

## No Plastic Election Signs

Dear Mayor and Council,

The vast majority of signs used in election campaigns today are made of coroplast or a similar product. It is lightweight, can be easily printed on, and is relatively cheap to purchase. Unfortunately, like too many of our contemporary products, it is also made of plastic and has a pre-determined life of at best 6 months (or 3 elections). More typically the sign is disposed of after just one election period of about two months. This is the very definition of single-use plastic.

When we hear the term single-use plastic we tend to think of things like straws, plastic cutlery or shopping bags but it has become an unseen part of how we live. I urge you to look around and see how we can stop this. Election signs are an easy way to start. I'm not interested in discussing the need to advertise or promote. This is quite simply about the need to stop using single-use plastic when it isn't necessary.

I understand that these plastic election signs can be reused or recycled but we need to get beyond that mindset. Even if something can potentially be reused or recycled that is no guarantee that it will be. The first "R" we need to embrace is Refuse. We need to stop using plastic signs. There is no need. Our federal government has even recognized the need to Refuse single-use plastic; calling for a ban on them by as early as 2021 (classic non-determinate political talk). We can do better. I'm sure we can ask them to walk the walk and call for a ban on all plastic signage in this year's federal election.

So let's make this happen, put in a bylaw and call on other governments to follow your lead. No plastic signage in the 2019 federal election. I want our community to be leaders in protecting our environment, not seen as reluctant followers.

Referred to:

Environment and Social Planning Committee (2019.09.03)

Copied to:

City Manager, Dir. Corporate Services, Dir. Engineering

If this can't be easily done or if Council is unsure of the implications of this change within existing bylaws then I would propose the adaptation of a unique bylaw that specifically bans plastic election signs for the 2019 Federal Election. Its an easy step in the right direction.

I should also mention that I intend to have similar motions before the DNV, the CNV, the City of Vancouver and the City of Burnaby. It seems local leadership is what's needed to get this done. I have also started a change.org petition and will be writing to the media to try to garner more support for this.

Thank you for considering this proposal and for working hard to make our community better.

Sincerely,

Phil Dupasquier

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[REDACTED]

North Vancouver, BC

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