



STAKEHOLDER REPORT

Q2'26

APRIL 2026

This report highlights the work of Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB) management and staff for the first quarter of 2026 (period of February 18 to April 22, 2026).

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

Since February 18, 2026, the following Committees met in preparation for the April 22, 2026, Board meeting:

- **Registrations & Recycling Committee:** March 17, 2026
- **Depot Siting Review Committee:** January 29, 2026
- **Governance & Compensation Committee:** March 31, 2026
- **Audit Committee:** April 2, 2026





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

A MESSAGE FROM BCMB'S PRESIDENT AND CEO

HIGHLIGHTS

- Handling Commissions were approved on April 22, 2026.
- Ken Faulkner and Koren Radford appointed as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Board (respectively)
- BCMB received a clean audit from external auditors Metrix Group for 2025 financials.
- Stakeholder Consultation decision regarding Problematic materials Crystal and Ceramic.
- BCMB discussions with the Government of Alberta to help support consumer optionality

Dear Stakeholders,

The second quarter of 2026 focused on completing key governance, financial and policy work across Alberta’s beverage container recycling system. During this period, BCMB’s Board of Directors and management team were active in the final stages of the 2025/2026 Handling Commission Review, the audit of BCMB’s 2025 financial statements, and continued engagement with system partners and the Government of Alberta to support stability and alignment across the system.

A major milestone this quarter was the Board’s approval of the updated [Handling Commissions](#). In addition, the Board appointed Ken Faulkner as Board Secretary and Koren Radford as Treasurer and approved the reappointment of Metrix Group as BCMB’s external auditors for the upcoming year following the completion of the 2025 financial audit.

BCMB also concluded a system-wide stakeholder consultation on two potentially problematic container materials (crystal and ceramic) that commenced in 2025 and continued into early 2026. Following extensive consultation with participating stakeholders and the Government of Alberta, management brought its recommendation forward to the Registrations & Recycling Committee and the Board of Directors, which considered the matter at its April 22, 2026 meeting (see “Stakeholder Consultation: Problematic Materials” below).

Finally, BCMB’s Board of Directors and management team stepped out of the boardroom and into the warehouses to see the full cycle of a beverage container firsthand. Our team spent time on-site at Connect Logistics Services Inc, Campbell Park Bottle Depot and ABCRC’s St. Albert location. To truly understand the recycling system, we decided to look at where the journey often begins: at Connect Logistics. Seeing how beverages are transported before they ever reach the consumer (and eventually Alberta bottle depots) gives BCMB leadership a comprehensive view of the beverage container lifecycle. I would like to thank those of you that were able to join us.

BCMB looks forward to continued engagement with stakeholders as we carry other important work forward in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Mark Emsden
President & CEO, BCMB

HANDLING COMMISSION AGREEMENT

HIGHLIGHTS

At the April 22, 2026, Board meeting, the Board accepted the **Agreement** by ABDA, ABCRC/ABCC and approved revisions to the **Handling Commission By-Law**.

The By-law can be found [here](#).

On February 19, 2025, BCMB's Board of Directors initiated the 2025-2026 Handling Commission Review (HCR). Since that time, BCMB and Designated Registered Participants (DRP), ABDA, ABCRC/ABCC) have participated in the HCR process.

The DRPs elected to waive participation in the Facilitated Negotiations scheduled for March 24-27, 2026. Instead, they reached an agreement through discussions supported by their respective legal counsel. The Agreement was presented to BCMB's Board of Directors for consideration at its April 22, 2026, meeting.

At that meeting, the Board accepted the Agreement and approved revisions to the Handling Commission By-law, including the new Handling Commissions effective May 1, 2026. The revised Handling Commission By-law is included in this notice and is also available on BCMB's website, under "Governing Documents", found [here](#).

A notice went out to all depot owners and operators informing them of the decision on April 27, 2026, and can also be found on BCMB's website.

If you have any questions about the HCR process, the Agreement, Handling Commissions, or HCR record materials, please contact BCMB Vice President Brent Campbell at bcampbell@bcmb.ab.ca.

Seeking a refund?

Find out what is returnable at
Alberta bottle depots. 

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: PROBLEMATIC MATERIALS

In 2025, BCMB management worked with the Registrations & Recycling Committee to assess the risks associated with the continued registration and distribution of crystal and ceramic containers – materials that have some of the lowest return rates and limited recyclability, which also pose potential contamination risks to glass recycling streams. While working on the project, BCMB conducted surveys and direct consultations with various manufacturers, distributors and agents to provide an appropriate approach to these materials

Following the four-phase consultation process, management brought a recommendation to the Board, supported by the Registrations & Recycling committee that reflected the information gathered during the consultation process. Management recommended that BCMB maintain the status quo with the registration process of crystal and ceramic beverage containers, while continuing to monitor container volumes and system impacts.



