

February 25, 2020

Re: Item for Discussion – Motion of Support for Ban of Single-Use Disposable Wipes

At its meeting of January 23, 2020, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motion 20-GC-032/033, regarding the support for ban of single-use disposable wipes, as follows:

“WHEREAS Single-use wipes are a \$6 billion industry and growing, and are now being advertised as a clean alternative to toilet paper that is safe to flush;

AND WHEREAS Single-use wipes accumulate in the sewer system and eventually clog the sanitary sewer system, requiring significant additional repair and maintenance;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Enforcement Sewer Use Group (MESUG) estimates non-flushable materials cause \$250 million in annual repairs across Canada;

AND WHEREAS a 2019 study released by Ryerson University tested 101 types of single-use disposable wipes and found that all of the wipes failed basic requirements of flushable products;

AND WHEREAS there is no one standard for what the word “flushable” means;

AND WHEREAS there is a lack of public awareness of the impact caused by non-flushable wipes being flushed down toilets and consumer education and outreach could play a large part in reducing the impact;

AND WHEREAS Single-use wipes, even when properly disposed of as waste, are an inefficient and unsustainable use of resources that contribute significantly to environmental degradation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Bracebridge lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments to ban single-use disposable wipes;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Premier of Ontario; the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Local Members of Provincial Parliament; and all Municipalities in Ontario.

AND FURTHER THAT the District of Muskoka be requested to endorse the resolution and the ban on single-use wipes.”

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In accordance with Council's direction I am forwarding you a copy of the associated memorandum for your reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional clarification in this regard.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori McDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk