

Minister of Innovation,  
Science and Industry



Ministre de l'Innovation,  
des Sciences et de l'Industrie

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H5

FEV 21 2020  
FEB

His Worship Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor of the City of Hamilton  
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor  
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

<b>OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK</b>	
FEB 28 2020	
REF'D TO	_____
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REF'D TO	_____
ACTION	<u>Council</u> <u>April 1, 2020</u>
	

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I am pleased to respond to your correspondence, which was forwarded to me by the Prime Minister's Office, concerning the City of Hamilton's resolution related to single-use disposable wipes and the possibility of federally regulating their labelling as "flushable." I understand the challenges this issue presents for municipalities such as Hamilton and appreciate your taking the time to share your concerns. Please excuse the delay in my reply.

The *Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act* and the *Competition Act* are federal statutes administered and enforced by the Competition Bureau, an independent law enforcement agency. The two laws contain provisions to address false or misleading representations made to the public in advertising or promoting products. The Bureau may open an inquiry if there are grounds to believe that unlawful conduct has taken place under one of the laws, including performance claims based on inadequate testing. You may be aware of recent reports of efforts by stakeholders in this vein to have the Bureau open an inquiry.

The laws are framework statutes of general application. As industry-specific regulation and direct regulation of wastewater systems generally fall outside federal responsibility, I encourage you to work with provincial officials as well. Nevertheless, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) continues to explore the policy levers available to it. ISED has followed with interest both the ongoing efforts within organizations like the International Water Services Flushability Group to develop standards and the findings of academic studies on this topic. Such sources can help fill data gaps about the products under examination during the course of a deliberation or investigation.

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Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns with the Government of Canada,  
and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Bains". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "N".

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, P.C., M.P.