Strengths and opportunities of choosing to maintain current registration practices as follows:

- No administrative change or red tape
- Maintain variety and choice for Albertans
- Currently, these material streams cause no problems for Alberta Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) or end users
- Maintaining these material types in Alberta's systems helps preserve cultural heritage and diversity among beverage types
- Maintains Alberta's place as a national leader in manufacturing, distributing, selling and recycling beverages and beverage containers.

To read more about the consultation process, glossy notices were provided as stakeholder notices posted on [BCMB's website](#).



Fabric Softener



Olive Oil



Protein Powder



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/

ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

HIGHLIGHTS

- BCMB is now a member of the Canadian Network of Agencies for Regulation (CNAR)
- BCMB has met with Key Stakeholders (ABCRC, ABDA, ABCC and the GoA)

From February to April, BCMB's President & CEO, management team, and staff worked to engage with stakeholders and representatives from aligned organizations to support continued engagement, education and awareness of Canada's most successful beverage container recycling system.

Government of Alberta (GoA)

BCMB has continued to meet with the GoA in various capacities to find ways to make beverage container recycling and registration more convenient, accessible, and transparent for Albertans. Throughout these touchpoints, BCMB has identified opportunities to optimize the system that support our stakeholders, grow Alberta's circular economy while removing unnecessary red tape.

Canadian Network of Agencies for Regulation (CNAR)

As of February 4, 2026, BCMB became a member of CNAR. CNAR is the only Canadian association that supports those who regulate professions no matter their industry, province or territory, or organizational size.¹

BCMB's membership with CNAR reflects the

commitment and dedication to regulating a strong beverage container recycling system.



PILOT PROJECT UPDATES

On February 18, 2026, the Board approved management moving forward to phase two of the application phase for four submissions. Each candidate was asked to deliver a comprehensive presentation outlining their proposed solution/project to a panel of BCMB management.

¹ <https://cnar-rcor.ca/about/>

These presentations expanded on the applicants' original proposals, addressed questions from the initial phase, and outlined next steps and a timeline for moving the potential solutions toward implementation. All presentations were completed by April 17, 2026, either in-person or virtually, and will undergo deliberation with management and the Board's Depot Siting Review Committee later in May 2026

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 2026. 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 18 cases of non-compliance to the Environmental Investigations Branch of the GOA since Q3 of 2024. Currently 13 of these referral cases are pending. Of the 5 cases that have been closed; 3 cases achieved compliance with GOA intervention, 1 case could not proceed as the business closed, and 1 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 Compliance Program Results (to March 31, 2026)					
Year	Total Audits Conducted	Compliant Audits (% of Total)	Non- Compliant Audits (% of Total)	Total Non- Compliant with Deposit Advertising (% of Total)	Total Non- Compliant with Container Registrations (% of Total)
2023	438	119 (27.1%)	319 (72.8%)	260 (59.3%)	128 (29.2%)
2024	679	187 (27.5%)	492 (72.5 %)	393 (57.8%)	139 (20.4%)
2025	654	273 (41.7%)	383 (58.6%)	301 (46.0%)	144 (22.0%)
2026 (to March 31)	164	70 (42.6%)	94 (57.3%)	72 (43.9%)	33 (23.0%)



