

## Setting Safety Standards High

What does it mean to be safe or to work in a safe environment? That question becomes very difficult to answer once all the complex variables of today's world are considered. Generally a workplace is considered to be safe if it is likely free of danger but it's amazing how much danger there actually may be. Even places that have seemed safe in the past could, in fact, be an accident waiting to happen!

When Mike Harvey joined ABCRC in October 2002, he brought with him previous experience with the WCB Partners in Injury Reduction Program and recognized its value for ABCRC. This is a voluntary program that is designed to encourage injury prevention and the development of effective workplace health, safety and disability management systems. The partners include the WCB, Alberta Human Resources and Employment, industry partners, safety associations, employers and labour groups and it is through their combined efforts that this program is possible. The initiative is based on the concept that when employers and workers build effective health and safety systems, the human and financial costs of workplace injuries and illnesses can be reduced.

The first step required to become a partner in the program is to achieve a Certificate of Recognition. It has taken about a year of intensive assessment, training and paperwork so that ABCRC could be audited for certification. The essential elements that are considered in the audit include a company policy and management commitment to the program; worker qualifications, orientation and training; hazard identification and hazard control; ongoing inspections, emergency response, incident investigation; and program administration. The efforts of

the ABCRC team were rewarded in February when they were advised that they were successful in meeting the requirements for the Certificate of Recognition for 2003.

Audits are conducted among industry partners. As ABCRC was and will continually be audited by an industry partner in the program, so will other companies be audited by ABCRC members. Four employees of ABCRC have been trained in the auditing process. The larger view of shared information and systems among members helps to continually improve the program.

ABCRC has made the commitment to a strong health and safety program that protects staff, property, the environment, and the general public from accidents.

Management supports the program's success by providing the necessary resources, including proper safety equipment, safety training, and safe work procedures. This commitment is founded on the belief that every employee is entitled to a safe work environment, free from any foreseeable hazards that may result in personal injury or illness, accidents, or property damage.

The objective is an injury and accident free workplace accomplished through continuous safety and loss control effort and dedicated teamwork

where employees at every level, including management, supervisors and workers, are all equally responsible and accountable for ABCRC overall safety initiatives.

During the past year a great deal of energy has been spent on the certification process. Staff training began with courses in safety basics in order to identify what needed to be done. Hazard assessments have taken a significant amount of time as each job was completely broken down to identify all the tasks within the job, along with assessment of potential hazards within each task. Once each hazard was identified there needed to be an evaluation regarding what control

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Safety measures are now in place that would prevent a hazard like this .

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measure could be put in place. For instance, if a danger can't be eliminated, can there be an engineered solution, such as a guard, or can rules or signage be established to reduce the possibility of danger.

The Partners in Injury Reduction Program helps companies to develop a win-win system. Workers are better educated and as a result, operate in safer and healthier workplaces. At the same time, companies that meet the stringent requirements of the program can realize reductions in operating costs.

The importance of the program and recognition of health and safety issues will be reinforced when the Health and Safety Code is updated in April 2004. ABCRC is proud to have been proactive in becoming a partner in injury reduction and since annual audits will take place, it is expected the workplace environment will continue to improve as safer ways of working are identified and implemented.



## Handling Commission Update

At the December 11th, 2003 meeting of the Members of the Beverage Container Management Board, the BCMB's new Handling Commission Procedures and Arbitration Procedure were approved and the Administrative Bylaw amended. These approvals allow for the BCMB to proceed with the process, the next step of which will be the approval of a job description and scope of work for the Data Collection Agent.

The Data Collection Agent will be hired by the BCMB's Board of Directors from a list

of candidates to be prepared by BCMB Management. Upon hiring, the Data Collection Agent will distribute the Uniform Code of Accounts to the 215 depots in the system. The depots will then supply completed forms back to the Data Collection Agent, who will proceed to develop the information into reports as requested by the Board of Directors. This aggregated information will be utilized to create the handling commissions. ♻️

## Resources Available

ABCRC regularly produces consumer information materials. A "School Kit" teaching tool; exhibit display; a video of the ABCRC processing plant in action; and industry signage are available by calling 264-0170. Lots of information is also available at [www.abcrc.com](http://www.abcrc.com), including excellent information about the lifecycle of container materials in "Follow that Container".

