Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Ferguson Block, 11th Floor

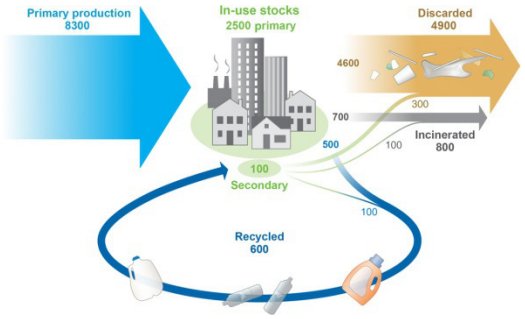
77 Wellesley St. West, Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

Dear Mr. Phillips,

According to an article in Science Advances magazine, plastics are increasing everywhere in our environment. In fact, Roland Geyer, Jenna R. Jambeck and Kara Lavender Law state that

> *The vast majority of monomers used to make plastics, such as ethylene and propylene, are derived from fossil hydrocarbons. None of the commonly used plastics are biodegradable. As a result, they accumulate, rather than decompose, in landfills or the natural environment. […] Thus, near-permanent contamination of the natural environment with plastic waste is a growing concern. Plastic debris has been found in all major ocean basins, with an estimated 4 to 12 million metric tons (Mt) of plastic waste generated on land entering the marine environment in 2010 alone . Contamination of freshwater systems and terrestrial habitats is also increasingly reported, as is environmental contamination with synthetic fibers. Plastic waste is now so ubiquitous in the environment that it has been suggested as a geological indicator of the proposed Anthropocene era.*

Up to 80% of all plastics ever created are in dumps and the environment. And it is evident that plastics are everywhere in the environment. This is not just because plastics are littered all over the landscape, but also because those which are dumped into landfills also infiltrate water and land. All dump liners leak. So, the micro-plastics and those dissolved by discarded solvents end up in the water. Even the leaky plastic liners are part of the problem since they are plastic too. Walker's dump plan does that.



It is imperative that the burial of waste be stopped. Otherwise, plastics will continue to build up in water and land. Recycling is a good idea but the authors note that only "9% have been recycled, only 10% of which have been recycled more than once" meaning that .9% of plastics are being recovered for multiple reuses. Deposits on plastic containers might improve that. Bans on some kinds of plastics such as Styrofoam might help. Modern technologies might help. But Walker's dump is, as one scientist has said, "the worst possible dump in the worst possible place" near ground and surface water in prime farmland. Please stop it before it does yet more harm to the environment.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address: