This report highlights the work of Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB) Management and staff for the fourth quarter of 2025 (period of June 19, 2025, to November 26, 2025).

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

Since June 18, 2025, the following Committees met in preparation for the November 26, 2025, Board meeting:

- **Registrations & Recycling Committee:** July 23, 2025, and September 16, 2025
- **Depot Siting Review Committee:** July 29, 2025
- **Governance & Compensation Committee**: September 4, 2025, and October 28, 2025
- **Audit Committee**: August 20, 2025, and October 30, 2025

A MESSAGE FROM BCMB'S PRESIDENT AND CEO

HIGHLIGHTS

- BCMB has released its 2026 **Business Plan**
- BCMB Board Members, Gagan Johal and Trina Jones have stepped down from BCMB's Board of Directors.
- BCMB welcomes ABDA Nominee Faizel Poonja as a BCMB Board Member.
- Cash4Bottles Bottle Depot opened in Elk Point. AB.
- BCMB's Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) is open for proposals, the deadline extended to January 7, 2026.

Dear Stakeholders,

The final quarter of 2025 for BCMB was defined by open communication and critical discussion, all centered on enhancing Alberta's beverage container recycling system.

On August 1, 2025, BCMB released the Alternative Collection Pilot Projects **Request for Expressions of Interest** (RFEOI) document, inviting Alberta Bottle Depot Permit Holders to submit applications to operate a pilot project through their Depot. The deadline for applications has been extended to January 7, 2026, and Management is in the initial steps of reviewing applications already submitted.

Operationally, Cash4Bottles Bottle Depot in Elk Point, AB, opened their doors on August 13, 2025, following their application to the vacant RFA area. The successful opening of the depot brings the total number of Depots in Alberta to 220.

In October, during BCMB's Business Planning Session, valued Directors Gagan Johal and Trina Jones stepped down from the Board. BCMB would like to extend its appreciation to Gagan and Trina for their hard work and dedication to BCMB during their time as board members. To fill the vacant **Alberta Bottle Depot Association's** (ABDA's) seat on BCMB's Board of Directors, Nominee Faizel Poonja has been approved to join the Board effective November 26, 2025.

BCMB is happy to share that Jasper Bottle Depot has established a temporary new depot location and was granted a permit to reopen on November 18, 2025. The permit has been granted for a three-year term to allow the Permit Holder to re-establish operations while securing a new, permanent location that will meet requirements outlined in the Depot By-law.

Finally, I would like to express gratitude for Guy West, former President and CEO of ABCRC who has recently retired. His unending dedication to Alberta's Beverage Container Recycling System will be missed, and everyone at BCMB wishes him and his family well at this time.

Sincerely,

Mark Emsden
President & CEO, BCMB

Support local 🍁

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

BCMB'S 2026 BUSINESS PLAN

HIGHLIGHTS

BCMB's 2026 Business Plan was published on November 28, 2025. The Plan's key points include:

- A collection rate of around 85% has been maintained
- Overall customer satisfaction rate for depots was 91% in 2024, 10% higher than in 2023.
- BCMB's operating fee continues to be held at a rate of $0.0017 per container sold in Alberta.
- Alberta has one of the lowest average costs per container ($0.0304 per container in 2024) in Canada

BCMB's **2026 Business Plan** was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the **Beverage Container Recycling Regulation** (BCRR), which was enacted under the **Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.**

In BCMB's 2026 Business Plan, BCMB shares the work being done to modernize and enhance Alberta's beverage container recycling system. The plan focuses on five key objectives:

1. Environmental Protection
2. Fiscal Stewardship
3. Governance Excellence
4. Service Excellence
5. System Efficiency and Effectiveness

Together, the projects and initiatives BCMB is undertaking are intended to ensure efficient, reliable and affordable service to Albertans and increase collection and recycling rates while helping support small businesses. At a higher level, BCMB's projects help ensure containers don't end up in landfill.

As outlined in BCMB's 2026 Business Plan, several key projects are positioned for continued growth. Initiatives that delivered significant impact in 2025 and will advance further in 2026 include: depot siting, exploring new collection models; beverage container registration and verification of recycling methods used across Alberta; and efforts to streamline the beverage container registration process by evaluating a potential integration with GS1.

Alberta's beverage container recycling system's success is a testament to the strong depot network comprised of small, independent businesses and an effective Collection System Agent (CSA), **Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation** (ABCRC). BCMB, along with our system stakeholders, is constantly finding ways to modernize the system to meet the changing needs of Albertans.

