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STAKEHOLDER REPORT

February 2024

This report highlights the work of the BCMB for the period of November 23, 2023, to February 21, 2024

A. HEARING UPDATE

The depot's permit was cancelled following the hearing panel's decision on September 26, 2023. The depot ceased operations on October 26th and remains closed at this time. The permit holder applied for judicial review of the hearing panel's decision. The permit holder also applied to the Court of King's Bench for a stay of the cancellation pending the application for judicial review. The stay application was heard by Justice Friesen in special chambers on December 18, 2023. Justice Friesen did not give a decision on that day and indicated she would issue a written decision. The written decision was issued on February 28, 2024. Justice Friesen denied the permit holder's stay application. The judicial review application in the Kings Bench of Alberta is scheduled to be heard in November of 2025.

B. STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SIMS)

The BCMB launched its new stakeholder portal in October 2023 beginning with use by **non-alcohol and cannabis** beverage manufacturers, who already registered beverage containers directly with the BCMB. In January 2024, the **depot** facing portal was released, which enables permit holders to submit depot closures and applications as well as view their status in all BCMB compliance frameworks. At each stage, staff have worked hard to address bugs as they are identified and address questions from manufacturers and depots as they arise, and initial feedback has been positive.

C. TRANSITION OF ALCOHOL CONTAINERS TO SELF-REGISTRATION WITH BCMB

On February 22, 2024, SIMS (the online BCMB registration system) went live for **alcohol** beverage manufacturers, and liquor agencies began registering new alcohol containers directly with the BCMB. The Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis Commission (AGLC) previously registered alcohol beverage containers with the BCMB on behalf of liquor agencies. AGLC will maintain responsibility for registering all **alcohol products** in Alberta under their regulations and liquor agents will continue to register their products with AGLC in the same manner as they currently do. However, now the information required for **container registration** will be provided directly to the BCMB (not AGLC) by agencies.

SIMS provides efficiencies in the registration process and the ability for AGLC and BCMB to share product/container data; including issuing a container registration number to the applicant as soon as the registration process begins which is used in both systems for easy tracking/management. While it will take some time for legacy data to be reviewed and confirmed, having verified container registration data in SIMS means stakeholders will have access to complete, consistent, and accurate data.

Regular communication updates, drafted jointly by the BCMB and AGLC, have been going out to liquor agencies and impacted stakeholders. There are several resources available to liquor agents on the [BCMB website](#) including a SIMS user guide and a series of step-by-step instructional videos to complement this user guide. The BCMB will work closely with liquor agencies throughout the transition and afterward to provide support as they begin registering new alcohol containers.

D. NEW ALBERTA DEPOT APP

The BCMB has been working with a developer to rebuild the Alberta Depot mobile app on Android and IOS. The app allows depot owners to submit and monitor communications through the Quality Monitoring System (QMS) and search container registrations. Depot workers have access to the container search function. This new app has been designed and built on modern code formats and standards to ensure supportability going forward, and the interface has been updated to ensure the same experience on both Android and IOS devices. The new version is ready and will be released to the App Store as soon as it receives Google approval.

E. TIME AND MOTION STUDY

In late 2023, the BCMB received a request to conduct a new Time and Motion Study from Designated Registered Participants (DRPs) to the Handling Commission Review (HCR). As per BCMB policy, the remaining Participants were given the opportunity to comment on the request before it was brought forward to the BCMB Board for consideration at the February 21, 2024, Board meeting. The Board has approved the request and the BCMB has initiated the study.

F. DEPOT BY-LAW AMENDMENTS: TIMELINES OF DEPOSIT PAYMENTS TO CUSTOMERS

After consultation with the Alberta Bottle Depot Association (ABDA), the BCMB has amended the [Depot By-law](#) to address timelines of deposit payments to customers by depots. The changes address maximum timeframes in which a depot can provide payment of the deposit to a customer in various scenarios, including the requirement for depots to have a policy that can be made available to the public or the BCMB where required. Communications will be provided to the depot network in advance of implementation, giving a detailed explanation for the reason behind the amendments and how they will be enforced. The BCMB is also working with the ABDA to develop signage for depots to display so the expectations are clear to customers.

G. HANDLING COMMISSION REVIEW (HCR) COMMITTEE

The HCR Committee has been diligently working to address the issue of handling commission volatility. In late February, a proposal was circulated to Registered Participants for feedback. The Committee aims to provide final recommendations to the BCMB Board by the end of Q2 to ensure any amended process can be implemented for the 2024 Annual Update in the fall.

H. IT SECURITY

The BCMB has taken steps to ban the Chinese chat app “WeChat” from all BCMB computers and resources. This step was taken after the Alberta government released information questioning the safety/privacy of the app. The government has also taken steps to ban the application on all Alberta Government assets.

