

STAKEHOLDER REPORT

Q2'25

APRIL 2025

bcmb

BEVERAGE CONTAINER
MANAGEMENT BOARD

THIS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS THE WORK OF BCMB MANAGEMENT AND STAFF FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2025 (PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 19, 2025, TO APRIL 23, 2025).

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

Since February 19, 2025, the following Committees met in preparation for the April 23, 2025, Board meeting:

- **Compliance Committee:** March 5, 2025
- **Registrations & Recycling Committee:** March 18, 2025
- **Depot Siting Review Committee:** April 2, 2025
- **Governance & Compensation Committee:** March 26, 2025
- **Service Agreement Committee:** April 1, 2025
- **Audit Committee:** April 3, 2025



A MESSAGE FROM BCMB'S PRESIDENT AND CEO

HIGHLIGHTS

BCMB announced the appointment of **Mark Emsden** as the new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective April 7, 2025. Mark is committed to the elevating following areas of BCMB:

- **Exploring Alternative Collection Methods**
- **Strengthening Partnerships**
- **Fostering Innovation**
- **Creating meaningful regulation and a fair playing field for all that participate in the Alberta system**

BCMB's Travis Wizniuk has stepped in as Director of IT & Operations to ensure a seamless transition for the Operations and Compliance team.

As the newly appointed President & CEO of the Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB), I am eager to lead BCMB as one of Alberta's most efficient and well-respected regulators.

Looking ahead, our focus will be on enhancing convenience and implementing greater accessibility for *all* Albertans, which we believe is fundamental to earning respect and further building the credibility of Alberta's nation-leading recycling system.

Another key priority moving forward is to modernize our systems and level the playing field for all stakeholders, ensuring a more streamlined and equitable environment. This includes a commitment to reducing unnecessary red tape and providing a more meaningful and useful level of communication across the board.

As mentioned, Alberta's beverage container recycling system continues to rank number one in Canada. But it is also number two in North America. This testament to the outstanding commitment of Albertans, and all stakeholders that play an active role in maintaining a sustainable and effective system.

I am looking forward to the continued work with BCMB's esteemed industry partners and our work to foster an innovative, collaborative, and sustainable system.

Mark Emsden
President & CEO

EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

HIGHLIGHTS**Recently Attended Conferences:**

- RCA's Explore Circularity Day - March 10, 2025
- ACPD 2025 – March 11, 2025
- Canadian Circularity Economy Summit 2025 & CPP Partner Summit

Up Next:

- State of the City Address – May 8, 2025
- RCA Fall Conference – October 21, 2025

BCMB prides itself in being an active participant in dynamic and innovative industry. Since the first quarter, management and staff have had the opportunity to attend the following conferences across Canada:

RCA's Explore Circularity Day

On March 10, 2025, the [Recycling Council of Alberta](#) (RCA) held their first Explore Circularity Day, which explored Waste-to-Energy technologies and their role in the circular economy. The conference provided BCMB with valuable insight into what Waste-to-Energy means for the beverage container recycling industry. A key highlight was BCMB Board Director and Assistant Deputy Minister of Water and Circular Economy in Environment and Protected Areas, Kate Rich, who spoke on how Alberta's regulatory landscape can positively shape sustainability industries and sectors.


ACPD 2025

Recognizing the growing importance of plastics circularity, BCMB actively participated in the [Alberta Plastics Recycling Association](#) (APRA) annual Alberta Circular Plastics Day (ACPD) on March 11, 2025. This event provided a platform for industry leaders to discuss the methodology of circularity in Alberta and explore critical innovations within the plastics sector. Sessions at ACPD 2025 addressed industry challenges related to post-consumer recycled materials and showcased impactful plastics pathways, all with the overarching goal of strengthening plastics circularity within the province.

