

## Youth Advisory Committee Presentation Script

### 1) “Why are we Doing This”

- a) It is clear there is an issue with plastic bags in our community, along with litter in general. We understand that it would be inconvenient to rid plastic bags and provide no solution. Our alternative is to switch to bags that will ultimately provide a positive contribution to the environment. We must set the president for generations to come, because the longer we ignore this problem, the longer it becomes a problem. Adopting this as a solution will help make our community a cleaner and greener place. We hope to phase this in, not to force it quickly. This is going to happen in our country, why not get a headstart?
- b) Plastic bags are starting to become more harmful than they are useful. They take up landfill, create massive waste and although can be recycled, are most often seen floating around in our city in parks, backyards and in our rivers. A good example of this would be our own landfill: Right when coming in you see the plastic bags caught onto the fence. Not how we want to represent “Canada's Most Notorious City”. Recently the federal government has recognized this issue and has made an announcement to take action. By 2021 they plan to completely ban all single use plastics. Today the plastic bag is being used at extreme amounts due to its convenience. So, how is Moose Jaw expected to handle such a drastic change?

Today, “We come to you today not with a problem, but with a solution.” We come to you with an alternative to plastic bags, something to “replace what is being taken away”. We as a committee took this issue on as a challenge; to find the best alternative out there, and through this process we found a company named BioBag. BioBags are bags that act and work just like a regular plastic bags would but are compostable, and would be a perfect replacement for the regular plastic bag.

Integrating the BioBags into Moose Jaw will...

- Help Replace what is being taken away
- Phase something in and phase something out - People tend to be creatures of habit and taking plastic bags away will be a hard adjustment for the people of Moose Jaw to make. By integrating the BioBags into our city it will almost seem as if the plastic bags never left. It would be making it easier for people to transition. (we very well know that you are the ones who the people complain to when slightly upset.)
- Will be A LOT more environmentally friendly..

BioBags are compostable, which means that the BioBag won't harm the environment but will help it if anything. (We'll get more into what that means in the next few slides).

### 2) “Biodegradable vs Compostable”

What's the difference between a product that is biodegradable vs compostable vs made from plastic?

a) Biodegradable

- This is a term used when describing organic materials that break down in a specific environment.
- This term is very often misused in marketing and advertising of products and materials that are not actually environmentally friendly.
- Many companies market products as biodegradable because it will break down, but they do not specify how long it will take, which could be 1000's of years to fully decompose.
- This means very little as everything breaks down given enough time

b) Compostable

- Process of breaking down organic waste by microbial digestion to create compost.
- The main goal of composting is to recycle organic waste so it can eventually be reused.
- BioBags are compostable

c) Degradable

- degradable products do not break down completely; instead they break apart into microscopic pieces which take 1000's of years to break down.
- A BioBag takes 3-6 months to break down into organic material and leaves no lasting harm on the environment.

**3) "About Biobags"**

- a) BioBags are a compostable alternative to plastic bags, behaving almost identically, with the key difference being the fact they easily break down in soil
- b) BioBags are made of what the company calls MaterBi, a resin made from plants, compostable polymers, and vegetable oils
- c) The main manufacturer is San Leandro, California, though they are manufactured in places like Estonia and Thailand
- d) After using a Biobag, you have two options. You can put it in your compost bin, where it will break down into nutrient rich fertilizer, or toss it in your garbage can, where it will be taken to a landfill and break down there. Either way, the bag leaves behind helpful soil instead of dangerous toxins.
- e) BioBags are most effective when used within a year of purchase, but can be used beyond that under the right conditions.
- f) BioBags are completely food safe. You don't need to worry about them leaking harmful chemicals into your food, because there are no harmful chemicals to begin with. As mentioned previously, BioBags are made from plants, so food would not be damaged. They still are airtight, as they are also capable of carrying liquids.
- g) Biobag allows companies to set their own price based on how many bags they will purchase at a time.

**4) "Communities where the BioBag worked for them/the composting system was successful"**

- a) Every single one of these cities has either banned or put some restriction on their plastic bag usage. It has been very effective for them, mainly because they

introduced an alternative. That alternative is BioBags. They are very effective for the landscape, the economy, and the environment.

**5) “Testing & Certification”**

- a) Bio Bags are;
- b) BPI certified. North America’s leading certifier for compostable products
- c) All other standards are for compostable plastics in those countries
- d) This means that each of the bags meet regulation standards and they must hold bags to a certain quality.
- e) They’re good certifications- a guarantee they will work

**6) “Numbers and Stats”**

- a) An estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed each year worldwide, which is one million per minute.
- b) Only 1 out of every 200 plastic bags (about 5%) are recycled.
- c) The average grocery store in Canada sell 200 bags per hour.
- d) Environment and Climate Change Canada say that Canadians throw away more than 34 million plastic bags everyday.
- e) Most plastic bags end up in landfills and it takes a minimum of 1,000 years to decompose.
- f) Biobags take 45 days to decompose when in soil or sunlight.
  - i) Since the biobags are compostable, people may feel inclined to compost them in their own compost, which will save space in the landfill.
- g) Canada plans to ban single-use plastics by 2021.
  - i) The numbers represent not only a national issue, but a global issue.
  - ii) Our federal government noticed this issue and knew we have a responsibility as Canadians to be environmentally conscious.
  - iii) Thank you.

**7) “In Closing”**

- a) The way we deal with single-use plastic in our society has already begun to change. You’ve been discussing this issue, and it is right now being addressed across our nation and our world. We have the opportunity to join the forefront of this movement, and examine the alternatives and solutions we need for this global shift to take place.
- b) Environmental stewardship is everyone’s responsibility. This is why we, the youth of Moose Jaw, need our community to pull together for the sake of ourselves and for future generations.
- c) Let’s be the model of how to do this right. Let’s be leaders of change. Thank you.