I. PROJECT UPDATE: DEPOT SITING REVIEW COMMITTEE

A BCMB stakeholder committee operated from December 2020 to December 2023 to review and make recommendation on depot siting criteria. The committee consisted of members from the BCMB, ABDA, Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation (ABCRC), the Alberta Beer Container Corporation (ABCC), and depot operators at various stages. The committee concluded its work by making four recommendations to a BCMB board

committee. The new committee is reviewing the recommendations, identifying any changes that may be required to by-laws, policies and procedures, and will make recommendations to the Board regarding implementation. The committee had its first meeting in early February 2024.

J. PROJECT UPDATE: REGISTRATIONS & RECYCLING COMMITTEE

The Registrations & Recycling Committee presented on aspirational collection and recycling targets at the February Board meeting. The Board agreed in principle and as a next step has instructed the Committee to conduct stakeholder consultation.

A first draft of the amended Manufacturer and Retailer By-law was presented to the Committee during the January 2024 meeting. Amendments are focused on introducing definitions of recycling, introducing increased reporting requirements in relation to the evaluation and reporting of recycling, and general updates to reflect current registration and reporting processes.

K. BEVERAGE CONTAINER BARCODES

The BCMB strongly recommends manufacturers ensure their containers have a UPC on each beverage container, as the Alberta recycling system relies on barcodes as a unique identifier to efficiently confirm container registration, recyclability, and material sorting at depots. As such SIMS (BCMB online registration system) has been set up with the UPC field being mandatory and manufacturers are required to contact the BCMB directly to register any container without a barcode. The BCMB will continue discussions on mandating UPCs for all beverage containers.

The BCMB continues to explore a collaboration with GS1 for purposes of streamlining container registrations for manufacturers across Canada and to access up-to-date and relevant container information stored within the UPC.

L. REFILLABLE WATER CONTAINERS

Communication continues with the Canadian Bottled Water Association (CBWA) members to transition refillable water containers into the regulated Alberta deposit refund system. Discussions have established an understanding of the operating requirements (sales volumes and collection reporting frequency, end-of-life recycling verification, interaction with public) for the refillable water manufacturers (bottlers, distributors, suppliers). These requirements will be captured in an Operating Agreement between the BCMB and the individual manufacturers going forward. Once the Operating Agreement is finalized, the BCMB will work with the developer to adapt SIMS (BCMB registration and reporting IT system) to allow for these manufacturers to report the sales, collection, and recycling for these refillable containers through their SIMS portal account.

M. EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS/EVENTS

i. Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

On January 23, 2024, Kasha Piquette, Deputy Minister, left the role and was appointed Associate Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Relations. Sherri Wilson was appointed Deputy Minister of EPA.

ii. Registration Systems and Collaboration with ENCORP Pacific and GS1

The BCMB has been involved in conversations with ENCORP Pacific and GS1 on opportunities to better serve manufacturers in registering containers, create consistent standards across Canada, and potentially utilizing current systems. No commitments have been made at this time and conversations remain exploratory.

iii. Industry Leadership Committee (ILC)

The January 2024 ILC meeting combined with the members of the Operational Sub-Committee to continue discussions on the Service Agreement, BCMB's role in dispute resolution, and to map industry issues that require resolution. ABCRC and the ABDA agreed to work towards updated transportation/logistical plans for inclusion in the Service Agreement.

The Operational Sub-Committee will now meet on an ad hoc basis and will include each organization in each meeting based on the type of issue being discussed.

N. COLLECTION RATE DATA

The following pages contain collection rate data to November 30, 2023. The data shows a rolling 12-month collection rate of 84.5%, which is a 1.7% increase as compared to November 30, 2022. As a rolling 12-month total, container sales as of November 2023 have increased by 0.77% and collection volumes increased by 2.76% (as compared to November 2022).