As unveiled in the 2026 Business Plan, BCMB's Mandate is:

To regulate and enhance a leading, affordable and sustainable beverage recycling system, which protects Alberta's environment, maximizes resource recovery and contributes to a circular economy.

BCMB DEPOT BY-LAW UPDATES

HIGHLIGHTS

At the most recent Board meeting, BCMB made amendments to following sections of the Depot By-law:

- Section 3.6
- Section 4.2
- Addition of Section 6 – Change of Control
- Section 11.53.2

During the November 26, 2025, Board meeting, BCMB's Board of Directors reviewed amendments to the **Depot By-law** proposed by management and approved the recommendations as presented. The amended Depot By-law can be viewed on BCMB's **website.**

Section 3.6

Following detailed discussion and consultation with the Depot Siting Review Committee and BCMB's Legal Counsel, there has been an amendment to Section 3.6 in the Depot By-law The amendment removes the words "new Permit" and ends the section with "if the Permit relates to an application submitted in response to an RFA."

This change clarifies that this siting requirement for rural depots applies to new depots only. Existing depots will not be affected.

Section 4.2

A subsequent amendment was made to Section 4.2, primarily relocating its final portion to the added Section 6. This move aligns with the UCA requirement that specifies operator obligations only when there is a change in control; a process reference was also added to Section 4.2.

Addition of Section 6 – Change of Control

The addition of Section 6, Change of Control, formalizes the process that Permit Holders can follow in the case of a change in control of a bottle depot.

Section 11.53.2

The change to section 11.53.2 in the Depot By-law decreases the minimum timeframe for correcting deficiencies identified during Depot Inspections from 90 to 14 days, while still allowing room for discretion to extend that initial timeline when necessary. This amendment aims to enhance the efficiency of this framework and increase public confidence in the system.

STAKEHOLDER AND INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Working group, Co-Chaired by ABCRC and BCMB has continued work to verify recycling methods

- BCMB has conducted two stakeholder consultations for the following:
  - Setting Aspirational Targets
  - Problematic Materials (Crystal and Ceramic)

Verification of Recycling

As 2025 closes, BCMB and ABCRC continue their work with Christina Seidel, of **sonnevera international corp.**

On behalf of this group, Christina Seidel has maintained engagement with Encorp Pacific (BC) and Consignaction (Quebec).

For example, Encorp is building a Recycling Vendor Qualification Process (RVQP) that will review existing and potential end processors (recyclers) and includes a process for verification of recycling rates. Encorp recognizes the need to understand the downstream recycling rate for all container materials, and they have mapped their current downstream system which closely resembles Alberta's.

Stakeholder Consultations

Management has engaged stakeholders in two areas related to the beverage container recycling industry: The setting of aspirational targets for collection and recycling and the removal of probelmatic materials being used as beverage containers due to their lack of end of life processors. The BCMB Board approved the adoption of aspirational targets for both collection and recycing.

The problematic materials consultation targets the potential phase-out of two specific streams, crystal and ceramic, from Alberta's designated beverage container list. BCMB is advancing this work through Phase 3 of its consultation, which involves direct meetings with Phase 2 survey respondents.To keep up-to-date on survey findings or to participate in a future stakeholder consultation survey, follow BCMB on **LinkedIn.**

Seeking a refund?

Find out what is returnable at Alberta bottle depots.

Juice

250ml

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/

bcmb
BEVERAGE CONTAINER
MANAGEMENT BOARD

HANDLING COMMISSION REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

The Handling Commission Review has passed some key milestones:

- Phase I and Phase II Reports shared by DCA to DRP's and BCMB's Board of Directors
- IR have been sent to DCA from DRP's

The Handling Commission Review has progressed on schedule. On November 25, 2025, the Data Collection Agent (DCA) met with BCMB Management and all Designated Registered Participants (DRP's) and presented the **Phase I** and **Phase II** Reports.

At the November 26, 2025, BCMB Board meeting the DCA presented the two reports to BCMB's Board of Directors. During each session, all questions and commentary were recorded and shared to the public HCR record to ensure transparency in information transmission.

DRP's submitted their Information Requests (IR) to the DCA. IR's are currently under review with the DCA.

To keep up to date on the Handling Commission Review, visit the Public Record posted on BCMB's **website**.

CONFERENCES 2025

In the fall, BCMB attended and sponsored several conferences across the province.

In September, ABDA held their industry Conference. At the awards banquet, BCMB unveiled their new "Gold Standard Award" for urban, metro and rural depots. Winners of the 2025 awards were: Bea Fisher Bottle Depot (Urban), Bowness Bottle Depot (Metro) and La Crete Bottle Depot (Rural).

