Phase II

Textile Transformation Nova Scotia



Part 1 of 3

Waste Characterization Study | Summary

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NACTR

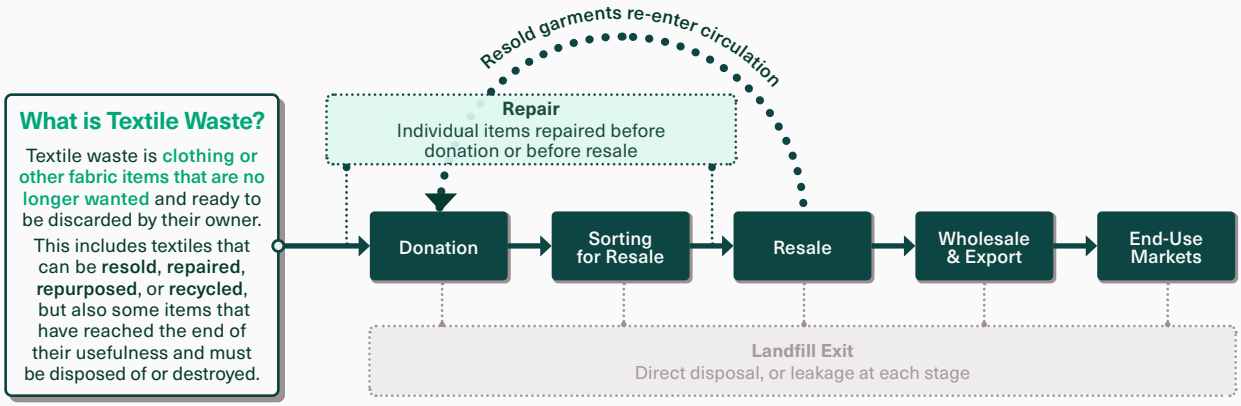
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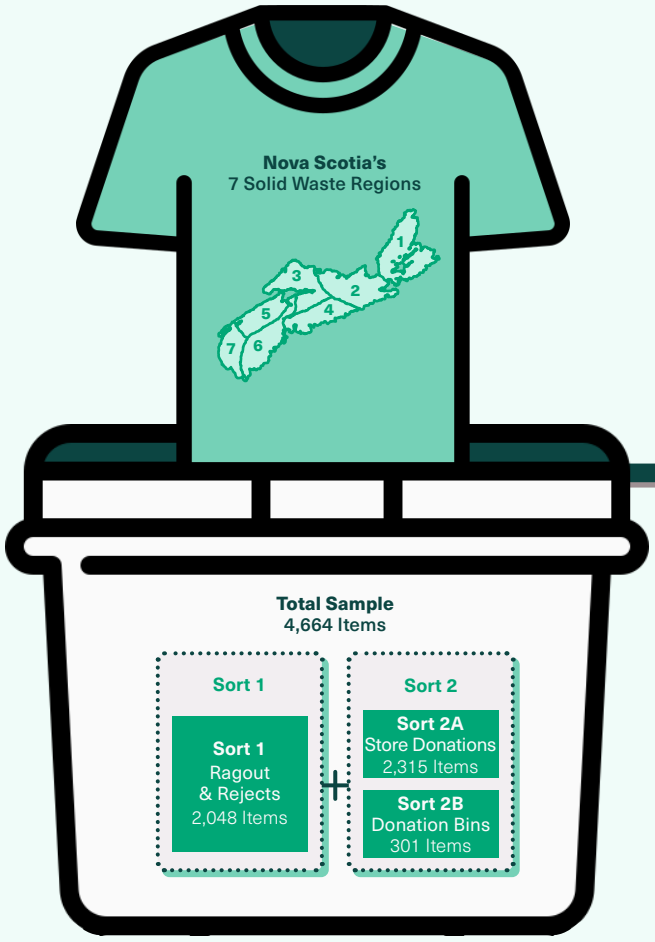
What is being donated?

WHAT IS ENTERING AND EXITING NOVA SCOTIA'S TEXTILE REUSE STREAM?

