

## Federal Government Announces Ban on Single-Use Plastics

On June 10, 2019, the Government of Canada announced a [ban on single-use plastics \(SUP\)](#) as early as 2021 and an intent to work with provinces and territories to introduce standards and targets for companies that manufacture plastic products or sell items with plastic packaging so they become responsible for their plastic waste.

Meaningful resource recovery has always been a priority for the Beverage Container Management Board, and we are encouraged by the federal government's decision to follow the [European Union's lead to ban the use of single-use plastic products](#).

Albertans currently return over 665 million plastic beverage containers each year for recycling – a return rate of 82.5%. The ban on SUP will raise awareness of recycling and may result in higher rates of plastic beverage container recycling. Aluminum beverage containers are currently at a 90% return rate.

While the 2021 target is ambitious, many jurisdictions are already in the process of considering such bans and could be in a position by then to implement measures to reduce the impact of single-use plastics. However, the BCMB supports Alberta Environment Minister Jason Nixon's recommendation that a thorough consultation of those impacted by the ban be undertaken before any legislation is passed.

The BCMB also supports Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and greater accountability for manufacturers in the collection and recycling of their plastic waste.

Deposit return systems (DRS) like we have in Alberta for beverage containers are recognized globally as the suggested method to recover and recycle manufactured products such as plastic beverage containers. A well-regulated DRS with independent, third-party oversight and that is supported by the public, innovation and stakeholder involvement are key factors in EPR systems and Alberta currently has those factors in its beverage container recycling system.

For more information, please contact BCMB President, Jeff Linton, at [jlinton@bcmb.ab.ca](mailto:jlinton@bcmb.ab.ca) or 1-888-424-7671.