

DARREN FISHER

Member of Parliament / Député
Dartmouth - Cole Harbour

MP DARREN FISHER'S BRIGHT IDEA BECOMES LAW IN CANADA

#BrightIdea

BILL C-238; FISHER'S PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL RECEIVES ROYAL ASSENT IN HIS FIRST PARLIAMENTARY SESSION AS MP.

(Ottawa, ON) June 26th, 2017 - Dartmouth-Cole Harbour Member of Parliament Darren Fisher's Private Member's Bill C-238, The National Strategy for Safe and Environmentally Sound Disposal of Lamps Containing Mercury Act received Royal Assent from the Governor General, becoming law. C-238 calls upon the Minister of Environment and Change to work with the Provinces, Territories and all interested and appropriate governments, persons and organizations to develop a robust national strategy for the safe and environmentally sound disposal of mercury containing lamps. Mercury is listed on the CEPA 1999 Toxic Substances list and is known to cause severe health problems, birth defects and even death.

"It's humbling to think that a bright idea and hard work from my municipal days has now become a law across Canada. We tell Canadians to step out of the room if they break a mercury bearing CFL bulb, but overall we've done very little to protect Canadians from the bulbs that are thrown into landfills and contaminate our lands and waterways - until now." Fisher stated.

Bill C-238 tackles the jurisdictional issues surrounding waste management across Canada by calling for a national strategy and working with all appropriate governments and stakeholders. Waste management is a shared responsibility between all levels of government.

"When I was a municipal Councillor for the Halifax Regional Municipality, I toured Dan-X Recycling in the Burnside Industrial Park. I learned that there were no regulations or guidelines for end-of-life mercury bearing bulbs. Dan-X, and other facilities across Canada can recycle the bulbs safely" Fisher explained.

After the tour, MP Darren Fisher worked with the municipality to divert the bulbs used in city-owned buildings for recycling. The province of Nova Scotia is now offering a voluntary take-back program through Efficiency Nova Scotia.

"There's a piecemeal approach to recycling these bulbs. Some provinces and municipalities doing good work and are trying to tackle this issue. But it will take a national strategy to ensure that all jurisdictions are properly handling the issue of mercury contamination from these lamps and bulbs."

Support for MP Darren Fisher's Bill C-238 has been widespread among Members of Parliament, Senators and stakeholders. Almost all members in the House voted in favour of the Bill and it passed quickly through the Senate without amendment. Conservative MP Jim Englski proclaimed that the "bill is a winner" during debate in the House of Commons and MP Elizabeth May joint seconded the Bill while Senator Jane Cordy of Dartmouth sponsored the Bill in the Senate. The Recycling Council of Ontario recently spoke out in favour of the Bill at the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, The Environment And Natural Resources.

MP Darren Fisher is eager to move forward with the National Strategy and will be calling for a meeting with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

"This is just the beginning. I'm looking forward to getting to work on this strategy Canada-wide."

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