

# SUMMARY OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING PLASTIC WASTE AND POLLUTION IN THE TEXTILE AND APPAREL SECTOR

Presentation to Recycling Council of Alberta  
October 31, 2024



Environment and Climate Change Canada's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire d'Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

Meteorological Service of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
150<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Service météorologique du Canada



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

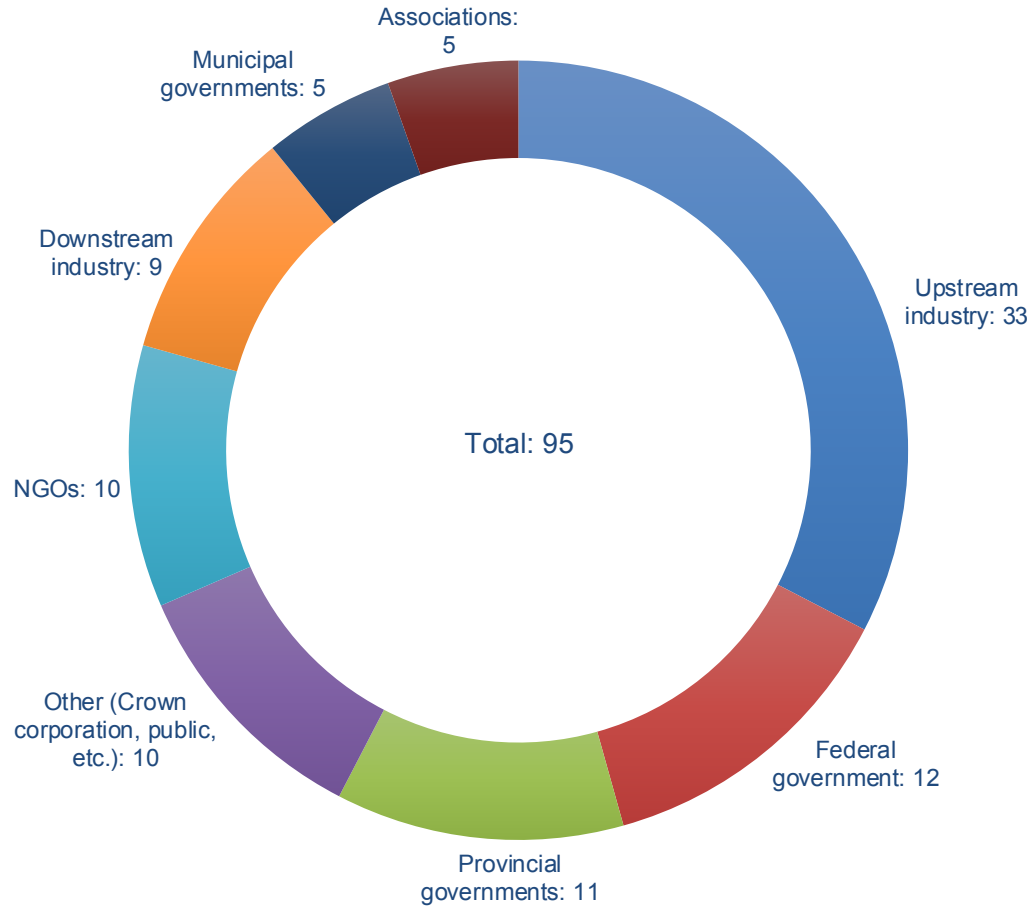
Canada 

# Consultation process

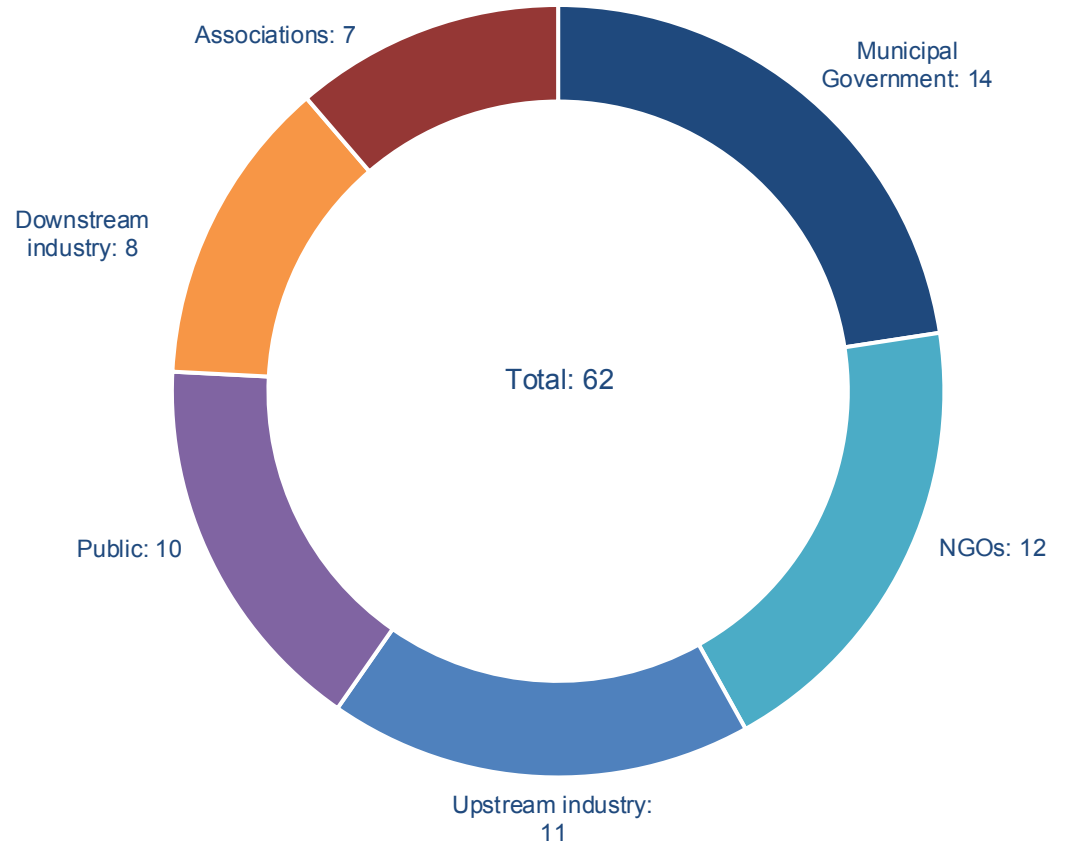
- Public comment period ran from July 4<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup> 2024
- ECCC hosted a webinar (virtual and in-person) open to anyone who registered - over 90 people attended
  - High level of interest and discussions on solutions to reduce plastic waste and pollution
- One-on-one calls with various organizations
- Received 62 written comments on the consultation document, representing the views of industry, NGOs, associations, municipal governments, and public opinions

