

## Wetaskiwin Becomes Second Alberta Municipality to Ban Plastic Bags

July 9, 2019

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – The City of Wetaskiwin’s Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw 1913-18 came into effect Tuesday, July 9, 2019, banning the local distribution of single use plastic bags. Wetaskiwin is the second community in Alberta to ban single-use plastic bags—the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo was the first, having had similar legislation in place since 2010.

Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw 1913-18 specifically targets single use plastic bags thinner than 2.0 mils that were previously given out at local retail establishments. Some exceptions to the ban apply including plastic bags used to contain fresh meat products, bulk food or hardware items, or freshly prepared bakery items. Professional laundering bags and any plastic bags used to contain dirty, greasy, or hazardous materials are also exempt.

“With an estimated four trillion plastic bags being used every year worldwide, it is time for us to make a positive change,” said Mayor Tyler Gandam. “Many Wetaskiwinites care deeply about the environment, and every small step toward sustainable living helps us leave the Earth a better place for all future generations.”

A limited supply of free reusable bags can be found in most local grocery stores thanks to a generous donation made by the John Maude and Susan Quinn Charitable Foundation—enabling the City of Wetaskiwin to purchase reusable bags for community members.

A full list of exceptions to Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw 1913-18 can be found at [www.wetaskiwin.ca/byobag](http://www.wetaskiwin.ca/byobag).

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