

# ***ADVANCING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR PLASTICS: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA'S PLASTICS REGULATORY AGENDA***

**Recycling Council of Alberta  
Circular Economy Conference**

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# Context: Plastics in the Environment

- **Animals and their habitat:**

- Marine animals mistake plastic for food but cannot digest it, become entangled in plastics
  - Plastic kills about 1 million seabirds per year
  - About 100,000 marine animals are **found** each year that have been killed by ocean plastic ingestion or entanglement (actual number likely much higher)
- Likelihood of coral being contaminated with disease increases from 4% to 89% when they are in contact with plastic

- **Impacts on Humans**

- 73% of all litter on beaches worldwide is plastic
- The average person consumes 70,000 microplastics/year
- Microplastics have been found in human placenta and fetuses

- **Carbon emissions:**

- Plastic in the environment is one of the least studied sources of carbon emissions—and a key missing piece from previous studies on plastic's climate impacts
- In 2019, production and incineration of plastic contributed the equivalent of 850 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere
- Oceans absorb about 40% of all human-produced CO<sub>2</sub> since the beginning of the industrial era
- Increasing amount of research suggests plastic in the environment disrupts the ocean's natural ability to absorb and sequester CO<sub>2</sub>



# Context: Our Future under a Business as Usual Scenario

Category Measure (Global)	Baseline - 2019	2030	2060
Plastic Use	~460 Mt	Increase by ~30%	Increase of ~265%
Plastic Waste	~353 Mt	Increase by ~ 1/3	3X baseline
Plastic Leakage	~22 Mt	Increase ~20%	2x baseline
Plastic entering the oceans/ year	8 Mt a year Equivalent of one garbage truck full of plastic every minute	Equivalent of 2 garbage trucks of plastic entering the ocean every minute	<b><u>By 2050</u></b> Equivalent of 4 garbage trucks of plastic entering the environment every minute  Plastic in the oceans will outweigh fish



# FEDERAL ZERO PLASTIC WASTE AGENDA

## Ocean Plastics Charter and international actions

- Working with governments and stakeholders to develop a legally-binding global agreement on plastic pollution and advancing international actions on plastic waste and pollution

## Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment

- Working with provinces and territories to implement the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste and Action Plan – Phase I and Phase II

## Policies and regulations

- Measures to prevent plastic pollution and support the transition to circularity (e.g. banned microbead-containing toiletries and certain harmful single-use plastics)

## Greening our government

- Reducing plastic waste from federal operations and promoting sustainable procurement

## Advancing science

- Implementing Canada's Plastics Science Agenda including conducting research and investing in science across the plastics value chain

## Plastics innovation

- Enabling innovative social and technological solutions for the sustainable management of plastics throughout their lifecycle, including through Canada's Plastics Innovation Challenges

## Mobilizing Canadians

- Supporting education and awareness-raising initiatives, community actions (e.g. demonstration and clean-up projects), community science, sector-based solutions, and tackling ghost gear



# MOVING TOWARDS CIRCULARITY

- Canada aims for a zero plastic waste future where plastics stay in the economy and out of the environment
- No single solution – Canada is implementing a comprehensive, circular economy, and evidence-based agenda
  - Advances complementary actions across the plastics value chain and supports the waste hierarchy
  - Addresses market challenges, strengthens systems and infrastructure, spurs innovation, enables sustainable behaviours, and tackles plastic pollution
- Multi-stakeholder approach to achieve change
  - Everyone has a role to play to rethink how we make, use and manage plastics



# Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations

## Final Regulations

*Microbeads in Toiletries Regulations*, in force since July 2019

*Single Use Plastic Prohibition Regulations*, final regulations published June 2022

