

It's time to end pollution from toxics and plastics

Federal leadership opportunities for a cleaner, safer environment and economy

Plastics and other toxic chemicals pollute soil, air, water and our bodies, harming human and environmental health. Canada must protect our health and well-being, make pollution reduction a top federal priority, phase out toxic chemicals and implement strong measures to curb plastic pollution across the country.

Nine out of ten people in Canada want to see federal action towards safer products – strong public endorsement for leadership on this issue – and the government has already committed to ending plastic waste by 2030. Canada can address environmental and health concerns and build a cleaner, safer economy by eliminating toxic chemicals and harmful and unnecessary plastics, while investing in alternatives that create local jobs.

1. Invest in the well-being of Canada, and stop subsidizing polluters

- Fund federal science and policy expertise that leads to safer products by re-investing in the Plastics Initiative and Chemicals Management Plan (CMP).
- Ensure that funds are linked to an ambitious, comprehensive pollution reduction agenda that expedites plastics and toxics regulations, and expands the existing tools that will reduce toxic pollution.
- Deploy federal investments and policy to support truly circular solutions, including accessible and large-scale reuse and refill systems that create local jobs.
- Stop subsidizing the fossil fuel, petrochemical and waste companies that profit from being unaccountable for their plastic pollution and toxic emissions, holding them responsible for their harms.

2. Drive the well-being agenda by eliminating harmful toxics and plastics

- Ban more harmful and unnecessary single-use plastic products.
- Eliminate harmful groups of chemicals in plastics, and expedite regulations to phase out toxic chemicals in products, including PFAS (aka “forever chemicals”), phthalates, bisphenols, flame retardants and UV stabilizers.

- Require companies to disclose the chemicals in their plastics and products to increase trust and transparency in the Canadian market. Thousands of chemicals in use today have never been tested for safety.
- Ensure everyone in Canada enjoys the Right to a Healthy Environment and that decisions protect people who are disproportionately impacted by toxics and plastic pollution, particularly Indigenous and racialized communities, workers, children and women.
- Develop and fund a program for workers transitioning away from polluting industries towards jobs in a cleaner, just and circular economy.