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

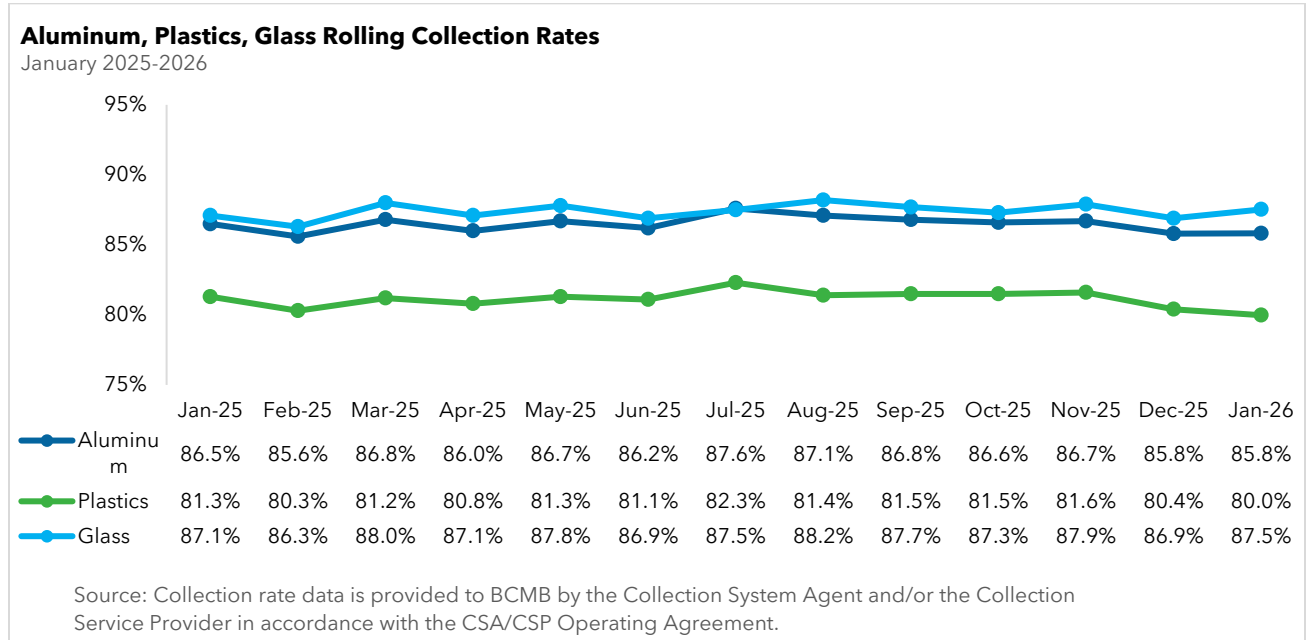
A Retail location can be found to have deficiencies related to non-compliance with both deposit advertising and container registration compliance frameworks simultaneously. This can result in more deficiencies found than inspections completed

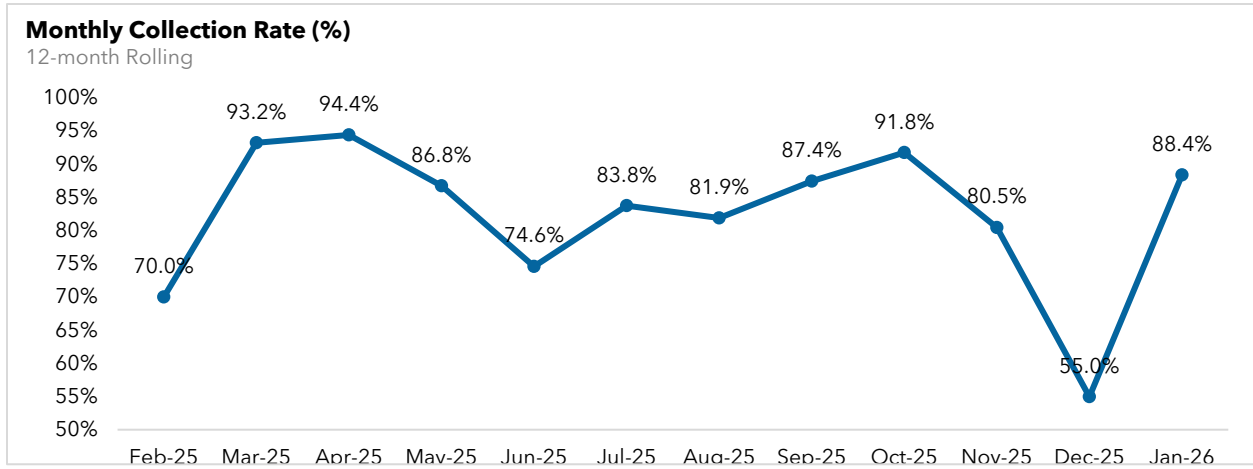
2025 AUDIT: OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

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 2026 BCMB Financial Statements. Stakeholders can access comprehensive financial details in the 2025 Annual Report.

COLLECTION RATE DATA

From February 1, 2025, to January 31, 2026, approximately 22 million more containers were redeemed than the previous year. The rolling twelve-month collection rate for January 2026 is 82.4% (this is 0.1% less than December 2025’s collection rate of 82.5%). 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.