BCMB sponsored the Recycling Council of Alberta's (RCA) Fall Conference. BCMB President and CEO, Mark Emsden, moderated a panel of innovators, fostering a meaningful and impactful conversation.

In October, BCMB sponsored/attended the following conferences:

- Alberta Liquor Industry Conference (ALIC)
- Alberta Small Brewers Convention (ASBA)
- Alberta Urban Municipalities (ABMunis) – Fall Conference
- Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)– Fall Conference

RETAIL INSPECTION PROGRAM: OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

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

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 BCMB in accordance with the BCRR.

Each month, 60 retail inspections are completed across Alberta. The results of a retail audit are sent to the retail location by BCMB to confirm whether it is considered compliant. If non-compliance is found, BCMB assists retailers and manufacturers in becoming compliant, so that the retailer or manufacturer does not escalate to the next level within the compliance framework. BCMB offers instruction, education, and assistance to the non-compliant 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 referred 14 cases of non-compliance to the Environmental Investigations Branch of the GOA since Q3 of 2024. Currently 9 of these referral cases are pending. Of the 3 cases that have been closed; one case achieved compliance with GOA intervention, one case could not proceed as the business closed, and one case was closed after the GOA issued a formal warning to cease activity.

Find more information about BCMB's Retailer and Manufacturer By-law **here**.

Retail Inspection Program Results 2023-2025					
Year	Total Audits Conducted	Compliant Audits (% of Total)	Non-Complaint Audits (% of Total)	Total Non-Compliant with Deposit Advertising (% of Total) *	Total Non-Compliant with Container Registrations (% of Total) *
2023	438	119 (27%)	319 (73%)	260 (59%)	128 (29%)
2024	679	187 (27.5%)	492 (72.5%)	393 (58%)	139 (20%)
2025 (to end of Nov)	602	254 (42.2%)	348 (57.8%)	227 (46%)	130 (21.6%)

* 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.

2025 AUDIT: OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

BCMB received the audit report for our 2025 Financial Statements from Metrix Group LLP. The audit concluded with no recommendations for changes, affirming BCMB's commitment to sound financial governance. 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 2024 Annual Report.
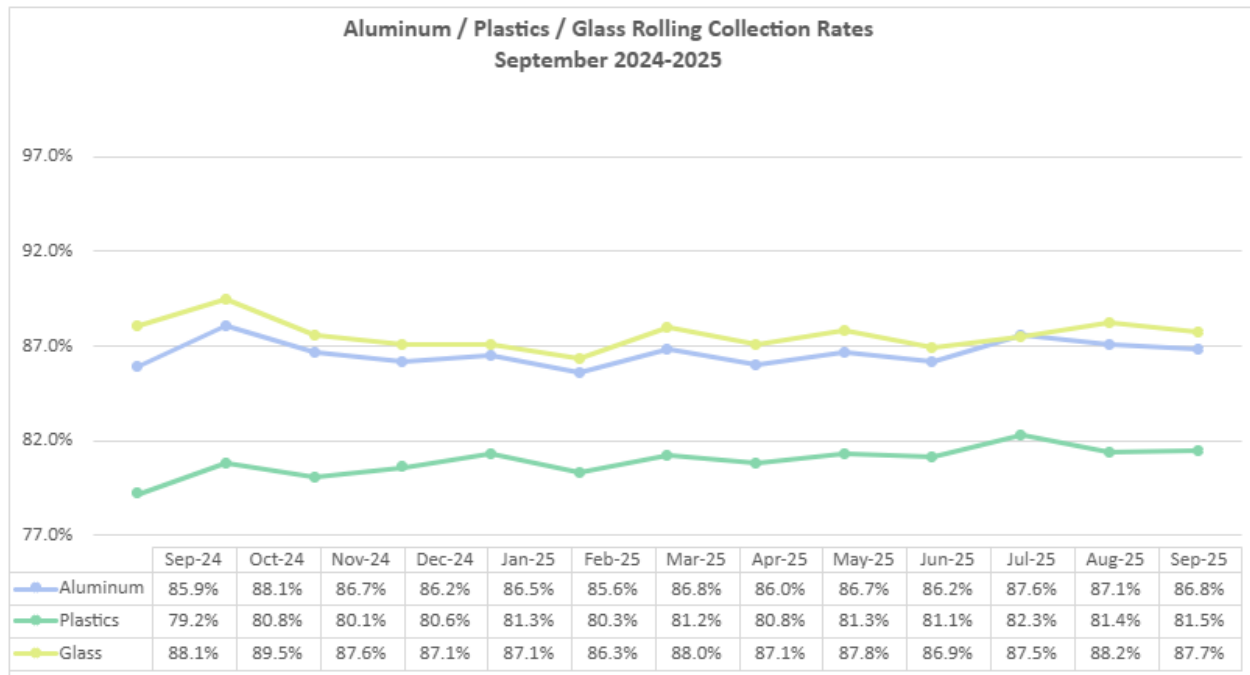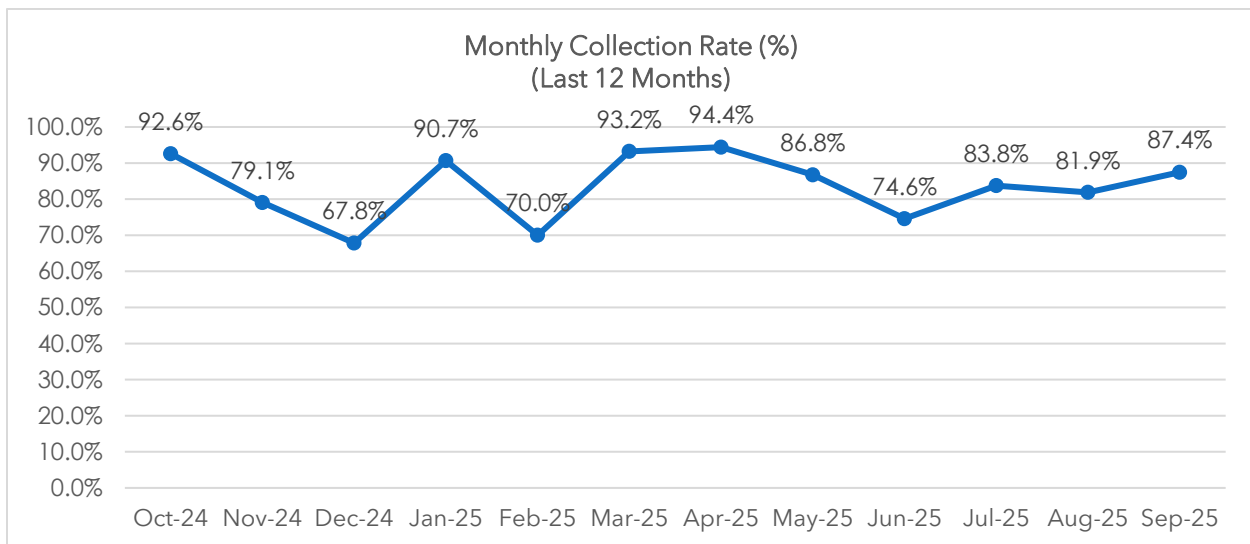
Money in your wallet.