Canadian Circularity Economy Summit 2025 & CPP Partner Summit

In April, members of BCMB Senior management team participated in the Canadian Circular Economy Summit and concurring Canada Plastics Pact (CPP) Partner Summit in Montreal, Quebec. The conference was a valuable opportunity to connect with the various industries and experts driving the circular economy transition in Canada. BCMB will be exploring how these learnings can be integrated into our work here in Alberta to further our commitment to sustainability and circular principles.

Seeking a refund?

Find out what is returnable at Alberta bottle depots. 

SERVICE AGREEMENT REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

Following a thorough review by the Board of Directors, a KPMG report will be provided to stakeholders in individual meetings with KPMG and BCMB.

These meetings were conducted in March and April 2025.

Service Agreement Report

In Q4 2024, BCMB engaged KPMG in conducting a review of the ABDA and ABCRC's Service Agreement, assessing its effectiveness and alignment with best practice. KPMG has since presented their Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports to BCMB, the phase 1 and final reports have now been shared with ABDA and ABCRC to assist them in negotiating the next Service Agreement. The hope is that the recommendations presented by KPMG following extensive research and interviews will help the parties create a more effective Service Agreement, which BCMB hopes will help reduce dissatisfaction related to operational processes. The Service Agreements effective term began September 1, 2022, and ends August 31, 2025.

To review the current Service Agreement, click [here](#).

DEPOT BY-LAW CHANGES

At the April 23, 2025, BCMB's Board of Directors approved changes to sections 11.31 and 11.32 of the Depot By-law, which remove over-shipments from the quality control framework process.

Changes to the By-law include:

- Over shipping will now be considered compliant for the purpose of Quality Control (QC) compliance framework
- The numerical percentages for variances will remain the same, but only negative percentages outside of those thresholds will result in compliance action.

The By-law changes came into effect on **May 1, 2025**, and can be found [here](#).



Protein Powder



Olive Oil



Fabric Softener



Drink Pouch

Not all containers are refundable.

Alberta's beverage container recycling system only includes beverage containers (including drink pouches!).

Follow local guidelines for other recycling.

Find your local bottle depot: albertadepot.ca/find-a-depot/

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS

Since February 2025, BCMB Management has worked on the following projects:

- Collaborative messaging with Stakeholders
- Strengthening relations with the Government of Alberta
- Technological advancements in the industry
- Recruitment of a new Public Board Member and Director

GS1 Update:

The agreement between GS1 and BCMB is currently under review by legal representation and is operating as expected.

Collaborative Messaging with Stakeholders

BCMB is working hard to deepen relationships with industry stakeholders. In April of 2025, BCMB, ABDA, and ABCRC collaborated on a joint message to all Alberta Depots to ensure the importance of the content was corroborated by all parties. BCMB would like to thank stakeholders in their support of the joint message and looks forward to future opportunities for shared messaging opportunities.

Strengthening Relations with the Government of Alberta

Maintaining the integrity of Alberta's beverage container recycling system is a top priority for BCMB. On March 31 and April 1, 2025, BCMB was notified by diligent depot operators of instances of out-of-province materials entering depots in the Legal and Lethbridge areas. Following established protocols, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) was immediately contacted. An AEPA investigator joined BCMB in the investigation of these materials, which is currently ongoing. For further details and updates on investigations, please refer to the [Depot Notices](#)

Technological Advancements in the Industry

During their time in Montreal, Quebec for the Canadian Circular Economy Summit 2025, BCMB was invited to tour a [Machinex](#) facility to see the equipment being used by Quebec's recycling industry.

Machinex is a waste and recycling equipment manufacturer that specializes in designing solutions for sustainability and the promotion of a circular economy. The company is currently working with Alberta Depots to better understand the needs of rural and urban communities. Meeting with Machinex and touring their facilities exemplifies BCMB's constant pursuit of improving access and convenience for Albertans. It also helps find efficiencies and reduce red tape in the process.

