

# National Efforts to Support Plastic Pollution Reduction

Nova Scotia Litter Prevention Summit  
March 31, 2022



# Plastics Challenge

- Plastics play an important role in the everyday lives of Canadians and our economy
- Current consumption and production patterns and the mismanagement of plastics impacts ecosystems, economies, livelihoods and potentially human health

# Canadian Framework for Collaborative Action



## Canada's Zero Plastic Waste Agenda

- The Government of Canada is working with partners to implement a range of complementary actions across the lifecycle of plastics
- Efforts that support prevention, reduction and value recovery include:
  - Developing **policies and regulations** to prevent plastic pollution and support a circular economy
    - Such as eliminating microbead-containing toiletries, proposed regulations on harmful single use plastics, proposed minimum recycled content standards for certain plastic items
  - **Greening our government** to reduce plastic waste in operations and procure sustainable materials
  - Implementing and investing in **Canada's Plastics Science Agenda** to inform decision-making
  - Enabling small and medium sized businesses to find solutions to reduce plastic waste through **Canada's Plastics Innovation Challenges**
  - Developing a plan to **strengthen value recovery processes** (e.g. reuse, repair, refurbishment and remanufacture)
  - **Supporting Canadian communities and industry** to raise awareness, identify and advance sector-based solutions, and prevent and remove plastic pollution, including ghost gear
  - **Working with Provinces and Territories** to implement the Canada-wide Strategy and Action Plan
    - E.g. facilitating consistent extended producer responsibility programs, developing a roadmap for single use plastics, and creating guidance to inform consumer behaviours and target plastic pollution leakage points
  - **Collaborating internationally** to advance policy, science and measures at the national, regional and global level



## Spotlight: Zero Plastic Waste Initiative

- Canada has dedicated over **\$8 million** (2018-2022) to **43 projects** that:
  - Raise awareness and support education
  - Develop or enhance community science
  - Prevent, reduce and remove plastic pollution, and
  - Find sector opportunities to build a circular plastics economy
- To date, this work has:
  - Supported the **removal of more than 330 tons of litter** across Canada
  - **Reached more than 1.6 million Canadians** through campaigns, education and engagement
  - **Tried and deployed** new capture and removal technologies
  - **Leveraged over \$5 million** of public and private partner funds
  - Developed **guidance, tools and best practices** to help reduce plastic waste and pollution (e.g. guidance on reuse and refillery centers; best practices for nearshore litter removal)



## Spotlight: Ghost Gear Fund

- Canada's Ghost Gear Fund invested \$16.7 million (2020-2022) in **49 projects** that support:



Ghost gear removal



Acquisition and piloting of available technology



Responsible disposal



International leadership

- To date, this work has:
  - Retrieved **1,261 tonnes** of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing and aquaculture gear (excluding ropes and buoys)
  - Retrieved **127 km of rope**
  - Created about **300 jobs**
  - Engaged **over 700 partners**
  - Successfully **returned over 259 units** of gear back to its owners



## Contact Information

Sarah Da Silva  
Head, Marine Litter Unit  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
[Sarah.DaSilva@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Sarah.DaSilva@ec.gc.ca)

Learn more about Canada's Zero Plastic Waste efforts at:  
[www.Canada.ca/zero-plastic-waste](http://www.Canada.ca/zero-plastic-waste)

