



**MINISTER
OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE**

Room 344
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA

MAY - 8 2023

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council
info@cwlc.ca

Dear The Catholic Women's League of Canada:

Thank you for meeting with us on February 15, 2023, and presenting your organization's current resolutions. As Minister of Environment and Climate, I am pleased to respond.

Manitoba continues to be committed to modernizing our waste diversion and recycling framework to divert as much waste as possible away from landfills. This commitment is further demonstrated by an \$8.7 Million investment allocation for recycling, composting and waste diversion initiatives in Budget 2023. I very much appreciate your suggestion to implement refundable deposits across more categories of beverage containers. I will note that Manitoba's recovery rate of non-alcoholic beverage containers is already comparable to jurisdictions with deposit programs. However, I want to assure you that your suggestion has been heard, and that Environment and Climate will continue to explore the best options at our disposal as we strive to make Manitoba a recycling leader.

Through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), Manitoba is collaborating with the federal government, as well as other provincial and territorial governments, to take action on reducing plastic waste by adopting the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste. Through the Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste, CCME will be developing guidance that will better inform the labeling, purchasing, recycling, and disposal of plastic products.

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Manitoba will continue to do its part to achieve CCME's aspirational goal of reducing Canada's total waste 30% by 2030, and 50% by 2040. As we work towards achieving this aspirational goal, we recognize that steps must be taken to reduce food waste. This is why in 2020/21 Manitoba supported a partnership between the City of Winnipeg and Love Food Hate Waste Canada in completing a residential food waste collection pilot project. This important work helped residents get more out of their food, save money, and reduce trips to the grocery store, and will help to build the business case for compost education and services going forward. Manitoba will continue to explore further opportunities to reduce both household and industrial food waste in the future.

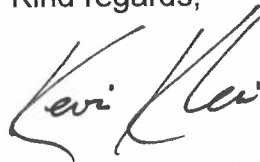
I also thank you for your suggestions regarding the disposal of grain bags. Based on the 'polluter pays' principle, Manitoba has developed an extended producer responsibility model where grain bags and agricultural plastics are recycled through stewardship programs. Manitoba approved an extended producer responsibility program operated by Clean Farms Inc. in 2021, which recycled 76 tonnes of agricultural plastics in 2021 alone. We will continue to examine opportunities to build on this success.

Environment and Climate is also aligned with the Catholic Women's League in its view of the importance of youth engagement in our democracy. In support of this shared vision, I have appointed a Youth Advisory Council on the Environment, which will report to the Expert Advisory Council and provide a critical youth perspective on environmental matters in Manitoba.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Beaupre, Senior Legislative Analyst, at 204-590-6605 or josh.beaupre@gov.mb.ca.

Thank you once again for your valued input and suggestions on these important waste diversion and recycling initiatives. Together we can achieve our vision of a healthy and resilient natural environment and economy where current and future generations can prosper.

Kind regards,



Honourable Kevin Klein
Minister of Environment and Climate

- c. The Honourable Heather Stefanson
Josh Beaupre