Recruitment of a new Public Board Member

BCMB is set to announce the upcoming appointment of a new public board member in June 2026. To ensure a smooth transition and allow the prospective member ample time to understand the regulatory responsibilities of BCMB, and the industry, the recruitment process is commencing early. The Board has engaged Leaders International Executive Search Firm to coordinate the process. Interested individuals can view the position posting and application details on the Leaders International [website](#).



Support local



DEPOT
It's Worth It

From High Level to Cardston, Alberta's network of over 200 bottle depots spans 160 communities, each an independent, small business.

When you return non-refillable beverage containers, you're not just diverting waste from landfills – you're directly supporting independent businesses, the backbone of Alberta.

To find your nearest depot, visit: albertadepot.ca/find-a-depot

bCmb
BEVERAGE CONTAINER
MANAGEMENT BOARD

REGULATORY UPDATES

HIGHLIGHTS

BCMB's Board of Directors were briefed on the following Regulatory processes:

- Depot Viability Handling Commission
- Handling Commission Review

Throughout 2025 and concluding in 2026, BCMB is actively overseeing two significant regulatory processes: the Depot Viability Handling Commission and the Handling Commission Review. Management provided the Board with an update on the progress of both of these initiatives at the April 23, 2025, Board meeting.

1. Depot Viability Handling Commission

The Depot Viability Handling Commission (DVHC) is the amount payable to Depots on top of the Handling Commission for the first 1.5 million containers received in a given calendar year. The DVHC was implemented in 2019/2020 by the Depot Viability Committee following the Handling Commission Review, and it was agreed that the DVHC would be reviewed within 4 years of implementation. The DVHC evaluation will be completed by Q1 2026.

2. Handling Commission Review

Since the commencement of the Handling Commission review on February 19, 2025, Concentric Energy Advisors has been signed as the Return Margin Expert, and an RFP for a Real Estate Expert will be posted upon approval by the Designated Registered Participant's (DRP's).



RETAIL INSPECTION PROGRAM: OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

The BCMB uses a third-party auditor (One Stop Shoppers) to conduct retail inspections at retail locations across Alberta to verify that:

1. The refundable deposit being charged on each beverage container sold is clearly displayed; and
2. All beverage containers being sold have been registered with the BCMB in accordance with the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation.

60 retail inspections are completed per month across Alberta. The results of a retail audit are sent to the retail location by the BCMB to confirm whether it is considered compliant. If non-compliance is found, the goal of the BCMB is to help retailers (and manufacturers) become compliant before escalating within the compliance frameworks by offering instruction, education, and assistance to the retail location to ensure they understand their responsibilities as a retailer/manufacturer in Alberta.

Below is a snapshot of the retail inspection results for 2023 to 2025. Though there have been high levels of initial non-compliance identified, most retailers/manufacturers exit the compliance frameworks prior to escalating to Level 2 or higher. There is no compliance fees issued to retailers; however, a \$400 compliance fee is issued to a manufacturer that escalates to Level 2 and 3 of the compliance frameworks.

BCMB has successfully referred six cases of non-compliance to the Environmental Investigations Branch of the GOA since Q3 of 2024, in all of these cases, other than the one where the business closed, compliance has been achieved.

Retail Inspection Program Results 2023-2025					
Year	Total Audits Conducted	Compliant Audits (% of Total)	Non-Compliant Audits (% of Total)	Total Non-Compliant with Deposit Advertising (% of Total Non-Compliant) *	Total Non-Compliant with Container Registrations (% of Total Non-Compliant) *
2023	438	119 (27%)	319 (73%)	260 (82%)	128 (40%)
2024	679	187 (27.5%)	492 (72.5%)	393 (58%)	139 (20%)
2025 (to end of March)	170	63 (37%)	107 (63%)	52 (49%)	22 (21%)

- A retail location can be found to have deficiencies relating to non-compliance with both deposit advertising and container registration compliance frameworks simultaneously. This can result in more deficiencies found than inspections completed.

