

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

Re: Information on Status of Beverage Container Regulation

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information purposes.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to:
 - (a) Joan Sawicki, M.L.A. Burnaby-Willingdon; and
 - (b) RCBC

REPORT

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its meeting held on 1997 October 14, adopted the attached report providing updated information regarding the status of the Province's Beverage Container Regulation. The Committee advised that a draft "Beverage Container Regulation" is being reviewed by a government appointed Container Management Board. The Committee further advised that the work of the Board has thus far been very preliminary with the end goal being adoption of a regulation that will provide for the design of a container management system to replace, modify and expand all current deposit systems. The Committee concluded by advising that staff will monitor the progress of the Board and report back as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor L. Rankin
Chair

: COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

Councillor D. Johnston
Member

Councillor D. Lawson
Member

TO: CHAIRPERSON & MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT & WASTE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 1997 10 07

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 65-05-01

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON STATUS OF
BEVERAGE CONTAINER REGULATION

PURPOSE: To provide the Environment & Waste Management Committee with an update on the status of the Province's draft Beverage Container Regulation and comment on the issues presented by RCBC in their bulletin to Mayor and Council dated 1997 September 26.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Environment & Waste Management Committee forward this report to Council for information.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to:
 - a) Joan Sawicki, MLA Burnaby- Willingdon; and
 - b) RCBC.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Council has received a bulletin dated 1997 September 26 from the Recycling Council of BC on the Beverage Container Regulation and referred the bulletin to the Environment & Waste Management Committee for consideration.

Burnaby City Council has supported increased product stewardship programs including wider beverage container deposits as a means of reducing waste at source. Council's position on this matter was communicated several times to the Ministry of Environment as well as to the GVRD when the GVRD Solid Waste Management Plan was being developed for approval by the Ministry.

In recent years, the Province has enacted legislation requiring the development of product stewardship plans for various industry sectors. Regulations were developed for paint and household hazardous waste. In 1997 a draft "Beverage Container Regulation" was developed for review and further development through a government appointed Container Management Board.

This report presents information on the developing process for the implementation of expanded deposit/ refund systems for a wide variety of beverage containers and further outlines key points of the process for formulation of the Regulation.

2.0 BEVERAGE CONTAINER REGULATION & CONTAINER MANAGEMENT BOARD

A draft regulation is currently under development by a government appointed Container Management Board, made up of industry and public interest stakeholders including UBCM and RCBC.

This region's local government concerns, including those of Burnaby, have thus far been forwarded to UBCM at a staff level to address operational issues. Director Lynne Kennedy of the GVRD Solid Waste Management Committee is representing local government at the Container Management Board and she receives other regional districts' input through UBCM.

The work of the Board has thus far been very preliminary with the end goal being adoption of a regulation that will provide for the design of a container management system to replace, modify, and expand all current deposit systems.

3.0 ISSUES AND CONCERNS

As the work of the government appointed Container Board begins to get under way local issues and concerns have been noted through the UBCM process. These are expected to be reviewed by the Board:

- ▶ *The Regulation needs to provide a framework for business to design and operate a stewardship program which meets the public and environmental objectives identified. Ideally the Container Board and a "Container Management Agency" established by the Brand Owners to collect their beverage containers should be separate. The Board should play an overseeing role to ensure that objectives are met. The Agency should design and operate the stewardship program developed on behalf of the Brand Owners.*
- ▶ *The stewardship system that is designed will have to be very different from what exists today. Volumes of material will be much larger, and the system will have to be multifaceted to work. Brand Owners will have to be held accountable for the life cycle of the product. The Container Agency that will be developed will have to be responsible for the collection of the beverage container after it has been used. The Container Board developed as a public agency by the provincial government will have to act as an advisor. Container Depots, Retail Stores, and Local Government will then have the opportunity to develop collection systems feeding into the Agency.*

- ▶ Overall the onus should be placed on the Brand Owner / Container Agency to design a stewardship program that is convenient to the customer. The Brand Owner (as the producer of the product) and the retailer (as the seller of the product) have the responsibility to design a system that suits their as well as their customers need's. The consumer in British Columbia has for the last 25 years seen the retail sector as the major collector of beverage containers and this may be a difficult mind set to change.
- ▶ The Board should not be placed in a position of telling the consumer where they must take back their containers.

Notwithstanding the RCBC issues and concerns outlined in their bulletin, many of the operational concerns such as reporting, consumer convenience, and accessibility should be addressed at a later stage by the Agency as it strives to develop appropriate systems to comply with the Board's consensus through the final adopted Regulation.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Meetings of the government appointed Container Board have been preliminary. Local concerns have thus far been brought forward through a UBCM process. The Container Board and the Container Agency that is expected to come out of this process should be separate systems. The intent is to allow the Agency to design and operate a stewardship system while the Board acts as advisor to the Ministry.

As this process is in its infancy it is recommended that a copy of this information report reflecting staff input through the UBCM process be forwarded to RCBC. Furthermore it is recommended that staff monitor the progress of the Board in its work to develop a new Beverage Container Regulation and report back to the Environment & Waste Management Committee as appropriate.



DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

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