



August 25, 2022

The Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment, Climate Change Strategy &
Minister Responsible for TransLink
PO Box 9047, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister,

Re: Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation – Support for Exemption

On behalf of Delta City Council, we urge the Province of British Columbia to consider exempting printed newspapers from the extended producer responsibility (EPR) regulation.

Newspapers play a vital role in communities across British Columbia. In Delta, our local newspaper, the Delta Optimist, keeps our community informed and connected in a world of misinformation and distrust. Many British Columbians rely on printed newspapers for important information – including notices for Public Hearings and events happening in our community. In addition, countless small businesses in Delta find newspapers the best value for reaching local consumers as a result of the Delta Optimist's reputation as a trusted newspaper. Newspapers have also developed a strong and growing digital base of readers for those who would like to access it online.

We applaud the goals of EPR to reduce packaging. However, unlike product packaging, the newspaper is the product. Newspapers have the highest level of collection of all recyclable materials – more than plastics and even more than aluminum. EPR levies on newspaper will have a negative impact on our local economy. Every \$50,000 in EPR levies equates to one job in journalism, and those will be jobs in cities like ours where we could use more journalism, not less. Newspapers are already struggling financially and EPR fees will only compound matters.

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In BC, the levy on plastics remained flat while the levy on newspaper has gone up as much as 80% in a single year. Driving up the cost of newspaper production with such significant EPR fees in turn drives down content as newspapers like the Delta Optimist are forced to make cuts in other areas to offset these levies.

Recently, Ontario exempted newspapers from EPR as they recognize the needs of the local newspaper industry while continuing to be environmentally sustainable. On behalf of the City of Delta, we urge you to take meaningful steps to do the same and support local journalism in cities and towns across our Province.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours truly,



George V. Harvie
Mayor

cc: The Hon. Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery & Innovation
Ian Paton, MLA Delta-South
Delta Council
Sean McGill, City Manager