2024 AUDIT: OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Demonstrating BCMB’s commitment to sound financial governance, BCMB received the audit report for our 2024 Financial Statements from Metrix Group LLP. The audit concluded with no recommendations for changes, affirming the integrity of financial reporting. Metrix Group LLP has been re-appointed as the external auditor for the 2025 BCMB Financial Statements. Stakeholders can access comprehensive financial details in the upcoming 2024 Annual Report, scheduled for release on June 18, 2025. Previous BCMB Annual Reports are available for review on our [website](#).



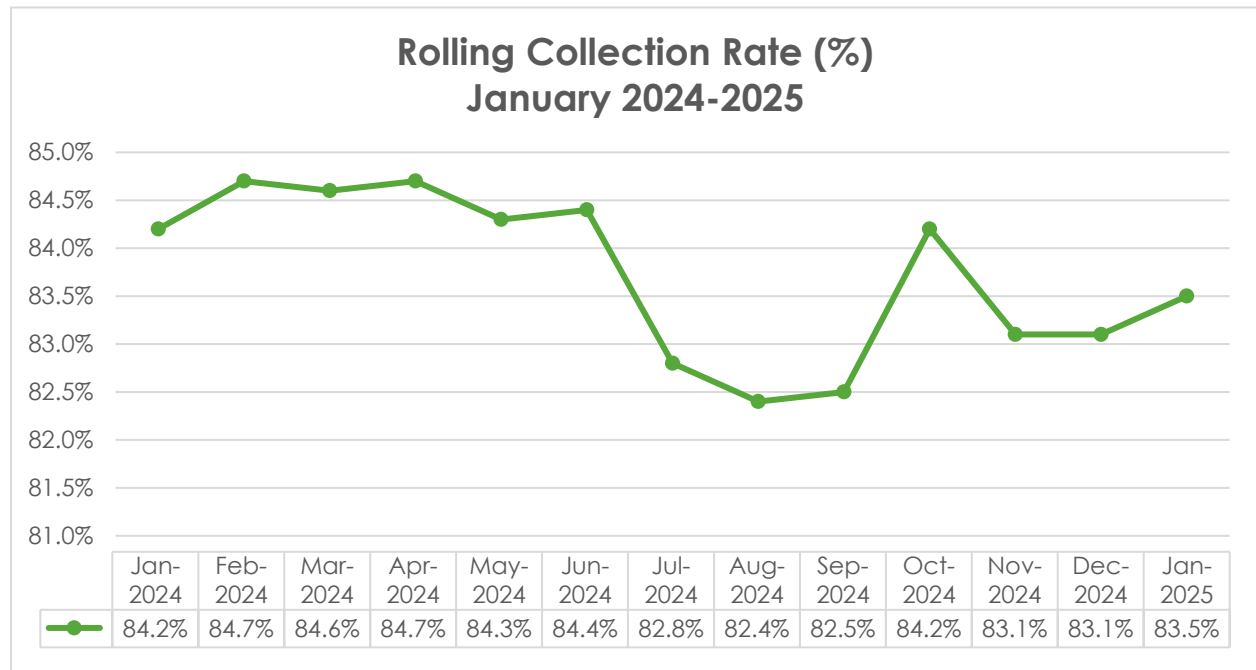
Money in your wallet.

Economic uncertainty is a reality for many Albertans right now.