## Accompanying Guidance Documents

### Guidance for Selecting Alternatives

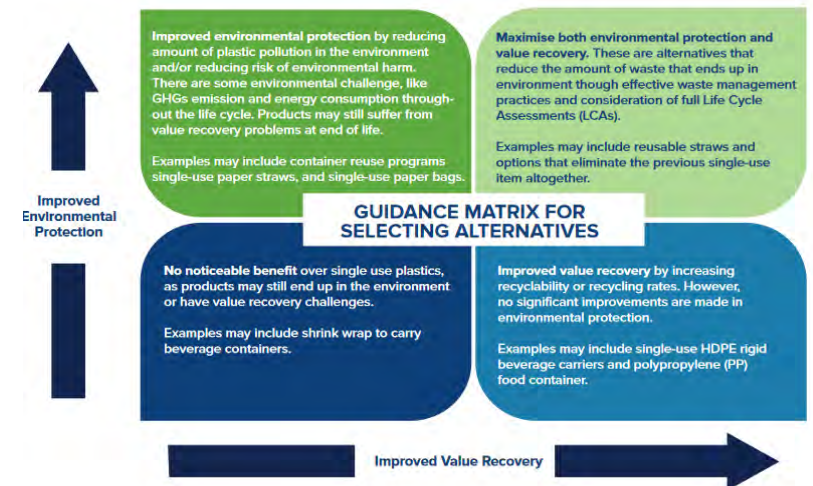
- Outlines important considerations businesses can take into account when making decisions on alternative products or systems

### Technical Guidelines

- Provides guidance to regulated companies on what is and is not regulated
- Outlines procedures for testing against performance requirements for checkout bags, cutlery, straws, foodservice ware

## Coming-into-Force Dates

Category of single-use plastic	Manufacture and import for sale in Canada	Sale	Manufacture, import and sale for export
Checkout bags, cutlery, foodservice ware, stir sticks, straws	December 20, 2022	December 20, 2023	December 20, 2025
Ring carriers	June 20, 2023	June 20, 2024	December 20, 2025
Flexible straws packaged with beverage containers	N/A	June 20, 2024	December 20, 2025



# Issues Contributing to Poor Recycling Outcomes

Less than 9% of plastics are recycled in Canada  
Amount of plastic landfilled trending up over time, while recycling rate remains static



Burden placed on Canadians to know how to sort, prepare and bin plastics properly



Design choices such as multi-material, small components and additives, along with inaccurate or inconsistent labels can lead to confusion over how to prepare and sort plastic products for recycling

Public confusion can lead to **contamination** in recycling and organics waste systems

**Plastic packaging:**  
~19% collected for recycling  
~ 30% loss in recycling stream  
<14% recycled





# Recycled Content Requirements and Rules for Labelling for Recyclability and Compostability

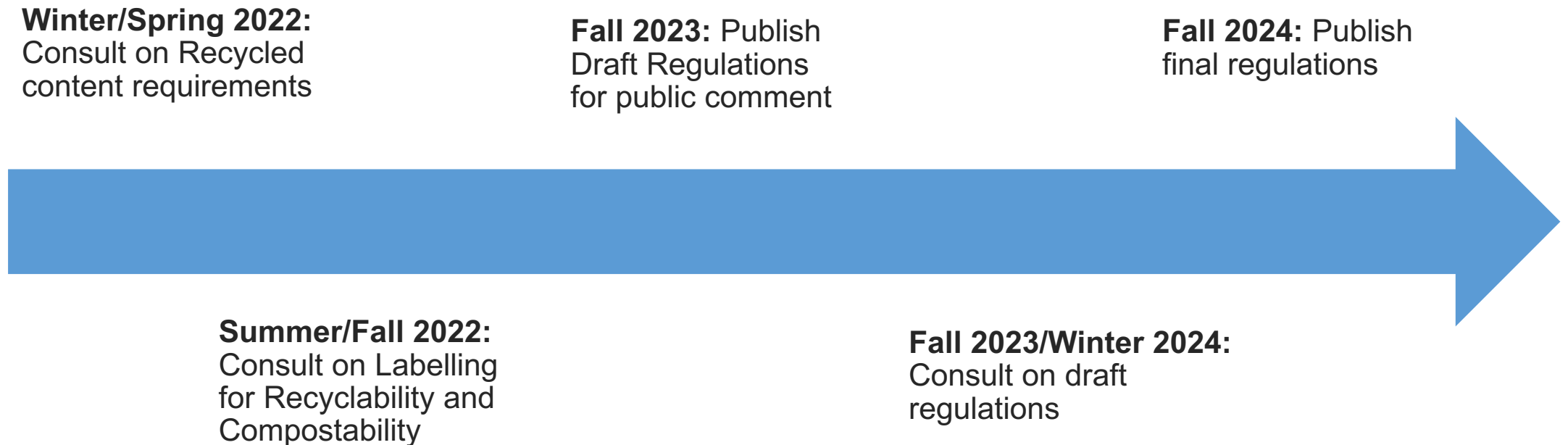
- ECCC is developing regulations to deliver on two mandate commitments
  - Require that plastic packaging contain at least 50% recycled content by 2030
  - Labelling rules that prohibit the use of the chasing arrows symbol unless 80% of Canada's recycling facilities accept, and have reliable end markets

