

For Immediate Release

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Clear Garbage Bags Clearly a Good Idea for Mount Pearl

MOUNT PEARL, NL – City Council announced last night at a public council meeting that it will continue its mandatory clear garbage bag program for residents. The 90 day pilot program began on March 1, 2017 in an effort to increase recycling rates. Since that time, recycling rates have increased month over month and the City's diversion rate has also improved.

"Recycling was declining in our City, so we started the program with the catchy phrase that *clearly* we can do better to help the environment. Over the last 4 months, clear bags have proven to be a successful initiative. Our diversion rate is now at 15 per cent, up from 11 per cent when we began this program. In addition, the City's tonnage of recyclables has increased each month since the program launched," said Mayor Randy Simms.

The City has a goal to reach a 20 per cent diversion rate by 2020 and trusts that continuing with clear bags will have positive results. In an effort to increase recycling, the City has also spearheaded various initiatives, such as a textile collection program and neighbourhood curbside giveaways.

"The clear bag program has been an educational program as much as it's been an environmental one. Not only have we kept unnecessary waste out of the landfill, but we've greatly improved education on how to properly recycle," said Mayor Simms.

Clear garbage bags allow the City to ensure that residents recycle and disposed of household hazardous waste properly. Their use is part of the City's solid waste management regulations.

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