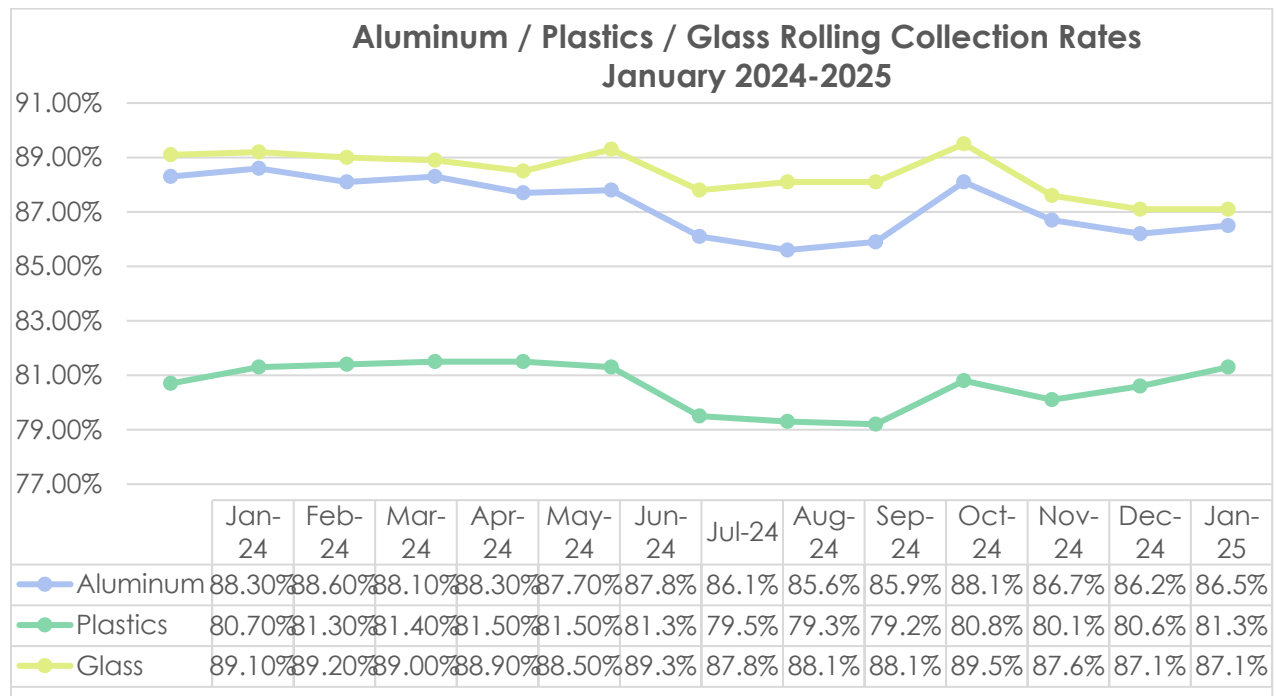
Return your non-refillable beverage containers to Alberta bottle depots and put that money back in your wallet.

To find your nearest depot, visit: albertadepot.ca/find-a-depot

COLLECTION RATE DATA



From February 2024 to January 31, 2025, approximately 48 million more containers were redeemed than the previous year. The rolling twelve-month collection rate for January 2025 is 83.5% (this is 0.3% more than November 2024’s collection rate of 83.1%).



January 2025: MONTHLY COLLECTION RATE SUMMARY



Container Sales	Jan-24	Jan-25	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	80,282,717	88,356,155	8,073,438	10.06%
Plastic Combined	65,885,062	66,681,996	796,934	1.21%
Glass Combined	9,116,177	10,129,252	1,013,075	11.11%
GableTop	11,299,166	6,808,781	(4,490,385)	-39.74%
Tetra-Brik	7,221,324	11,312,684	4,091,360	56.66%
Bag-in-a-Box	134,788	137,624	2,836	2.10%
Drink Pouch	1,105,293	888,324	(216,969)	-19.63%
Bi Metal	308,956	413,479	104,523	33.83%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	175,353,483	184,728,295	9,374,812	5.35%
Refillable Beer	2,812,260	2,649,852	(162,408)	-5.77%
Total Containers Sold	178,165,743	187,378,147	9,212,404	4.92%

