

FALL 2021

GOVERNMENT INDUSTRY MEETING

A videoconference meeting was organized by the Department of Environment (DELG) and alcoholic beverage distributors (Beer Canada, Craft Brewers Association of NB, Wine Growers Ass.). The purpose of this joint industry/government session was to prepare for the proposed amendment to the Beverage Containers Act (BCA), currently in the legislative approval process. The information meeting was also intended as a first general discussion on possible cooperation amongst distributor groups in New Brunswick.



WORKSHOP ON EPR

We received notice that the department is currently preparing a workshop on transitioning the beverage containers program to an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model. The workshop will feature a case study format using the British Columbia (Encorp Pacific) example. DELG hired a facilitator group (Pivot Consulting) to conduct this workshop and hopes to get participation from redemption centre operators, beverage industry and other stakeholder groups. Schedule for the workshop to be announced at a later date.

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ENSYS-CONNEX CONTINUES TO PROVIDE EFFICIENCIES

Our Ensys-Connex Point-of-Sale (POS) system is continuing to receive rave reviews from the two redemption centres (RC) who have been piloting the project since April.

Acadia Bottle Exchange in Cap-Pelé has seen drastic improvements since installing the POS system at their redemption centre according to owner Seunghwan Kim.

"Now, it is so easy to check inventory. I mean, before I had to take a calculator every hour to check."

Mr. Kim continues: *"I can check how much I've paid out. How many customers have come in. And it's all right there for me to access."*

Valley Redemption Centre owner Mario Maillet had similar things to say about the POS system since installing it in their Dieppe location.

"Transactions are faster at the cash, and bulk bag counts are a lot more accurate since there is now less opportunity for errors," said Mr. Maillet. "It gives our centre a better image and provides a more positive customer experience."

The POS system will allow RCs to process and record transactions and will support the counting and sorting of beverage containers from walk-in and pre-count customers. Additionally, we will maintain the system for you! Most maintenance can be done remotely with limited impact on employees.

In conjunction with our provincial roll-out of the Ensys-Connex Point-of-Sale (POS) system coming in January 2022, Encorp has welcomed Patrick Surette, our new Implementation Coordinator, to the team.

Patrick is the main point of contact for all redemption centres (RC) looking to take advantage of this exciting new technology. He will coordinate with RCs to determine requirements and create implementation plans and schedules for the POS system in each RC.

We are pleased the trial is continuing to go well and that RCs report ease of use, quick staff adaption, and clear operational efficiency improvements. As we get nearer provincial deployment, we invite all RC operators to book a visit of our EnSys-Connex demonstration site in our Moncton office. Contact Patrick (506.852.1965 or patrick.surette@encorpatl.ca) for more information.



▶ PERFORMANCE IS PRIORITY

We cannot ignore the fact that the used beverage container (UBC) recovery performance in New Brunswick is low compared to similar programs in Canada. The Restructuring and Modernization Plan we are proposing addresses this issue and sets ambitious targets: reaching a UBC recovery rate target of 75% in 5 years with the goal of 80% or higher within 10 years.

To achieve such high recovery rates, we propose that the BCP adopts Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) principles, where the beverage product industry assume full responsibility for the management of all post-consumer deposit-bearing beverage containers.

In line with EPR principles, our plan incorporates a Container Recycling Fee (CRF) to ensure the system can be financially sustainable and to fund investments needed to achieve high UBC recovery targets. The CRF will be structured to ensure each material stream becomes self-funded based on costs and revenues of that material.

▶ REDEMPTION CENTRE STANDARDS WORKING GROUP ON HOLD

The Department of Environment requested that the Redemption Centre Standards Working Group put its activities on hold. This was in light of the pending changes coming to the Beverage Container Act (BCA). No further details were provided for when this process could resume.

DELG officials provided further information on the upcoming changes. Notably, that a consultation process with stakeholders on upcoming changes are to be announced soon. It was made clear that the intent of DELG is to transition the current program to an Extender Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program. It was further mentioned that the timeline for this transition to EPR would be April 2023.



▶ NEW DEPOSIT BEARING CONTAINERS REGISTRATION FORM

The Beverage Container Program's Beverage Container Registration Form to be submitted to the Department of Environment and Local Government for new and existing products has been updated and can be found on our website (encorpatl.ca).

As a reminder, you need to register your deposit-bearing beverage products and their containers with the Department. A link to the Beverage Container Registration Form is provided below.

[Beverage Container Registration Form](#)

▶ ALWAYS REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR PRODUCTS LIST!

Distributors are responsible for ensuring their beverage products properly account for the deposit if they are included in the New Brunswick Beverage Containers Program. If not already done so, we highly recommend reviewing your entire non-alcoholic beverage product list to ensure compliance with the program (registration as well as remittance of deposits). We have tools to assist you on our website (encorpatl.ca) in the "Distributors" menu – look under the "Which Beverage Products Are Deposit-Bearing?" section on the "Registering & Selling Beverage Products in NB" page.

Take note that, if you need assistance, our staff is available to check your product list for accuracy. If you would like us to do an extensive review, please send us the list of all non-alcoholic beverages for sale in your stores (Excel format), and we will verify if you are charging deposits properly. Submit your list to Colette Boucher at colette@encorpatl.ca.

