

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: INCLUSION OF MILK CONTAINERS ON THE PROVINCIAL  
BEVERAGE CONTAINER DEPOSIT-REFUND PROGRAM**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. THAT Council request the B.C. Minister of Environment to amend the B.C. Recycling Regulations to include milk, milk substitute and meal replacement containers in the beverage container product category of the regulation.
2. THAT Council forward a copy of this report to:
  - a. Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment;
  - b. All Burnaby MLAs;
  - c. Corinne Atwood, Executive Director, B.C. Bottle Depot Association.

**REPORT**

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on 2011 October 11, received and adopted the attached report seeking Council's concurrence to include milk, milk substitute and meal replacement containers in the provincial beverage container deposit-refund program. Inclusion of these containers would result in an increase in the solid waste diversion rate and would assist the region in achieving its 70% diversion goal by 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston  
Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal  
Vice Chair

Councillor A. Kang  
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Director Engineering
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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2011 October 04

**FROM:** DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

**SUBJECT:** **INCLUSION OF MILK CONTAINERS ON THE PROVINCIAL  
BEVERAGE CONTAINER DEPOSIT-REFUND PROGRAM**

**PURPOSE:** To seek Committee and Council's concurrence to include milk, milk substitute and meal replacement containers in the provincial beverage container deposit-refund program.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the Committee recommend Council to:
  - a) Request the B.C. Minister of Environment to amend the B.C. recycling Regulations to include milk, milk substitute and meal replacement containers in the beverage container product category of the regulation; and
  - b) Forward a copy of this report to
    - i) Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment
    - ii) All Burnaby MLA's
    - iii) Corinne Atwood, Executive Director, B.C. Bottle Depot Association.

**REPORT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

At the Environment Committee meeting on 2011 September 13, the Committee received correspondence regarding the inclusion of milk containers in the Provincial beverage deposit-refund program. Arising from the discussion, the Committee requested staff prepare a report with respect to this matter.

The purpose of this report is to seek Committee and Council's concurrence to include milk, milk substitute and meal replacement containers in the provincial beverage container deposit-refund program and to request the B.C. Minister of Environment to amend the B.C. Recycling Regulations accordingly.

## **2.0 MILK CONTAINERS**

British Columbia's deposit-refund beverage container stewardship program is a successful recycling program in terms of high recovery rates, cost effectiveness and adherence to the principles of "polluter pay", and extended producer responsibility. At present, all ready-to-drink beverage containers sold in the province are covered by the beverage container program except milk, milk substitutes and meal replacement beverages.

Currently Encorp Pacific (the not-for-profit product stewardship agency that handles beverage containers) manages a voluntary milk container take-back program for the dairy industry. Consumers can return empty milk and milk substitutes to an Encorp Bottle Depot. However, there is no financial incentive in place to have a consumer return the containers to the depots.

In past, Metro Vancouver and its member municipalities have approached the Province directly, and through the UBCM, requested that milk and dairy beverage containers be included in the Beverage Container Stewardship Program. There are no credible reasons as to why these beverage containers should not be included in the beverage stewardship program.

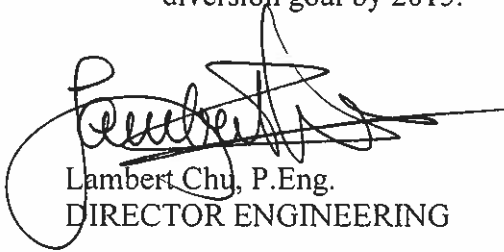
From staff perspective the additional cost to the consumer, if a recycling fee is needed on a particular container, is marginal in comparison to the retail cost of the product and is fully refundable to the consumer. Realigning the responsibility of the funding and collection and recycling of these materials from the local municipality to the producer or consumer is more equitable and provides a direct incentive for the industry to manage these materials from a life cycle perspective. It will also result in increased milk, milk substitutes and meal replacement beverage recovery rates; free up space in the blue box (in case of milk jugs) to allow for more diversion of materials; and reduce the amount of milk cartons disposed in the garbage.

Based on the forgoing, staff recommend that the Committee and Council request the B.C. Minister of Environment to amend the B.C. Recycling Regulations to include milk, milk substitute and meal replacement containers in the beverage container product category of the regulation.

To: *Environment Committee*  
From: *Director Engineering*  
Re: *Inclusion of Milk Containers on the Provincial  
Beverage Container Deposit Refund Program*  
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### **3.0 CONCLUSION**

At present, all ready-to-drink beverage containers sold in the province are covered by the beverage container program except milk, milk substitutes and meal replacement beverages. There are no credible reasons as to why these beverages should not be included in the beverage stewardship program. Inclusion of milk, milk substitute and meal replacement beverages in the B.C. Recycling Regulation would result in an increase in the solid waste diversion rate and would assist the region in achieving its 70% diversion goal by 2015.



Lambert Chu, P.Eng.  
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

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Copied to: City Manager