



March 22, 2013

Dr. T. Owen  
Director of Sustainability  
Office of Environment & Sustainability  
Thompson Rivers University  
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Dear Dr. Owen,

The Canadian Plastics Industry Association (CPIA) appreciates the opportunity to share the facts about PET bottles to assist Thompson Rivers University in making an informed science-based decision on their continued use. CPIA is the national voice of Canada's plastics industry, representing the interests of processors, material suppliers, equipment manufacturers and brand owners across the country.

CPIA supports the March 15, 2013 letter and peer review submission from the Canadian Beverage Association, as well as the February 22, 2013 letter from Nestle Waters Company.

The single-use plastic water bottle is made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET). PET's use in food contact applications has been approved by Health Canada and other government agencies around the world. More information is available at <http://www.plastics.ca/health>

### Plastic Water Bottles and Health

- In 2009, the Toronto District School Board, in their Report entitled: *Impact of Eliminating the Sale of Bottled Water at Board Sites*, concluded that "students have access to 35% of the water needed for proper hydrations during the school day" and when bottled water was temporarily removed as part of their study into the matter, "of those students who normally purchased bottled water at school, 22% drank nothing at all and those who substituted pop or soft drinks for water outnumbered those who chose milk or juice." Staff warned there is a direct link between hydration and brain function and "a mere 2% drop in body water can trigger short term fuzzy memory, trouble with basic math and difficulty focusing on a computer screen."
- It is for this reason that medical officers of health across Canada do not support bottled water bans in schools. To quote Kingston Medical Officer of Health Ian Gemmill, "a prohibition of the availability of

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*bottled water in a venue is a step backwards from a health point of view, when high-caloric beverages are the only other option.”*

### **Plastic Bottles Save Energy**

- Effective resource management dovetails with the use of lightweight plastics because energy is saved in production, transportation and use.
- Plastics bottles can be recycled or reused as an energy source, again saving resources, raw material and energy.
- In their production, plastic bottles use about 25% less energy – natural gas and crude oil hydrocarbons, including the raw material in the bottles – than glass bottles, metal cans or paperboard containers.
- Because less energy is needed to produce a plastic bottle, significantly smaller quantities of greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere.

### **Plastic Bottles are Recyclable**

- Plastic bottles and containers, which have emerged as a consumer preferred alternative in recent years, are now becoming an important part of North America’s current recycling programs.
- Encorp Pacific (Canada) in their 2011 Report said that the recycling rate for all plastic beverage bottles is approximately 80%.
- The plastics industry strives to accelerate the rate of plastics recycling as part of its commitment to developing sustainable solutions.
- Studies show that recycling plastic bottles into new products saves from 50 to 60% of energy that would be required to make the same product from virgin material.
- Recycled plastic bottles are used for fiberfill stuffing for pillows, ski jackets, sleeping bags and automobile seats. In fact, with recent technological advances, even new water bottles can be made from recycled water bottles.
- Ice River Springs is the first beverage company in North America to produce a 100% recycled bottle from self-manufactured resin in a closed loop recycling system. Additional details can be found on their website at <http://www.iceriversprings.ca>

We thank you for considering the foregoing information and would be happy to discuss this information with you at your convenience.

Yours truly,



Marion E. Axmith, CAE  
Director General, Issues