January 2026 ROLLING COLLECTION RATE SUMMARY



Container Sales	Jan-25	Jan-26	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	1,281,115,668	1,329,336,444	48,220,776	3.76%
Plastic Combined	934,025,243	947,705,241	13,679,998	1.46%
Glass Combined	144,992,827	139,011,601	(5,981,226)	-4.13%
Gabletop	84,897,515	85,780,254	882,739	1.04%
Tetra-Brik	130,250,477	142,711,306	12,460,829	9.57%
Bag-in-a-Box	1,885,875	1,827,556	(58,319)	-3.09%
Drink Pouch	11,385,351	9,592,239	(1,793,112)	-15.75%
Bi Metal	5,545,504	4,659,626	(885,878)	-15.97%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	2,594,098,460	2,660,624,267	66,525,807	2.56%
Refillable Beer	33,149,988	30,463,536	(2,686,452)	-8.10%
Total Containers Sold	2,627,248,448	2,691,087,803	63,839,355	2.43%
Redeemed Volumes				
	Jan-25	Jan-26	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	1,107,990,335	1,140,879,136	32,888,801	2.97%
Plastic Combined	759,042,942	757,965,414	(1,077,528)	-0.14%
Glass Combined	126,294,719	121,678,523	(4,616,196)	-3.66%
Gabletop	61,894,229	61,646,341	(247,888)	-0.40%
Tetra-Brik	96,820,257	96,520,731	(299,526)	-0.31%
Bag-in-a-Box	952,046	927,634	(24,412)	-2.56%
Drink Pouch	5,424,382	4,501,033	(923,349)	-17.02%
Bi Metal	3,370,791	3,094,945	(275,846)	-8.18%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	2,161,789,701	2,187,213,757	25,424,056	1.18%
Refillable Beer	32,490,936	29,960,868	(2,530,068)	-7.79%
Total Containers Redeemed	2,194,280,637	2,217,174,625	22,893,988	1.04%

Collection Rates	Jan-25	Jan-26	Difference
Aluminum Combined	86.5%	85.8%	-0.66%
Plastic Combined	81.3%	80.0%	-1.29%
Glass Combined	87.1%	87.5%	0.43%
Gabletop	72.9%	71.9%	-1.04%
Tetra-Brik	74.3%	67.6%	-6.70%
Bag-in-a-Box	50.5%	50.8%	0.28%
Drink Pouch	47.6%	46.9%	-0.72%
Bi Metal	60.8%	66.4%	5.64%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	83.3%	82.2%	-1.13%
Refillable Beer	98.0%	98.3%	0.34%
Total	83.5%	82.4%	-1.13%

January 2026: MONTHLY COLLECTION RATE SUMMARY



Container Sales	Jan-25	Jan-26	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	88,356,155	92,458,507	4,102,352	4.64%
Plastic Combined	66,681,996	73,507,168	6,825,172	10.24%
Glass Combined	10,129,252	8,769,124	(1,360,128)	-13.43%
GableTop	6,808,781	7,106,437	297,656	4.37%
Tetra-Brik	11,312,684	13,058,703	1,746,019	15.43%
Bag-in-a-Box	137,624	130,961	(6,663)	-4.84%
Drink Pouch	888,324	729,834	(158,490)	-17.84%
Bi Metal	413,479	347,628	(65,851)	-15.93%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	184,728,295	196,108,362	11,380,067	6.16%
Refillable Beer	2,649,852	2,146,932	(502,920)	-18.98%
Total Containers Sold	187,378,147	198,255,294	10,877,147	5.49%

Redeemed Volumes	Jan-25	Jan-26	Difference	Variance
Aluminum Combined	87,127,711	90,985,424	3,857,713	4.37%
Plastic Combined	55,960,876	57,632,429	1,671,553	2.51%
Glass Combined	10,652,502	10,324,692	(327,810)	-3.24%
Gable Top	5,245,418	5,407,010	161,592	2.37%
Tetra-Brik	7,492,134	7,784,835	292,701	2.59%
Bag-in-a-Box	81,462	79,304	(2,158)	-1.57%
Drink Pouch	292,492	326,151	33,659	3.79%
Bi Metal	266,309	227,910	(38,399)	-9.29%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	167,118,904	172,767,755	5,648,851	3.38%
Refillable Beer	2,753,568	2,453,136	(300,432)	-10.91%
Total Containers Redeemed	169,872,472	175,220,891	5,348,419	3.15%

Collection Rates	Jan-25	Jan-26	Difference
Aluminum Combined	98.6%	53.6%	-45.05%
Plastic Combined	83.9%	59.2%	-24.68%
Glass Combined	105.2%	53.5%	-51.66%
Gable Top	77.0%	44.3%	-32.74%
Tetra-Brik	66.2%	50.5%	-15.68%
Bag-in-a-Bag	59.2%	32.9%	-26.33%
Drink Pouch	32.9%	22.9%	-10.05%
Bi Metal	64.4%	48.6%	-15.76%
Subtotal- Non-Refillable	90.5%	54.7%	-35.75%
Refillable Beer	103.9%	74.4%	-29.48%
Total	90.7%	88.4%	-2.28%

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.