KEY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nova Scotia's Collection and Reuse Stream



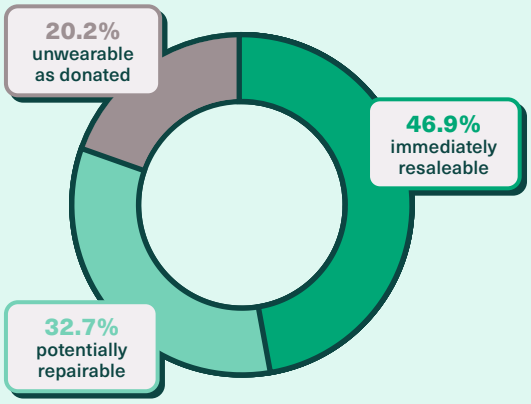


What Went In?

The study sampled **4,664 items** from **Nova Scotias's seven solid waste management regions**, consisting of:

- **2,048 Ragout & Reject Items**
  Items deemed unsuitable for retail, or removed from retail after failing to sell.
- **2,315 Store-Based Donation Items**
  Items not yet sorted at store level.
- **301 Community Donation Bin Items**
  Items left in unattended bins in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

What Came Out?



Which brands did we see?

A SMALL CIRCLE OF COMPANIES WITH A LARGE SHARE OF ITEMS

TOP 25 PARENT COMPANIES

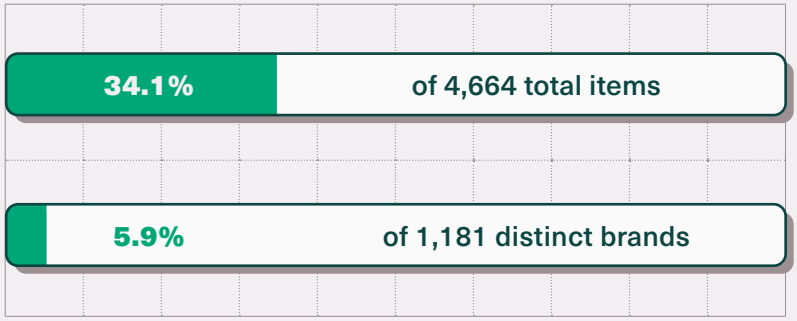
The Biggest Players Account for a Disproportionate Share of Donated Items

What does this mean?

While 1,181 brands were identified, 2/3 of them only appeared once. The top 25 companies could be traced to over 1/3 of the donated items.

This means that the largest producers have the potential to greatly affect the textile waste stream:

- what materials are used
- how textiles are constructed
- overall quality and longevity of items



How We Conducted the Study

The study categorized each item to determine what kinds of textiles are most commonly being donated.

Step 1 Classifying & Brand ID

- Clothes were sorted by **retail sections**, **item categories**, and **subtypes**
- The most common were women's wear, tops, and T-shirts, respectively
- **78.3%** of items had an identifiable brand, with smaller items like socks being the most commonly unbranded

Step 2 Condition Grading

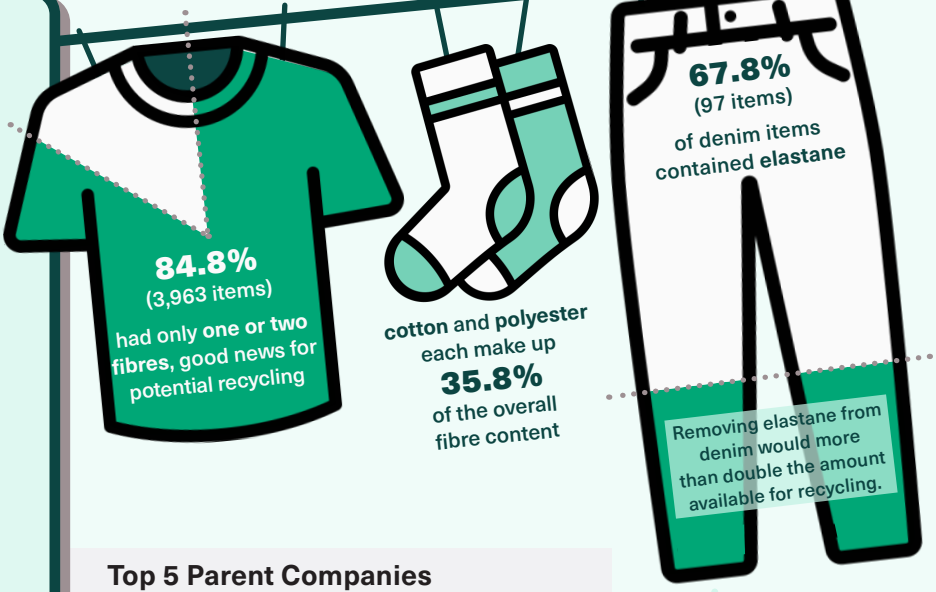
- Clothes were graded on a scale of A-F
- A-C are immediately **resaleable**
- D1 and D2 are **repairable**
- E can be **recycled**, F is end of life

