

Dear [INSERT NAME OF MINISTER]:

On behalf of [INSERT NAME OF CITY/TOWN] council, we urge the Province of British Columbia to exempt printed newspapers from the extended producer responsibility (EPR) regulation.

Newspapers are vital to communities across British Columbia. In [INSERT NAME OF CITY/TOWN], our local newspaper [INSERT NAME OF NEWSPAPER] keeps our community informed and connected in a world of fake news and misinformation. Many British Columbians rely on printed newspapers for vital information. And countless small businesses in [INSERT NAME OF CITY/TOWN] find newspapers the best value for reaching local consumers. Newspapers have also developed a strong and growing digital base of readers in our community.

We applaud the goals of EPR to reduce packaging. But unlike product packaging, *the newspaper is the product*. It's wrong to include newspaper.

Newspapers have the highest level of collection of all recyclable materials – more than plastics and even more than aluminum.

EPR levies on newspaper will be a job killer. Every \$50,000 in EPR levies equates to one job in journalism, and those will be jobs in towns like ours where we could use more journalism, not less. Newspapers are already struggling financially, and EPR fees will make it worse.

In B.C., the levy on plastics remained flat while the levy on newspaper has gone up as much as 80% in a single year. Yet plastics are what we need less of, not newspapers.

Recently, Ontario exempted newspapers from EPR. On behalf of [INSERT NAME OF CITY/TOWN], we urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,