



July 22, 2015

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Loblaw's Promise to Eliminate Triclosan, Phthalates, and Microbeads from its Life Brand and President's Choice Products by the end of 2018

Ottawa Riverkeeper would like to congratulate Loblaw Companies Limited on its recent announcement that it will eliminate triclosan, phthalates, and plastic microbeads from Life Brand and President's Choice Products by the end of 2018. We are impressed and thankful to hear that Loblaws is taking further measures and has already begun to phase out products sold at your stores and that contain these ingredients that are toxic in the aquatic environment.

You may be aware that Ottawa Riverkeeper was a signatory, along with more than 50 other public interest and not-for-profit groups from Canada and the United States, to a letter sent in late 2014, urging the Government of Canada to take urgent action to declare Triclosan to be toxic under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA) and to prohibit the use of Triclosan in consumer and institutional products. The Canadian government has stated that a risk management plan will be produced in the spring of 2015 yet we have heard nothing but silence. Almost 4 years ago experts assessed Triclosan and advised our federal government to add this chemical to the Toxics Substances List. Sadly, our government has ignored timelines and failed to act.

We were also one of several environmental organizations that signed on to the request to the federal Minister of the Environment to prioritize the assessment of microbeads as "toxic" under CEPA. We are encouraged that the federal government has announced that it has prioritized this assessment, but we are disheartened by the amount of time that could nevertheless pass before a federal ban on the manufacture and sale of plastic microbeads is in place in Canada. We hope this happens quickly but, while we wait, it is important for manufacturers and retailers to voluntarily phase out the addition and sale of plastic microbeads and products containing plastic microbeads.

*Defending the Ottawa River. Protecting our Communities.
À la défense de la rivière des Outaouais. Pour la protection de nos communautés.*

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Given the failure of our federal government to act swiftly on eliminating these toxic substances that are polluting Canadian lakes and rivers, we are impressed and hopeful that corporate leaders like you are standing up for freshwater protection and leading by example.

As Canada's largest retailer, with grocery stores and pharmacies in communities all over the country, Loblaw is uniquely positioned to take a leadership role in modelling the best in retail practice, and in educating Canadians about important environmental issues. We know you recognize this and we sincerely applaud the efforts you are making, including working towards increasingly sustainable fisheries practices in the seafood you offer, and your relationship with WWF, through the Loblaw Water Fund.

As a 2015 grantee of the Loblaw Water Fund for our program, "Monitoring Ottawa River Health", we are well aware of your commitment to working to ensure a healthy future for Canada's freshwater ecosystems. Our charitable work to protect, promote and improve the health of the Ottawa River Watershed is closely aligned with the Fund's guiding principles.

Thank you, once again, for the leadership you are taking on important environmental issues facing Canadians. We look forward to much more good work from you in the years to come.

Yours truly,

Meredith Brown
Executive Director and Riverkeeper