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

bcmb
BEVERAGE CONTAINER
MANAGEMENT BOARD

COLLECTION RATE DATA

From August 1, 2024, to September 31, 2025, approximately 27 million more containers were redeemed than the previous year. The rolling twelve-month collection rate for September 2025 is 83.6% (this is 0.1% less than August 2025's collection rate of 83.7%). The graphs below highlight this data and are sent in a report on a regular basis to ABDA and other relevant stakeholders. The following data graphs highlight the rolling Collection Rate which is calculated by comparing the sold and redeemed containers. This data is collected from the ABDA, CSA and analyzed and reported by BCMB on a monthly basis.

Monthly Collection Rate (%) (Last 12 Months)

Aluminum / Plastics / Glass Rolling Collection Rates September 2024-2025

	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25
Aluminum	85.9%	88.1%	86.7%	86.2%	86.5%	85.6%	86.8%	86.0%	86.7%	86.2%	87.6%	87.1%	86.8%
Plastics	79.2%	80.8%	80.1%	80.6%	81.3%	80.3%	81.2%	80.8%	81.3%	81.1%	82.3%	81.4%	81.5%
Glass	88.1%	89.5%	87.6%	87.1%	87.1%	86.3%	88.0%	87.1%	87.8%	86.9%	87.5%	88.2%	87.7%

October 2025: MONTHLY COLLECTION RATE SUMMARY

bCmb

Container Sales	Oct-24	Oct-25	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	105,165,155	114,777,734	9,612,579	9.14%
Plastic Combined	77,962,009	78,885,043	923,034	1.18%
Glass Combined	13,113,776	13,435,089	321,313	2.45%
GableTop	8,360,322	7,593,881	(766,441)	-9.17%
Tetra-Brik	12,785,209	13,046,188	260,979	2.04%
Bag-in-a-Box	168,141	154,302	(13,839)	-8.23%
Drink Pouch	1,192,270	944,889	(247,381)	-20.75%
Bi Metal	466,111	432,185	(33,926)	-7.28%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	219,212,993	229,269,311	10,056,318	4.59%
Refillable Beer	2,718,180	2,744,376	26,196	0.96%
Total Containers Sold	**221,931,173**	**232,013,687**	**10,082,514**	**4.35%**

