



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

**OCT 02 2018**

Noor Toeama  
Salma El Ali  
c/o BurlingtonGreen Youth Leadership Council  
youth@burlingtongreen.org

Dear Noor and Salma:

Thank you for your correspondence of August 1, 2018, offering the Youth Leadership Council's suggestions for reducing plastic waste and marine litter. I regret the delay in responding.

I share your concerns about plastic pollution in the environment, and I agree that the federal government has an important role in supporting solutions domestically and internationally. Canada has made ocean health and addressing plastic pollution a priority under its 2018 G7 Presidency, and has adopted the Ocean Plastics Charter. Countries that adopt the Charter agree to take actions to prevent plastic pollution and marine litter across the entire lifecycle of plastics. Through this action, Canada and other G7 countries can show leadership to the global community.

The Government of Canada is working collaboratively with provincial and territorial governments through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to develop a national strategy and action plan to keep plastics in the economy and out of landfills and the environment. We will be engaging with industry stakeholders, environmental non-governmental organizations and the general public. We will build on existing programs and responsibilities to capture and retain the value of plastics in the economy—through their use, re-use, repair, remanufacturing and recycling—and, in doing so, prevent damage to Canada's ecosystems.

In Canada, the federal government shares responsibility for waste management with provinces, territories and municipalities. Some Canadian municipalities, including Montréal and Vancouver, and educational institutions are already taking action to reduce plastic waste in their jurisdictions through regulatory and economic actions. I encourage you to contact your local government or school board to share your recommendations and learn about any initiatives under way.

I value your sharing your ideas. It is inspiring to hear from young Canadians who are committed to protecting the natural environment.

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Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.