

For Immediate Release

February 1, 2017

## **Clear Garbage Bag Program Starting for Residents of Mount Pearl**

**MOUNT PEARL, NL** – The City of Mount Pearl will soon require all residents to use clear garbage bags. The mandatory program will allow the City to ensure that residents recycle and dispose of household hazardous waste properly. It will have a positive impact on the environment by keeping waste out of the landfill. Residents are required to use clear garbage bags beginning March 1, 2017.

Mount Pearl's latest diversion rate was 9.6%. Through the new clear garbage bag program, the City hopes to increase its diversion rate to 20% by 2020.

### **How the program works**

1. Place household garbage in clear bags. Place recyclables in blue bags.
2. Place privacy items in non-transparent bags. Two small, non-transparent bags (for disposal of sensitive materials) are allowed per cart on each collection day. The privacy bags must be placed inside your cart and must be no larger than 54.9 cm x 58.4 cm (21.6 in x 23 in). An example of a privacy bag would be a plastic grocery bag or a white kitchen catcher.
3. Place garbage bags and privacy bags in your cart at the curb, and blue recycling bags one metre away, on your collection day.

In the spring of 2013, the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB) assisted the City by conducting a waste audit. The audit indicated that 28 per cent of the total waste generated was recyclable fiber, containers and electronics, all of which could have been recycled. Clear garbage programs have shown tremendous success in other towns and cities across Canada, and the City of Mount Pearl is optimistic that this new change will increase recycling in the City.

Prior to the clear bag program launch, all residents will receive detailed information in the mail. More information on the program can be viewed at [www.mountpearl.ca/garbage](http://www.mountpearl.ca/garbage).

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### **For comment:**

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