## The objectives are:

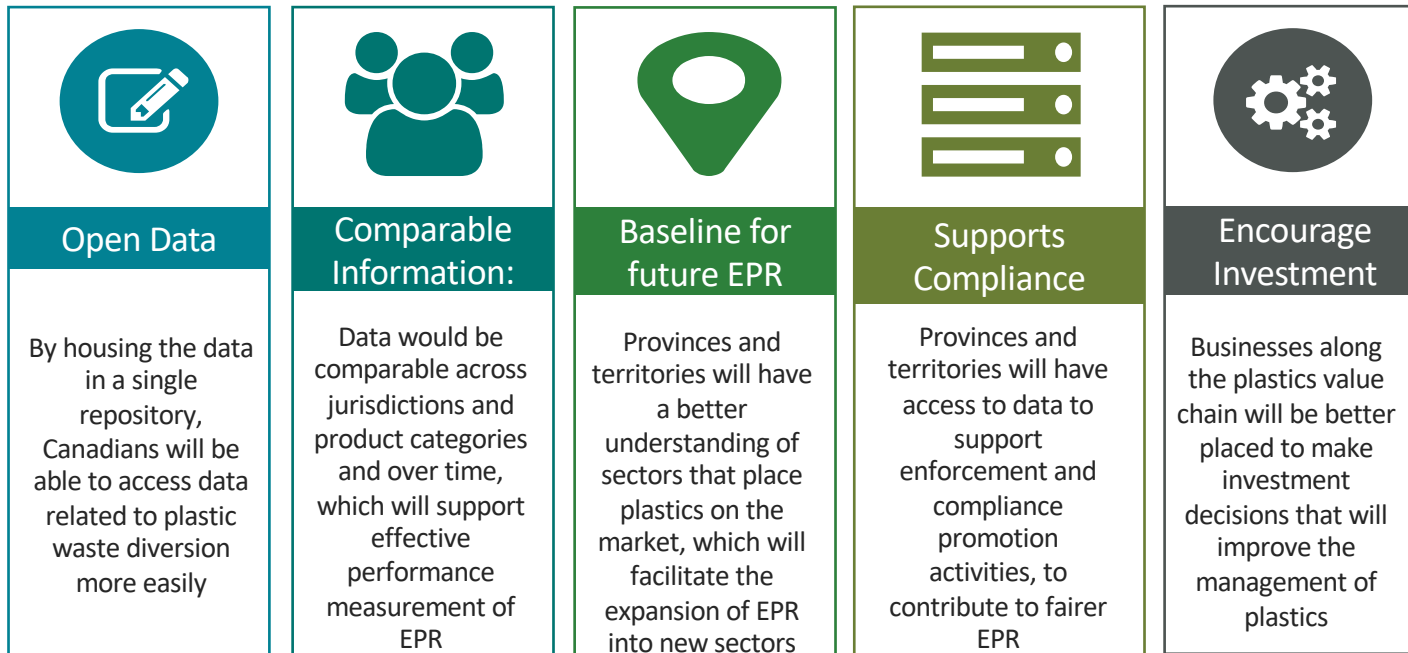
- Strengthen market demand for recycled plastics through recycled content requirements
  - Create market pressures for increased collection, sorting and recycling
  - Create incentives to invest in infrastructure and innovation, and redesign of packaging
- Enhance quality and quantity of supply of recyclable plastics through labelling
  - Labels for recyclability and compostability will enable Canadians to recycle more easily
  - Better quality of recycled plastics through reduced contamination
- Facilitate choice and engagement
  - Canadians can make informed decisions about the products they buy
  - Easily identify which plastics go in recycling bin, compost, or garbage