Of interest is a pilot project in a number of Calgary schools started in 2003 that was designed to help raise awareness within the school system. The schools were supplied with recycling bins and worked with a bottle depot for return or pick-up. This is a great fundraising tool and helps the beverage container recycling system capture containers that might otherwise be disposed of in other ways. Contact ABCRC if you have interest in this program. ♻️

# SPRING 2004 ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

...and considered valuable.

♻️ It matters. **Bottle Depot**

This ad will appear on buses.

Missing and considered valuable to you and to our environment. Offering deposit refunds at your bottle depot.

**Bottle Depot**  
♻️ It matters.

Information on beverage container recycling available at [www.abcrc.com](http://www.abcrc.com).

This ad will appear on the front of grocery carts.

Recycle your juice boxes.

This 3d dangler will appear in the tetra aisle of grocery stores.

# Container Recycling Fee Modifies to Reflect Market

On January 17th ABCRC issued a news release outlining the purpose of the beverage industry's Container Recycling Fee and how it ensures a sustainable beverage container recycling system in the province. Industry implemented the fee in September of 2002 with a commitment to annual reviews of these fees and any necessary adjustments.

Fees and their changes for 2004 are as follows:

| CONTAINER TYPE             | 2004 RECYCLING FEE | 2003 RECYCLING FEE |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| HDPE Over 1 Litre          | 4 cents            | 6 cents            |
| PVC Over 1 Litre           | 4 cents            | 6 cents            |
| Polystyrene Cups 0-1 Litre | 3 cents            | 5 cents            |
| Plastic PET Over 1 Litre   | 6 cents            | 7 cents            |
| Plastic PET 0-1 Litre      | 2 cents            | 3 cents            |
| Gable Top 0-1 Litre        | 1 cent             | 2 cents            |
| Drink Pouches 0-1 Litre    | 1 cent             | 2 cents            |
| Gable Top Over 1 Litre     | 0 cents            | 1 cent             |
|                            |                    |                    |
| Bi-Metal Over 1 Litre      | 0                  | 0                  |
| Bag-In-A-Box Over 1 Litre  | 0                  | 0                  |
| Tetra Brik Over 1 Litre    | 1 cent             | 1 cent             |
| Bi-Metal 0-1 Litre         | 4 cents            | 4 cents            |
| Aerosol 0-1 Litre          | 15 cents           | 15 cents           |
|                            |                    |                    |
| HDPE 0-1 Litre             | 7 cents            | 6 cents            |
| PVC 0-1 Litre              | 7 cents            | 6 cents            |
| Glass 0-500 ml             | 6 cents            | 5 cents            |
| Glass 501 – 1 Litre        | 8 cents            | 7 cents            |
| Glass Over 1 Litre         | 10 cents           | 8 cents            |
| Tetra Brik 0-1 Litre       | 3 cents            | 2 cents            |
| Aluminum cans              | 1 cent             | 0 cents            |

## Best Practices

There are several methods currently in use by depots for tracking the number of containers in a mega-bag during operations. A couple of those methods appear in the following photos. If you are not able to attain a high degree of accuracy in your shipping containers we would suggest you adopt one of the following methods in your depot. More suggestions will be published in the fall newsletter.



**Ring/Clip Method** – each ring represents a known quantity of containers. As the containers are placed in the mega-bag a ring is moved from left to right. Once all the rings are on the right the mega-bag is complete.



**Full Box Method** – full boxes of containers are stockpiled beside a mega-bag until a predetermined number of boxes are present. The boxes are all emptied into the mega-bag and the mega-bag is complete.

## “TUNE INTO – ENVIROLEADERS 2004”

vignettes will air on Access from March 1st to March 28th.

