

Banning Plastic Bags

Motion: Grocery stores banned from using plastic bags to carry out purchases.

Advantages of Banning Plastic Bags	Disadvantages of Banning Plastic Bags
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would cut down on litter on the ground, in trees, and in ponds, lakes, and rivers. • Plastic bags jam up recycling systems. • Banning plastic grocery bags is done in many large cities like Chicago, Austin, Seattle, and Toronto. • It takes 400 to 1000 years for plastic grocery bags to rot. • Only 5% of the bags are recycled. • Canadians use between 9 and 15 billion plastic grocery bags each year; that's enough to circle the earth 55 times. • Animals that live in water may be killed or injured because of swallowing bags or getting caught in them. • Might encourage people to think twice about buying junk because they don't have more bags to carry things in. • Plastic bags tear and cause things to break or spill. • People will get used to bringing re-usable bags into the grocery store. • Oil is used to make plastic → this leads to damaging the environment for more oil wells, oil sands, and the search for more oil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposable cups are a much bigger problem. • Enforcing the ban will be difficult for bylaw officers. • People who work in businesses that make plastic bags will lose their jobs. • People who are poor won't be able to afford to buy re-usable bags. • Many people will forget to bring their re-usable bag to the grocery store. • People aren't used to having to provide their own re-usable bags. • Some people will be very upset with the bylaw and the government. • Many people use the plastic grocery bags for garbage → they would have to buy plastic garbage bags if this bylaw was passed. • People may not buy as much and that might make businesses lose money. • Plastic bags are needed for wrapping things like frozen food, meat and produce that would spread germs and bacteria. • Plastic bags only produce less than 1% of all litter. • Could just charge people a nickel for

- Re-usable bags just need to be washed regularly to avoid spreading germs and bacteria

every plastic bag they need for their groceries → that money could be used to help educate people about the problems caused by littering

- Germs and bacteria in re-usable bags may make people get sick
- Educating people and giving people rewards for re-cycling plastic grocery bags might work better than fines
- Ireland lowered the use of plastic grocery bags by 94% during the first year of charging for them
- Banning plastic grocery bags might make grocery stores use paper bags again → that could lead to more forests getting cut down