November 2023: ROLLING COLLECTION RATE SUMMARY



Container Sales	Nov-22	Nov-23	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	1,232,703,355	1,236,677,316	3,973,961	0.32%
Plastic Combined	887,793,039	909,875,441	22,082,402	2.49%
Glass Combined	146,463,238	146,039,777	(423,461)	-0.29%
Gabletop	87,761,448	87,492,018	(269,430)	-0.31%
Tetra-Brik	133,105,074	134,296,440	1,191,366	0.90%
Bag-in-a-Box	2,000,998	1,928,601	(72,397)	-3.62%
Drink Pouch	21,260,459	17,485,014	(3,775,445)	-17.76%
Bi Metal	3,782,963	2,799,559	(983,404)	-26.00%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	2,514,870,574	2,536,594,166	21,723,592	0.86%
Refillable Beer	38,352,959	36,224,424	(2,128,535)	-5.55%
Total Containers Sold	2,553,223,533	2,572,818,590	19,595,057	0.77%
Redeemed Volumes				
	Nov-22	Nov-23	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	1,075,441,456	1,095,089,389	19,647,933	1.83%
Plastic Combined	702,859,408	738,452,405	35,592,997	5.06%
Glass Combined	128,239,874	128,665,739	425,865	0.33%
Gabletop	64,795,905	66,658,731	1,862,826	2.87%
Tetra-Brik	93,230,934	95,994,744	2,763,810	2.96%
Bag-in-a-Box	928,566	956,571	28,005	3.02%
Drink Pouch	9,526,291	8,588,748	(937,543)	-9.84%
Bi Metal	2,723,154	2,745,833	22,679	0.83%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	2,077,745,588	2,137,152,160	59,406,572	2.86%
Refillable Beer	37,083,516	36,081,996	(1,001,520)	-2.70%
Total Containers Redeemed	2,114,829,104	2,173,234,156	58,405,052	2.76%
Collection Rates				
	Nov-22	Nov-23	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	87.2%	88.6%	1.31%	1.50%
Plastic Combined	79.2%	81.2%	1.99%	2.51%
Glass Combined	87.6%	88.1%	0.55%	0.62%
Gabletop	73.8%	76.2%	2.36%	3.19%
Tetra-Brik	70.0%	71.5%	1.44%	2.05%
Bag-in-a-Box	46.4%	49.6%	3.19%	6.88%
Drink Pouch	44.8%	49.1%	4.31%	9.63%
Bi Metal	72.0%	98.1%	26.10%	36.25%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	82.6%	84.3%	1.63%	1.98%
Refillable Beer	96.7%	99.6%	2.92%	3.02%
Total	82.8%	84.5%	1.64%	1.98%

November 2023: MONTHLY COLLECTION RATE SUMMARY



Container Sales	Nov-22	Nov-23	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	86,805,749	95,893,001	9,087,252	10.47%
Plastic Combined	67,447,045	71,688,650	4,241,605	6.29%
Glass Combined	12,369,903	12,514,844	144,941	1.17%
GableTop	7,877,802	7,759,879	(117,923)	-1.50%
Tetra-Brik	11,540,598	12,237,184	696,586	6.04%
Bag-in-a-Box	163,702	161,338	(2,364)	-1.44%
Drink Pouch	1,591,839	1,396,111	(195,728)	-12.30%
Bi Metal	334,014	314,507	(19,507)	-5.84%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	188,130,652	201,965,514	13,834,862	7.35%
Refillable Beer	3,346,266	2,682,132	(664,134)	-19.85%
Total Containers Sold	191,476,918	204,647,646	13,170,728	6.44%

Redeemed Volumes	Nov-22	Nov-23	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	68,734,671	94,606,444	25,871,773	29.80%
Plastic Combined	45,856,262	65,242,724	19,386,462	28.74%
Glass Combined	8,158,818	11,100,798	2,941,980	23.78%
Gable Top	4,298,839	5,915,225	1,616,386	20.52%
Tetra-Brik	6,387,544	8,839,360	2,451,816	21.25%
Bag-in-a-Box	63,337	86,503	23,166	14.15%
Drink Pouch	659,309	723,371	64,062	4.02%
Bi Metal	198,951	245,029	46,078	13.80%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	134,357,731	186,759,454	52,401,723	39.00%
Refillable Beer	3,216,828	3,057,240	(159,588)	-4.96%
Total Containers Redeemed	137,574,559	189,816,694	52,242,135	37.97%

Collection Rates	Nov-22	Nov-23	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	79.2%	98.7%	19.48%	24.60%
Plastic Combined	68.0%	91.0%	23.02%	33.86%
Glass Combined	66.0%	88.7%	22.74%	34.48%
Gable Top	54.6%	76.2%	21.66%	39.69%
Tetra-Brik	55.3%	72.2%	16.89%	30.51%
Bag-in-a-Bag	38.7%	53.6%	14.93%	38.58%
Drink Pouch	41.4%	51.8%	10.40%	25.10%
Bi Metal	59.6%	77.9%	18.35%	30.80%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	71.4%	92.5%	21.05%	29.48%
Refillable Beer	96.1%	114.0%	17.85%	18.57%
Total	71.8%	92.8%	20.90%	29.09%

This two page data summary is prepared by the BCMB for the purpose of monitoring the beverage container recycling system and reporting to the Board of the BCMB and the Government of Alberta. It is based on information provided to the BCMB by third parties which has not been independently verified. This data summary is being provided to third parties involved in the beverage container recycling system at the request of their membership organizations and is provided solely for informational purposes. It is not intended for any other use. Any use of this data summary by any third party, or any reliance or decisions made by a third party based upon this data summary are solely the responsibility of such third parties and the BCMB accepts no responsibility for any resulting loss or damage.