Redeemed Volumes	Oct-24	Oct-25	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	103,819,264	110,369,962	6,550,698	6.23%
Plastic Combined	71,900,082	73,091,441	1,191,359	1.53%
Glass Combined	11,702,159	11,418,139	(284,020)	-2.17%
Gable Top	5,435,817	5,751,710	315,893	3.78%
Tetra-Brik	8,903,823	8,982,292	78,469	0.61%
Bag-in-a-Box	87,059	93,632	6,573	3.91%
Drink Pouch	457,602	348,302	(109,300)	-9.17%
Bi Metal	280,318	259,871	(20,447)	-4.39%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	202,586,124	210,315,349	7,729,225	3.82%
Refillable Beer	2,976,144	2,567,928	(408,216)	-13.72%
Total Containers Redeemed	**205,562,268**	**212,883,277**	**7,321,009**	**3.56%**

Collection Rates	Oct-24	Oct-25	Difference
Aluminum Combined	98.7%	96.2%	-2.56%
Plastic Combined	92.2%	92.7%	0.43%
Glass Combined	89.2%	85.0%	-4.25%
Gable Top	65.0%	75.7%	10.72%
Tetra-Brik	69.6%	68.8%	-0.79%
Bag-in-a-Bag	51.8%	60.7%	8.90%
Drink Pouch	38.4%	36.9%	-1.52%
Bi Metal	60.1%	60.1%	-0.01%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	92.4%	91.7%	-0.68%
Refillable Beer	109.5%	93.6%	-15.92%
Total	**92.6%**	**91.8%**	**-0.87%**

October 2025: ROLLING COLLECTION RATE SUMMARY

bcmb

Container Sales	Oct-24	Oct-25	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	1,271,890,084	1,314,175,964	42,285,880	3.32%
Plastic Combined	950,643,746	932,996,524	(17,647,222)	-1.86%
Glass Combined	143,760,636	140,951,423	(2,809,213)	-1.95%
Gabletop	87,261,993	84,760,850	(2,501,143)	-2.87%
Tetra-Brik	136,263,322	136,550,610	287,288	0.21%
Bag-in-a-Box	1,888,769	1,852,023	(36,746)	-1.95%
Drink Pouch	10,354,160	9,696,297	(657,863)	-6.35%
Bi Metal	5,173,490	4,810,890	(362,600)	-7.01%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	2,607,236,200	2,625,794,581	18,558,381	0.71%
Refillable Beer	33,540,420	31,370,184	(2,170,236)	-6.47%
Total Containers Sold	**2,640,776,620**	**2,657,164,765**	**16,388,145**	**0.62%**

Redeemed Volumes	Oct-24	Oct-25	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	1,120,418,941	1,138,268,449	17,849,508	1.59%
Plastic Combined	767,674,248	760,437,656	(7,236,592)	-0.94%
Glass Combined	128,660,940	123,098,380	(5,562,560)	-4.32%
Gabletop	64,140,037	61,686,527	(2,453,510)	-3.83%
Tetra-Brik	98,468,306	96,998,842	(1,469,464)	-1.49%
Bag-in-a-Box	981,742	935,214	(46,528)	-4.74%
Drink Pouch	6,053,308	4,718,643	(1,334,665)	-22.05%
Bi Metal	3,303,797	3,211,969	(91,828)	-2.78%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	2,189,701,319	2,189,355,680	(345,639)	-0.02%
Refillable Beer	32,820,588	30,625,992	(2,194,596)	-6.69%
Total Containers Redeemed	**2,222,521,907**	**2,219,981,672**	**(2,540,235)**	**-0.11%**

Collection Rates	Oct-24	Oct-25	Difference
Aluminum Combined	88.1%	86.6%	-1.48%
Plastic Combined	80.8%	81.5%	0.75%
Glass Combined	89.5%	87.3%	-2.16%
Gabletop	73.5%	72.8%	-0.73%
Tetra-Brik	72.3%	71.0%	-1.23%
Bag-in-a-Box	52.0%	50.5%	-1.48%
Drink Pouch	58.5%	48.7%	-9.80%
Bi Metal	63.9%	66.8%	2.90%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	84.0%	83.4%	-0.61%
Refillable Beer	97.9%	97.6%	-0.23%
Total	**84.2%**	**83.5%**	**-0.61%**