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**Ottawa's first neighbourhood takeout reuse program launches in the Glebe**

**Ottawa, November 19, 2026** — The Glebe Community Association (GCA) launched *Bring it back to Bank!* on November 18, introducing Ottawa's first neighbourhood program for reusable takeout coffee cups and food containers. Customers pay a deposit when they order takeout in a reusable cup or container and get it back when they return the item to a drop-off location in the city.

The GCA invited Bank Street businesses to take part. These were the first three to sign up:

- Happy Goat Coffee Company (Glebe), 734 Bank Street
- Altared: An Emporium of Good Things, 769 Bank Street
- Sisters Mart, 793 Bank Street

"We can't keep polluting the planet with single-use packaging," said Kate Reekie, the project's lead. "We need to get to a place where bringing back reusable takeout cups and containers becomes as second nature as bringing our reusable grocery bags back to the store."

"I think moving towards reusable cups is so important… it gives me great hope and excitement to help our planet thrive," said Miriam Fernanda Rangel, owner of Happy Goat Coffee Company in the Glebe.

The GCA developed the project in partnership with the Glebe Business Improvement Area and Friendlier, which supplies, collects and sanitizes the cups and containers and refunds deposits by e-transfer.

"Through *Bring it back to Bank!* we are creating a network of reuse locations that can continue to grow and set an example for other communities across the country," said Kayli Smith, CEO of Friendlier.

*Bring it back to Bank!* is funded through the City of Ottawa's Community Environmental Projects Grant Program and supports the city's efforts to reduce waste and build a greener, more circular economy. For more information, visit the project page on the GCA's website.

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**Caption:** Project lead Kate Reekie and Valérie Leloup, one of the first customers to try a reusable container, at the November 18 launch of *Bring it back to Bank!* at Happy Goat Coffee Company in the Glebe. **Photo by Mariana Gomez.**