**Confirmed dates are as follows:**

**Saturday, March 13th at 3:30 p.m.;**  
**Saturday, March 20th at 3:30 p.m.**

**Call ABCRC at 264-0170 for further dates as they are confirmed up to March 28th.**

This half hour program is intended primarily to profile environmental services and stewardships; from innovative recycling initiatives and ground breaking technologies, to public information resources and companies rising above their counterparts with environmental initiatives. The program uses three to five minute segments to profile these resources and initiatives, featuring key elements that build a better future for Alberta.

The key message for ENVIROLEADERS 2004 is to educate and inform Albertans and the marketplace. ♻️

Watch for the new Beverage Container Recycling in Alberta brochure that is currently being distributed by ABCRC to all the depots. It's an informative piece that covers container types, sizes, and refund amounts, as well as interesting facts about what is made from recycled beverage containers of particular materials.

## Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation Statistical Analysis

Twelve Months Ending January

| 2003                    |                    |               |                     | 2004                    |                    |               |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Sales                   | Recovered          | Return Rate   | SUMMARY TOTALS      | Sales                   | Recovered          | Return Rate   |
|                         |                    |               | Material            |                         |                    |               |
| 466,401,586             | 377,446,141        | 80.93%        | Aluminum            | 474,070,196             | 381,344,196        | 80.44%        |
|                         |                    |               | Plastics            |                         |                    |               |
| 250,144,715             | 176,113,080        | 70.40%        | PET                 | 273,392,142             | 193,351,215        | 70.72%        |
| 15,242,225              | 8,191,272          | 53.74%        | Other               | 15,492,384              | 7,516,418          | 48.52%        |
| 27,263                  | 6,409              | 23.51%        | Beer                | 15,946                  | 8,689              | 54.49%        |
| 126,832,973             | 97,439,052         | 76.82%        | Glass               | 118,045,436             | 96,126,337         | 81.43%        |
| 137,900,608             | 74,925,761         | 54.33%        | Polycoat            | 150,423,219             | 81,761,920         | 54.35%        |
| 5,847,387               | 3,072,156          | 52.54%        | Bi-Metal            | 5,259,009               | 3,039,875          | 57.80%        |
| <b>1,002,396,757</b>    | <b>737,193,871</b> | <b>73.54%</b> | <b>Consolidated</b> | <b>1,036,698,332</b>    | <b>763,148,650</b> | <b>73.61%</b> |
| 843,379,274             | 650,998,273        | 77.19%        | AL/PET/GL           | 865,507,774             | 670,821,748        | 77.51%        |
| (84.1% of Product Sold) |                    |               |                     | (83.5% of Product Sold) |                    |               |
| 117,919,398             | 65,973,771         | 55.95%        | Tetra               | 121,632,470             | 69,292,660         | 56.97%        |
| 961,298,672             | 716,972,044        | 74.58%        |                     | 987,140,244             | 740,114,408        | 74.98%        |
| (95.9% of Product Sold) |                    |               |                     | (95.2% of Product Sold) |                    |               |
| 41,098,085              | 20,221,827         | 49.20%        | Other               | 49,558,088              | 23,034,242         | 46.48%        |
| <b>1,002,396,757</b>    | <b>737,193,871</b> | <b>73.54%</b> |                     | <b>1,036,698,332</b>    | <b>763,148,650</b> | <b>73.61%</b> |


## Coming Events

The ABCRC display will be appearing again this year at a number of conferences and trade show.

Watch for it at the following events.

- City of Calgary Mayor's Environmental Expo, June 2nd to 5th
- Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) in September
- Recycling Council of Alberta Conference October 6th to 8th in Jasper
- Alberta Teachers Association Science Council in November in Banff 

## Q&A

ABCRC is interested in hearing about any questions you may have. Please submit questions to [feedback@abcr.com](mailto:feedback@abcr.com) or call 264-0170. All questions will receive a response. 

### Round & Round

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Round & Round welcomes any comments.

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Please recycle. 