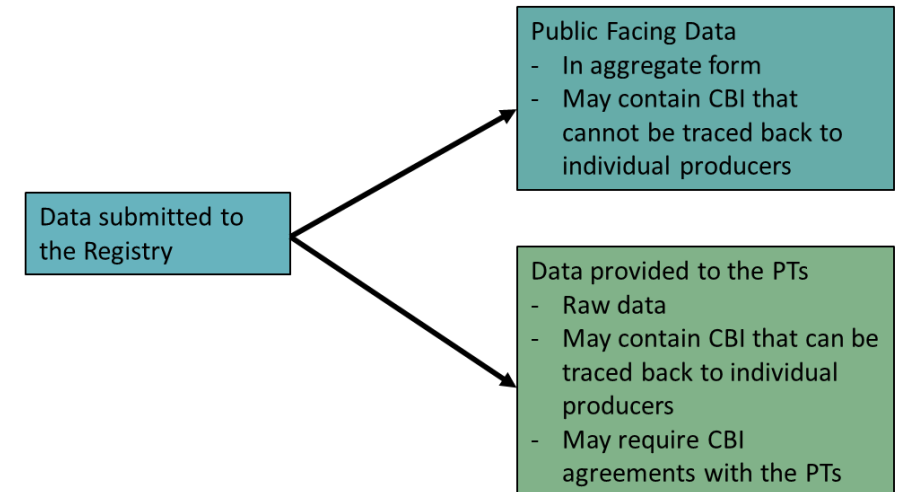
# Recycled Content and Labelling Rules Implementation Timeline