Step 3 Construction

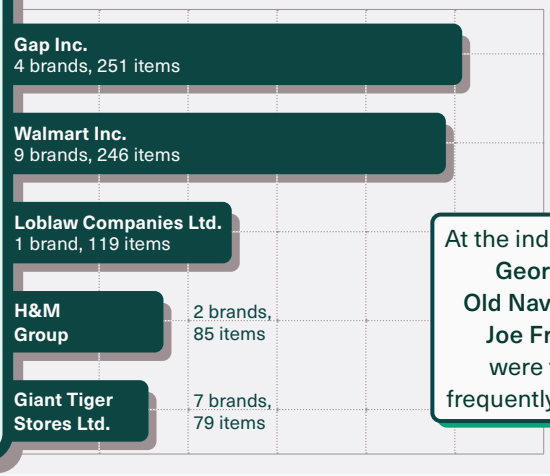
- It was determined if the textiles were **woven**, **knit**, or **nonwoven**
- Also if the items had **1, 2, or 3+ layers**
- Both facets can affect recyclability

Step 4 Fibre Identification

- Fibres were determined as **natural**, **processed cellulosic**, or **synthetic**
- Textiles were identified as **blends** or **monofibres**, and if blends how many different fibre types were involved



Top 5 Parent Companies



At the individual-brand level: **George** (195 items), **Old Navy** (156 items), and **Joe Fresh** (119 items) were the three most frequently observed brands.

What should we do about our textile waste?

CALLS TO ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

EVERYONE CAN HELP

There are Opportunities to Improve the Waste Stream at Every Level

Donors

can clean, sort, and donate thoughtfully – many issues that cause items to be rejected are preventable, not inevitable

Policy Makers

can focus on EPR or other stewardship policy, addressing a large share of the problem by engaging a relatively small number of companies

The Sector

can harness the untapped value of the donation stream by investing in repair, sorting, and recovery infrastructure

Producers

can improve recyclability through design choices – what fibres are used and how textiles are constructed

Key Recommendations



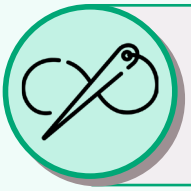
Engage the concentrated parent companies identified in this study as the foundation for producer accountability and closing the stewardship infrastructure gaps their concentration reveals. (MAT-1, MAT-2)



Formally include textiles in provincial and municipal waste strategies and audits, using a definition harmonized with NACTR and other Canadian jurisdictions. (MAT-3)



Explore procurement mandates and consumer incentives, such as recycled-content purchasing requirements and sales tax exemptions on used textiles, as near-term demand-side levers. (MAT-4, MAT-5)



Explore methods of extending wearable garment lifetimes by considering repair subsidies and eco-modulated producer fees that reward circularity-enabling product design. (MAT-6, MAT-8)



Improve fibre-content transparency through standardized labelling and digital product information to support fibre-specific recycling. (MAT-7)

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Environment and Climate Change Canada | Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

Textile Transformation Nova Scotia Phase II | Summaries

1 **Waste Characterization Study**

2 Donation Etiquette Analysis

3 End-Use Pathways Brief

To read the full reports, visit www.nactr.ca