

The image shows the PPEA-BC logo in white text on the left side of a banner. The banner features a background of a lush green forest with tall trees under a clear blue sky. The text 'PPEA-BC' is in a bold, sans-serif font. To the right of the logo, the full name of the organization is written in a yellow, italicized, sans-serif font.

**PPEA-BC**

***Plastic Processors Environmental  
Association of British Columbia***

October 17, 2008

For Immediate Release: PPEA/B.C. Policy Statement

With the recent flurry of activity directed toward the plastic packaging industry and more specifically, plastic bag manufacturers, PPEA/BC feel obliged to put forward our position on these current issues.

We have made no secret of our support of the Provincial Government in its steadfast approach toward the management of packaging discards on a "by application" basis rather than by material type. To date, British Columbia leads North America in recovery and recycling. Indeed, many jurisdictions are adopting the B.C. Extended Producer Responsibility principle and approach. This statement is supported by statistics, not supposition or wishful thinking.

The recent announcement by the Retail Council of Canada, the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors, the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers and the Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores to reduce the use of plastic bags by 50% within five years is to be commended. This voluntary stewardship plan recognizes the need to manage our resources and minimize unnecessary waste. It remains to be seen how the public will respond to this initiative. Environment Minister Barry Penner has offered qualified support to the program, again reminding us that the "by application" mandate has not changed.

Fortunately, we have not succumbed to knee-jerk policy moves such as those seen recently in Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Ontario Liquor Administration branches. Nor has the Provincial Government surrendered to reactionary calls for outright bans or taxes placed on our products.

PPEA/BC has spent a good deal of our efforts at the grassroots levels of government reminding our politicians that plastic bags represent less than 2% of the volume of landfill sites. This is in contrast to the 30-35% that compostable waste represents. We continue to emphasize that plastic packaging is part of the solution rather than part of the problem. We also continue in our belief that consumers should have the right to select the carry-out bags of their choice.

For further information, please visit our website: [www.ppea-bc.org/](http://www.ppea-bc.org/)

S. L. Norris  
Chair