Plastic Packaging Protects Ontarians
Saves Lives, Protects and Preserves Our Food Supply

Are plastics a danger to human health and the material "plastics" designated toxic (poisonous) under the Canadian Environmental Act like DDT?

- **Answer**: No. Single-use plastic food packaging protects human life. And it is single use for important public health and public safety reasons.

- **Public Health: Single-use plastic food packaging saves lives.** Protects us from preventable foodborne illness. How can it be toxic?
- This what is toxic – these food-borne pathogens - E-coli, Norovirus, Salmonella, Campybacter and Listeria, the deadliest.

- **I in 8 Canadians -- 4 million Canadians -- get sick each year from food-related illness;** 11,500 hospitalizations each year.
- And it can be deadly**. 240 die each year**.[1]

- **Food Safety and Security: Single-use plastic packaging protects the food supply and reduces food wastage**.
- It prevents food contamination and safely extends the life of the food. It provides a barrier to oxygen, temperature, moisture, bacteria, vermin and insects.
- It keeps food fresher, longer. A cucumber wrapped in plastic lasts 11 days longer; bananas wrapped in plastic last 21 days longer.

[1] https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/food-nutrition/infographic-food-related-illnesses-hospitalizations-deaths-in-canada.html

- The average Ontarian wastes 170 kilos or 375 pounds of good food each year costing the average household $28 a week or $1,456 a year.

Should the material "plastics" be designated poisonous and put under CEPA?

There is no evidence that the material "plastics"- plastic microfibres or macroplastics - is toxic. Just the opposite. And a lot more research is needed before such a drastic step is taken.

From the Federal Government's own report**," Draft Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution"**, in their own words, they conclude:

- Page 9 "In addition to physical impacts, there are concerns that plastics may serve as a means of transport for other chemicals. … The current literature suggests that, while the transport of chemicals via plastics is possible, the impact to biota is likely limited, **and recent international reviews indicate that there is likely a low health concern for human exposure to chemicals from ingestion of microplastics from food or drinking water** (EFSA 2016; FAO 2017; WHO 2019)."

  "… **further research would be required before a human health risk assessment on microplastics is possible.** Many of the chemicals observed to be bound to plastic particles have been assessed by various programs at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Health Canada. Page 9 *(And not put under CEPA with the exception of the additive microbeads)*

- "Plastics can also provide a habitat for microorganisms, including potential pathogens, through the formation of biofilms. **There is currently no indication that microplastics-associated biofilms would impact human health**. In addition, despite very limited data, it is anticipated that drinking water treatment would inactivate biofilm-associated microorganisms."

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) DECLARES MICROPLASTICS IN TREATED TAP AND BOTTLED WATER NOT A RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH

- "Based on the evidence available, chemicals and biofilms associated with microplastics in drinking-water pose a low concern for human health ... Microbial pathogens and other chemicals found in sewage and wastewater pose a greater human health concern than microplastics."
- "WHO recommends drinking-water suppliers and regulators prioritize removing microbial pathogens and chemicals that are known risks to human health, such as those causing deadly diarrhoeal diseases. This has a double advantage: wastewater and drinking-water treatment systems that treat faecal content and chemicals are also effective in removing microplastics."[2]

[2] https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/22-08-2019-who-calls-for-more-research-into-microplastics-and-a-crackdown-on-plastic-pollution