



Memo

TO: Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Garbage and Organic Totes

DATE: May 5, 2025

FROM: Superintendent, Public Works and Engineering Services

As we all know we are in bear country here in Lake Cowichan. Over the last several years The Town has had issues with bears getting in residential garbage and organic bins. We have had conservation officers, BCCF and local groups attend council meetings regarding this matter. There have been educational programs and discussions regarding steps the Town can take to help prevent bears getting to garbage etc.

An item that has been discussed several times is bear resistance garbage and organic totes. The one issue we have is that bear resistance totes are not available in the 80L size which we currently use. The minimum size is 120L.

Public works staff find that it is common for the 80L totes to be overloaded and therefore the lids are left up allowing birds and animals to easily get into the totes and make a mess. The open lids also allow for rain and snow to get into the totes, which increases the tonnage that we are packing and delivering to the dump site. The increased tonnage creates an increase in cost to the Town for tipping fees.

We are frequently getting requests for larger totes as well. This tells us the 80L totes are not large enough.

The current cost of an 80L tote is \$126.00.

The new bear resistant 120L tote will be \$201.15(tariff dependent)

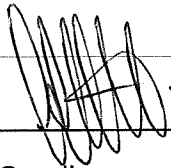
We have some 120L totes that are expected to arrive within a few weeks. And we can order more immediately.

Recommendations

My recommendation is that moving forward the Town switch to 120L garbage and organic bear resistance totes.

This would mean any new totes being purchased would be 120L bear resistant totes and anyone that currently has 80L totes has the option to keep the 80L totes or purchase the new 120L bear resistant totes.

This would be the time to do this, the Town is out of 80L totes. The wait time for 80L totes is unknown at this time.



Jas Sandhu

Superintendent, Public Works & Engineering Services