# Consultation process

## Webinar Participants by Type of Organization



## Number of Written Comments Received During the Consultation Process by Type of Organization



# Key Consultation Themes

- Supporting research in the textile and apparel sector
- Extending the life of apparel products
- Improving waste management through take-back programs
- Supporting textile recycling infrastructure
- Addressing microfibre pollution

# What-we-heard

## Trade of Textile and Apparel – Limit the Imports and Exports of Fast Fashion

- Recommend limiting, preventing or managing textile and apparel imports and exports from coming into and out of Canada
- Recommend imposing taxes, tariffs, subsidies and rebates to control trade
- Manage export by restricting the transport of used textile and apparel products under Basel
- Amend the duty drawback legislation to prevent destruction of unsold goods

# What-we-heard

## Extended Producer Responsibility

- Widespread support for textile EPR in Canada, but suggestions that EPR is not without risk
- Some felt that EPR needs to be compatible with repair services, and that EPR must be complimented by educational and outreach components, and financial support
- Some felts that EPR regulations and enforcement requirements would be needed
- Some stressed that EPR requires participation from all groups, upstream and downstream, and requires existing infrastructure to be successful
- Stakeholders advised that EPR could be led by charities, PTs, industry, or other NGOs

# What-we-heard

## Standards Development

- Recommend developing standards to increase durability, recyclability and repair of textiles and apparel
  - Suggestion that standards could require products testing, certification or accreditation
  - Mentions of negative impacts: increase to the price of clothing, stifling innovation, and potential complication of recycling efforts
- Suggestions that target for standards should be developed for the manufacturing stage in the supply chain
- Recommended amending the Canada Textile Labelling Act to improve labelling requirements for proper labelling, durability, performance and require enforcement of these requirements
- Some laboratory and testing methodologies were provided and recommended with a focus on increasing durability

# What-we-heard

## Reuse and Repair

- Concerns were raised that targeting fast fashion through bans/import restrictions would disproportionately affect poorer individuals
  - Recommended supporting charities and organizations that aid underprivileged people in getting access to clothing
- Recommended investigating textile rental services to promote more reuse
- Recommended developing educational programs to encourage more reuse/repair in Canada
- A few stakeholders recommended developing a new tax incentives to promote reuse and repair networks in Canada



# What-we-heard

## Recycling

- Stakeholders cautioned against promoting recycling as a solution and suggest focusing on more upstream activities to combat textile and apparel waste
- Cautioned to not promote use of food-grade recycled polyester (e.g., bottles) into textile and apparel production
- Advanced recycling: some expressed a desire for the government to endorse, support and adopt alternatives to mechanical recycling such as depolymerization
- Some suggested that financial incentives could be offered to companies that use recyclable materials and follow recyclability standards

# What-we-heard

## Microfibres

- Most stakeholders are supportive of requiring microfibre filters on washing machines to reduce microfibre pollution during laundering. Some were concerned about its financial stress on businesses and households as well as energy efficiency and potential for clogs and leaks
- Recommended managing microfibres upstream through product design in partnership with garment manufacturers or downstream through municipal water treatment facilities
- Stakeholders recommended redesigning apparel to not produce as many microfibres
  - Recommended developing standards or guidance on textile design
  - However, some cautioned that developing standards for microfibre shedding would be difficult to achieve due to product variability
- Recommend pre-washing at manufacturing stage
- Suggested developing education and outreach material for consumers

# Next Steps

- Publish what-we-heard report in Fall 2024
- Develop and publish draft roadmap in Spring 2025
- Develop and publish final roadmap in Summer/Fall 2025

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