

First Session, Forty-second Parliament,
64-65 Elizabeth II, 2015-2016
2017
HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA

BILL C-231

An Act to establish National Food Waste Awareness Day and to provide for the development of
a national strategy to reduce food waste in Canada

FIRST READING, FEBRUARY 24, 2016¹

Ms. Brosseau

FIRST REWRITE, DECEMBER 09, 2017

Megan Koevoet

421158

SUMMARY

This enactment designates the 16th day of October in each and every year as “National Food Waste Awareness Day” and provides for the development and implementation of a national strategy to reduce food waste in Canada.

Preamble

Whereas food waste is a scourge in Canada, which caused some \$107 billion in economic losses in 2014;

Whereas Canadians annually confine some \$31 billion in food to the landfill or compost heap;

Whereas over 6.3 million tonnes of foodstuffs are wasted in Canada each year, which represents 183 kg per inhabitant; **With a population of 35,852,000 as of 2015.**

¹ <http://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-231/first-reading>

Whereas food waste occurs primarily among manufacturers of processed foods, retailers and consumers;

And whereas over 850,000 Canadians, 36% of them young people and children, visited food banks each month in 2015;

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

Short Title

Short title

1 This Act may be cited as the *Fight Against Food Waste Act*.

National Day

National Food Waste Awareness Day

2 Throughout Canada, in each and every year, the 16th day of October is to be known as “National Food Waste Awareness Day”.

Not a legal holiday

3 For greater certainty, National Food Waste Awareness Day is not a legal holiday or a non-judicial day.

National Strategy

Development and implementation

4 (1) The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, in consultation with representatives of the provincial and territorial governments responsible for agriculture and agri-food and stakeholders in the agriculture and agri-food industry, must develop and implement a national strategy to reduce food waste in Canada that includes measures to

- (a)** raise public awareness of food waste through a national campaign;
- (b)** put in place the tools needed to allow consumers to reduce food waste;
- (c)** facilitate the donation, by the private sector, of blemished but edible food products to community organizations and food banks;

(d) study various ways of reducing the environmental impact of the production of unused food resources; and

(e) establish food waste reduction targets; reduce food waste by 80% by the year 2030.

Strategy

4 (2) The Government calls upon the implementation, of an adaptation of the “Fighting Food Waste: Proposals for a Public Policy,”² that has been made law in France. Bill C-231 outlines:

- (a) The complete ban of food waste in grocery stores throughout Canada;
 - (i) Edible food items must be donated to grocery stores and hot kitchens when they are no longer able to be sold in store;
 - (1) Thus adopting the “Supermarket Recovery Program”³ from Quebec,
 - (ii) Inedible food items must be composted, or disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner;
 - (iii) Contracts must be signed between the giving and receiving parties of donated food; in that food is given in good faith and well inspected so as to prevent vicarious liability in case of sickness;
- (b) Compost facilities must be constructed in Canadian cities with populations greater than 100,000 people;
 - (i) In cities larger than 100,000 compost by-laws must be implemented on a municipality based level, so that food waste is taxed appropriately when food is thrown out in landfill garbage bins, rather than compost bins,
- (c) Innovations towards garbage to energy facilities will be carried out in; Thus lowering landfill waste;
- (d) Farms and Food Production Sites must:
 - (i) Sell/donate food that is not being sent away to retailers to Farmers and Ranchers to feed livestock; alternatively must be composted, or disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner;
- (e) Education arrangements must be made to instruct on;
 - (i) The proper understanding of expiration date,
 - (ii) Professional training on food waste,
 - (iii) The promotion of take home containers,

² <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/france-food-waste-policy-report.pdf>

³ <http://www.banquesalimentaires.org/en/our-actions/supermarket-recovery-program/>

- (iv) Offer education about sustainable food,
- (v) Alternatives to waste; such as compost.
- (f) Research must be conducted to provide more statistics on food waste in Canada;
 - (i) So as to raise awareness, as well as keep accountable,
 - (ii) These statistics must be made available to the public.

Conference

(3) Within six months after the day on which this Act comes into force, the Minister of Agriculture must convene a conference with representatives of the provincial and territorial governments responsible for agriculture and agri-food and stakeholders from the agriculture and agri-food industries in order to develop the national strategy.

(4) Meetings will continue to be held amongst the Ministry of Agriculture on an annual basis to continue improving, adopting and adapting the strategies proposed in this bill.

Report to Parliament

5 (1) The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food must prepare a report setting out the national strategy and cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament in the year following the day on which this Act comes into force.

Publication of report

(2) The Minister must post the report on the departmental website within 10 days after the day on which the report is tabled in Parliament.

Review and Report

Review and report

6 (1) Within five years of the tabling of the report referred to in section 5, and every five years after that, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food must prepare a report on the effectiveness of the national strategy, setting out his or her conclusions and recommendations regarding the strategy, and cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament on any of the first 15 days on which that House is sitting after the report is completed.

Publication of report

(2) The Minister must post the report on the departmental website within 10 days after the day on which the report is tabled in Parliament.

Published under authority of the Speaker of the House of Commons