




Waste Reduction Week Spotlight: Textiles



The Issue

-  • The textile industry uses large amounts of oil to produce synthetic fibres, fertilizers to grow cotton, & chemicals to dye & treat products. (source: wriwcanada.com)
-  • The fashion system exploits labour in the Global South & floods their backyards with unwanted "donations" at the end of the supply chain. (source: Vox.com)
-  • Canadians on average purchase 70 new articles of clothing & dumps 12 million tons of textile waste into landfills every year. (source: CBC Marketplace)

The Status Quo

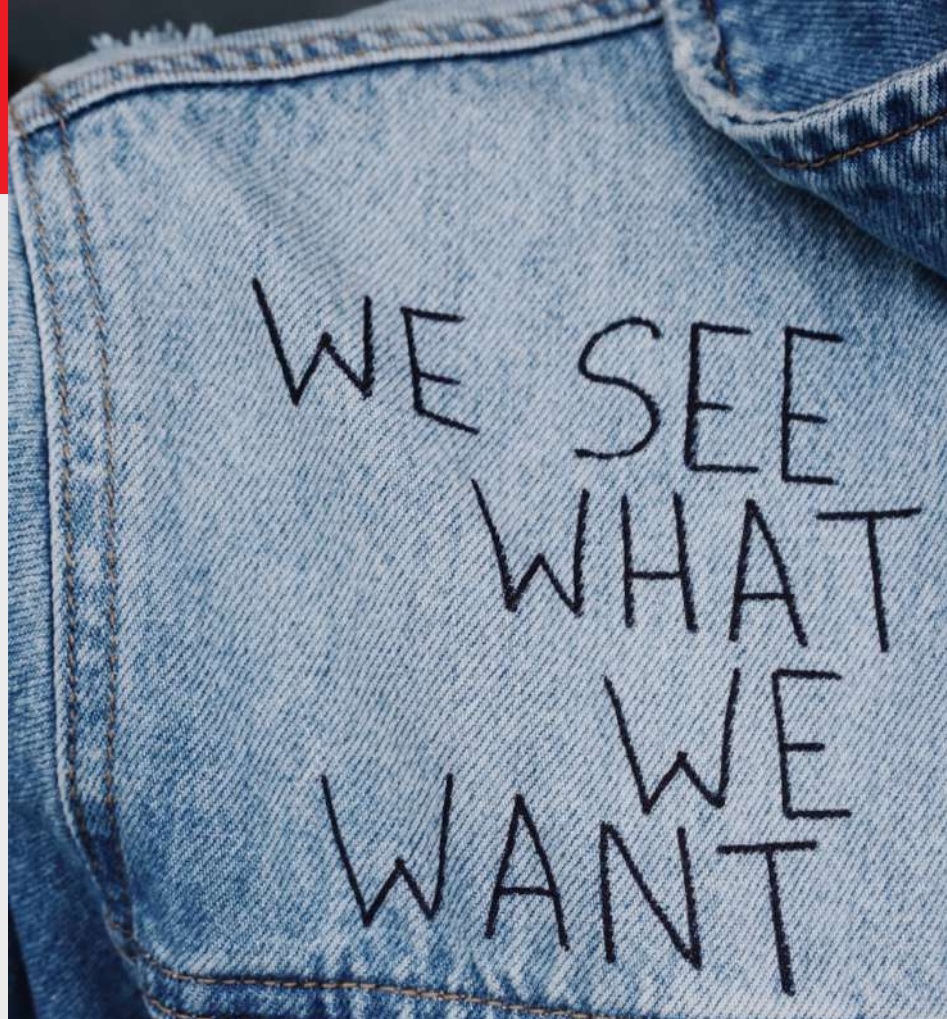
-  Fast fashion: A business model that mass-produces clothing at the lowest cost.
-  Marketing pushes the mantra that clothes get "outdated."
-  Overproduction & consumption degrades both the environment & textile workers.



Image Credit: Tim Mitchell, Clothing Recycled, 2005.

What We Can Do TODAY

-  Resist greenwashing & trends of the latest & newest. **Frame Clothing as a Need instead a Want.**
-  Buy Less but Better: Pick brands that value **Durability, Repairability, & Ethical Production.**
-  Go All in on Reuse: **Shop Thrift & Engage in Clothing Swaps.**



What if in the Future, We...



-  **Design** manufacturing processes that prioritize fair labour & minimize environmental impact?
-  **Develop** carbon-neutral materials that can be easily remade into long-lasting products?
-  **Weave** repair culture & cultivate skillsets into everyday life?

Want to Learn More?



www.rcbc.ca

Lower Mainland: 604-732-9253
Toll-free BC: 1-800-667-4321



www.metrovancouver.org/thinkthrice



www.return-it.ca/textiles