Redeemed Volumes	Jan-24	Jan-25	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	76,541,067	87,127,711	10,586,644	13.19%
Plastic Combined	49,363,238	55,960,876	6,597,638	10.01%
Glass Combined	9,789,733	10,652,502	862,769	9.46%
Gable Top	5,110,268	5,245,418	135,150	1.20%
Tetra-Brik	6,811,973	7,492,134	680,161	9.42%
Bag-in-a-Box	71,663	81,462	9,799	7.27%
Drink Pouch	446,934	292,492	(154,442)	-13.97%
Bi Metal	220,214	266,309	46,095	14.92%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	148,355,090	167,118,904	18,763,814	12.65%
Refillable Beer	2,487,804	2,753,568	265,764	10.68%
Total Containers Redeemed	150,842,894	169,872,472	19,029,578	12.62%

Collection Rates	Jan-24	Jan-25	Difference
Aluminum Combined	95.3%	98.6%	3.27%
Plastic Combined	74.9%	83.9%	9.00%
Glass Combined	107.4%	105.2%	-2.22%
Gable Top	45.2%	77.0%	31.81%
Tetra-Brik	94.3%	66.2%	-28.10%
Bag-in-a-Bag	53.2%	59.2%	6.02%
Drink Pouch	40.4%	32.9%	-7.51%
Bi Metal	71.3%	64.4%	-6.87%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	68.3%	90.5%	22.16%
Refillable Beer	88.5%	103.9%	15.45%
Total	84.7%	90.7%	5.99%

January 2025: ROLLING COLLECTION RATE SUMMARY



Container Sales	Jan-24	Jan-25	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	1,239,594,656	1,281,115,668	41,521,012	3.35%
Plastic Combined	918,114,826	934,025,243	15,910,417	1.73%
Glass Combined	143,896,679	144,992,827	1,096,148	0.76%
Gabletop	87,750,422	84,897,515	(2,852,907)	-3.25%
Tetra-Brik	135,122,446	130,250,477	(4,871,969)	-3.61%
Bag-in-a-Box	1,892,849	1,885,875	(6,974)	-0.37%
Drink Pouch	14,121,365	11,385,351	(2,736,014)	-19.37%
Bi Metal	2,885,251	5,545,504	2,660,253	92.20%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	2,543,378,494	2,594,098,460	50,719,966	1.99%
Refillable Beer	36,213,756	33,149,988	(3,063,768)	-8.46%
Total Containers Sold	2,579,592,250	2,627,248,448	47,656,198	1.85%
Redeemed Volumes				
	Jan-24	Jan-25	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	1,094,297,852	1,107,990,335	13,692,483	1.25%
Plastic Combined	740,498,308	759,042,942	18,544,634	2.50%
Glass Combined	128,255,886	126,294,719	(1,961,167)	-1.53%
Gabletop	66,369,909	61,894,229	(4,475,680)	-6.74%
Tetra-Brik	96,129,655	96,820,257	690,602	0.72%
Bag-in-a-Box	962,898	952,046	(10,852)	-1.13%
Drink Pouch	8,186,353	5,424,382	(2,761,971)	-33.74%
Bi Metal	2,733,088	3,370,791	637,703	23.33%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	2,137,433,949	2,161,789,701	24,355,752	1.14%
Refillable Beer	35,328,240	32,490,936	(2,837,304)	-8.03%
Total Containers Redeemed	2,172,762,189	2,194,280,637	21,518,448	0.99%

Collection Rates	Jan-24	Jan-25	Difference
Aluminum Combined	88.3%	86.5%	-1.79%
Plastic Combined	80.7%	81.3%	0.61%
Glass Combined	89.1%	87.1%	-2.03%
Gabletop	75.6%	72.9%	-2.73%
Tetra-Brik	71.1%	74.3%	3.19%
Bag-in-a-Box	50.9%	50.5%	-0.39%
Drink Pouch	58.0%	47.6%	-10.33%
Bi Metal	94.7%	60.8%	-33.94%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	84.0%	83.3%	-0.70%
Refillable Beer	97.6%	98.0%	0.46%
Total	84.2%	83.5%	-0.71%