# Objectives and Benefits of a Federal Plastics Registry



## Making data open and transparent



# Product Categories



Packaging



Electronics and  
Electrical Equipment



White Goods



Agriculture



Textiles



Automotive

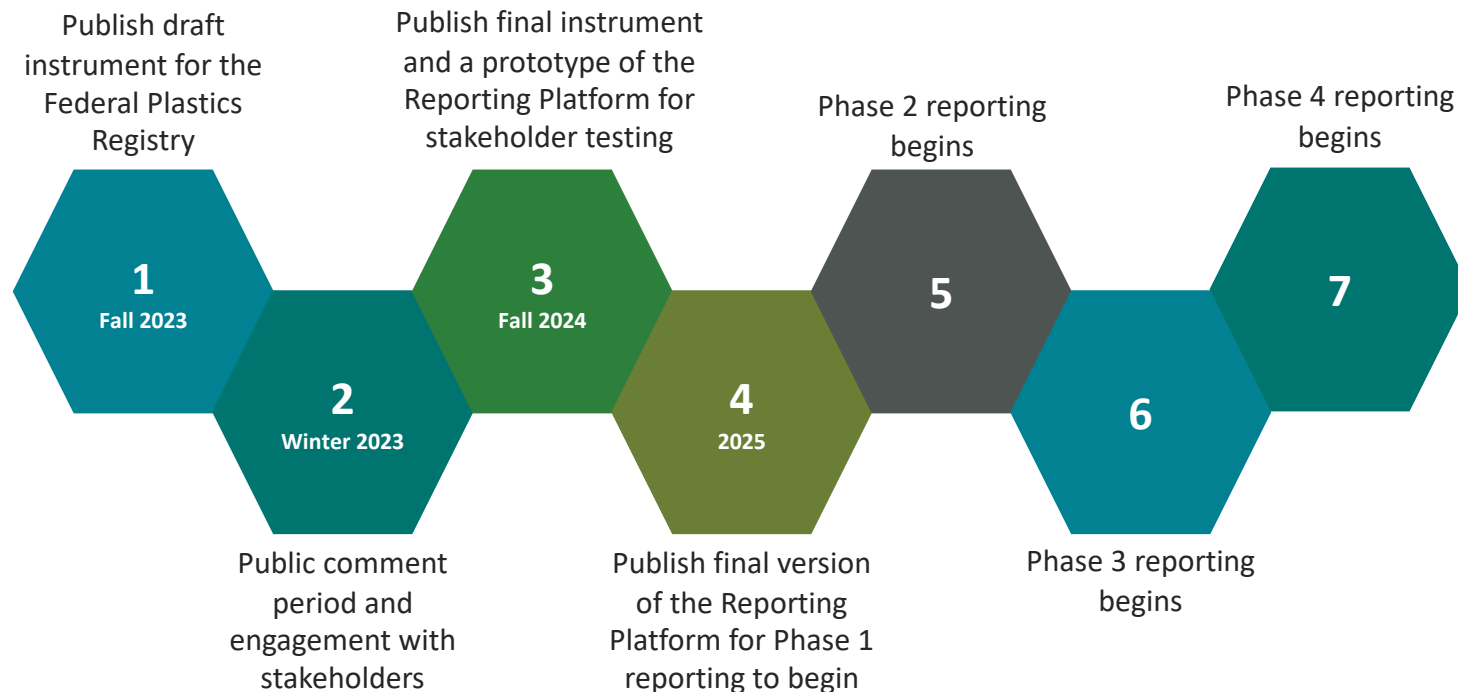


Construction



# Phased Implementation Approach and Timelines

Implementation to occur in phased approach for different sectors



# CANADIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (CCME) – HIGHLIGHTS OF COLLECTIVE ACTION

COMPLETED	IN PROGRESS	FUTURE ACTIVITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance to facilitate consistent <b>Extended Producer Responsibility</b> policies and programs for plastics</li> <li>• Roadmap to strengthen the management of <b>single-use and disposable plastics</b></li> <li>• <b>Best management practices:</b> disposal bans, levies, and incentives for end-of-life plastics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compendium of existing <b>recyclability</b> guidelines</li> <li>• Guidance on <b>labels and terms</b> (such as “recyclable” and “compostable”)</li> <li>• Assessing policy options for end-of-life management of <b>fishing and aquaculture gear</b></li> <li>• Guidance for preventing and reducing plastic pollution in <b>stormwater and industrial discharges</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance on preventing and managing plastics in <b>organic waste and biosolids</b></li> <li>• Guidance on preventing and managing plastic pollution from <b>natural disasters and spills</b></li> <li>• Guidance for Canada-wide <b>monitoring of plastic pollution</b></li> </ul>



# GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

- **Canada is a leading voice internationally**
  - Championed the Ocean Plastics Charter
    - Outlines actions and targets along the plastics lifecycle
    - Endorsed by 28 governments and over 70 businesses and organizations to date
  - Investing \$100 million to help developing countries address plastic pollution
    - \$65M through the World Bank ProBlue Fund
    - \$6M through the World Economic Forum’s Global Plastic Action Partnership
    - \$9M to the Incubation Network
    - \$20M to implement the G7 Innovation Challenge to Address Marine Plastic Litter through Nesta
  - Party to the key agreements (e.g. MARPOL, Basel Convention) and commitments to reduce plastic waste and pollution (e.g. Action Plans, Sustainable Development Goals, UN Clean Seas Campaign)
  - Advancing science, policy and actions in multiple fora (e.g. G7, G20, United Nations Environment Assembly, Arctic Council, Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Global Ghost Gear Initiative, World Trade Organization, etc.)
  - Co-chair of the Global Plastic Action Partnership and the UN Global Partnership on Marine Litter

## Key Ocean Plastics Charter targets

- 100% reusable, recyclable, or recoverable plastics by 2030
- Increasing recycled content in products by at least 50% by 2030
- Recycle and reuse at least 55% of plastic packaging by 2030 and recover 100% of all plastics by 2040
- Reduce the use of plastic microbeads by 2020, and address other sources of microplastics

# GLOBAL AGREEMENT

- **Canada is working with governments and other stakeholders to develop an ambitious legally binding global agreement to end plastic pollution**, pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14
- Through the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), the global community will **advance an agreement that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics**, including provisions to:
  - Promote sustainable consumption and production
  - Develop and implement national action plans
  - Enable a circular economy
  - Advance science and increase knowledge through awareness raising, education and information exchange
- Domestic **public consultation** are open on PlaceSpeak (Oct 7-28, 2022) and will be followed by additional **engagement** throughout the development of the agreement
  - EN: <https://www.placespeak.com/en/topic/6697-canadas-voice-towards-an-ambitious-new-legally-binding-global-agreement-on-plastic-pollution/#/overview>
  - FR: <https://www.placespeak.com/fr/topic/6697-la-voix-du-canada-vers-un-nouvel-accord-international-ambitieux-et-juridiquement-contrainant-sur-la-pollution-plastique/#/overview>
- **Agreement to be developed by 2024** via 5 negotiation meetings
  - INC-1 taking place November 28 – December 2, 2022 in Uruguay





# Thank You!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Learn more about Canada's Zero Plastic Waste efforts at:

[www.Canada.ca/zero-plastic-waste](http://www.Canada.ca/zero-plastic-waste)

