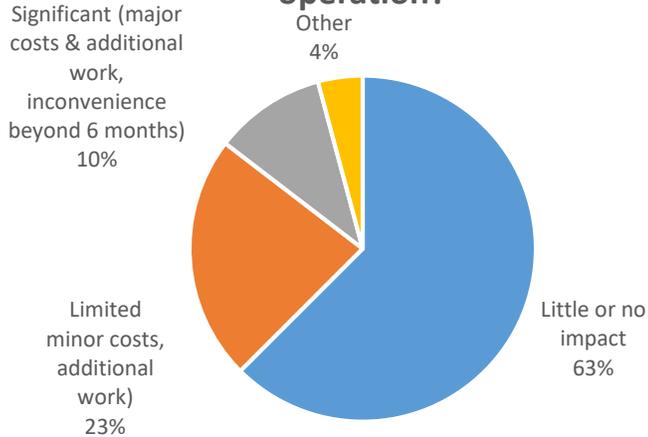
Number of Employees



Would your business be supportive of a plastic checkout bag ban?



How would a ban impact your operation?



Are plastic checkout bags needed during the pandemic?

