



Timeline of Canada's trash dumping in the Philippines

2013 - 2014

From 2013 to 2014, 103 container vans of mixed garbage from Canada, wrongly declared as scrap plastics for recycling, [arrive](#) in the port of Manila.

The Bureau of Customs intercepts the illegal shipments upon notification by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The garbage shipments violate DENR Administrative Order 2013-22: “no importation of heterogenous and unsorted plastic materials shall be allowed;” “all plastics shall have no traces of toxic materials.”

As per the government's waste analysis and characterization study in 2014, 64% of the botched garbage shipments are “baled municipal solid waste or garbage destined for immediate local disposal and cannot be recycled.”

In October 2014, Canada [pressures](#) the Philippines to process the Canadian trash in the Philippines.

2015

November 18: At the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit (APEC 2015) in Manila, Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau [notes](#) that he is aware of the trash dumping situation but makes no commitments about taking it back, stating that a ["Canadian solution"](#) is under development.

July: Twenty-six containers of Canada's trash are unfortunately [dumped](#) in a Philippines landfill.

2016

June 30: A [court decision](#) in the Philippines orders the return of the trash to Canada. Judge Tita Alisueg [declares](#) that, “Our country should not be made a trash bin by other countries. This should not be made a precedent for other countries to follow.”

2017

November 15: At the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations leaders' summit (ASEAN 2017), Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau falsely states that legal barriers prevented Canada from complying with the Basel Convention and [adds](#) that, “it is now theoretically possible to get it back.” The Prime Minister ironically orders food from a take-out restaurant [not far from where Canada's rotting trash is stored](#).

2018

In 2018, Canada and Philippines form technical working groups on the issue.

2019

Public interest NGOs write to Prime Minister Trudeau urging action on Canada's waste dumping on [January 30, 2019](#), [February 11, 2019](#), [April 15, 2019](#) and [May 8, 2019](#). The Prime Minister's office only responds to the May 8 letter, acknowledging receipt in a copy to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna.

April 17: A [legal opinion](#) from Canada-based Pacific Centre for Environmental Law and Litigation finds that Canada's refusal to repatriate its trash violates the Basel Convention and constitutes illegal traffic under the treaty.

April 23: Philippines President, Rodrigo Duterte, [demands](#) that Canada take back its trash.

April 25: The Philippines government states that its demand for Canada to take back its trash is "[non-negotiable](#)" and threatens diplomatic ties if Canada does not act urgently on the matter.

April 29: The EcoWaste Coalition stages a [protest](#) over the dumping at the Canadian embassy in Manila.

May 2: A spokesperson for Global Affairs Canada [tells Canadian Press](#) that the government made a formal offer to take back its trash.

May 7: Philippines sets a [May 15, 2019 deadline](#) for Canada to repatriate its trash.

May 7: Canada [states](#) that it will pay to bring its trash back to Canada.

May 10: At a [UN Basel Convention meeting](#) focused on stemming the tide of plastic waste transfers, Canada avoids any mention of its treaty violations in the illegal dumping of wastes in the Philippines. During the plenary discussion on compliance, Canada remains silent as the Basel Action Network and IPEN note their violations and call for a resolution of the issue.

May 16: After Canada misses the May 15 deadline, Philippines [recalls](#) its Ambassador and consuls to Canada and states that the government will "maintain a diminished diplomatic presence in Canada" until the matter is resolved.

May 21: The EcoWaste Coalition stages a protest over the dumping at the Canadian embassy in Manila.

May 22: Canada announces the [hiring of shipping company](#), Bollere Logistics, to return 69 shipping containers of Canadian trash sitting in Manila.

May 28: Philippines Foreign Secretary, Teodoro Locsin Jr, [announces](#) that Canada is fully cooperating in shipping out its garbage without delay after the government rejected Canada's proposal to complete the work by the end of June.

May 30: Sixty-nine shipping containers of Canadian trash dumped in the Philippines in 2013 – 2014 in violation of the Basel Convention finally set sail for Canada.