

You may write to provincial government about this resolution as a private citizen; you may state you are a CWL member, but you cannot state that you are writing on behalf of a CWL council, nor can you write to a government using League letterhead.

Education and Health

St. Boniface/Notre Dame de Lorette

Resolution 2019.01 Establishment of refundable deposits and return depots for recyclable beverage containers

Whereas, Statistics reveal that the deposit-return system by beverage producers has a greater success rate for recycling by consumers and businesses than curbside recycling programs offered by municipalities; and

Whereas, Beer producers in Manitoba are the only beverage producers who have chosen the option of setting up a deposit-return system for domestic beer bottles and cans instead of paying a \$0.02/container levy through the WRAP (Waste Reduction and Prevention) program; and

Whereas, Many of Manitoba's recyclable beverage containers end up in landfill sites because there is little incentive for consumers and businesses to recycle them through a deposit-return system; therefore, be it

Resolved, That Manitoba Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, urge the Manitoba provincial government to:

- require beverage producers to charge a refundable deposit for recyclable beverage containers in Manitoba
- provide for the establishment of depots for consumers to return recyclable beverage containers to recoup the deposit; and be it further

Resolved, That, this resolution be forwarded through the national executive to the other ten provincial councils, encouraging them to become aware of this issue as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent.

BRIEF Establishment of refundable deposits and return depots for recyclable beverage containers

“CBCRA [Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association] has managed and operated the beverage container recycling program in Manitoba since 2010.” (CBCRA) Statistics reveal that the deposit-return system by beverage producers has a greater success rate for recycling by consumers and businesses than curbside recycling programs offered by municipalities. In Manitoba, statistics for the 2014 return rate for the *Waste Reduction and Prevention Act (WRAP) Packaging and Paper Stewardship Regulation* showed the highest rate of 99% for refillable beer containers and that other beer-related beverage containers recycled were at 61% or less. By contrast, all non-deposit, non-dairy beverage containers were recycled at a rate less than 35% through residential blue-box curbside programs. (Bottlebill.org, MB) A deposit-return system in Saskatchewan reveals statistical success rates for 2017 as follows: glass: 95%, aluminum: 92%, plastics: 78% and aseptics/cartons: 50%. (Bottlebill.org, SK) In British Columbia, the 2017 Annual Report by Encorp Pacific (Return-It) states it recovered about 80% of all the beverage containers. (Encorp Pacific)

“The Manitoba Product Stewardship Plan (MPSP) was implemented in January 1995 and is funded by a 2 cent per beverage container Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) levy. The per container levy is applied to all non-deposit, non-dairy beverage containers sold in the province. The levy is included in the price paid by a retailer to a licensed manufacturer or distributor. Many retailers include the 2 cents in their price to consumers to offset the additional cost. The levy supports recycling and waste reduction efforts in the province... The 'WRAP levy' is charged to all beverage producers and remitted to the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC)... Municipalities participate in the program [MPSC] voluntarily... monies received from MPSC are used to offset costs of curbside recycling.” (Bottlebill.org, MB)

“In Manitoba, beverage producers have been given the option of setting up a deposit-return system or of paying a 2-cent-per-container levy. All except beer producers have chosen the latter option.” (Bottlebill.org MB) Manitoba beer producers have chosen the deposit-return system. “Manitoba Liquor Commission administers all liquor and beer sales in the province. Packaged beer is retailed primarily through cold beer outlets attached to hotels, but beer is also sold through the government owned liquor stores. The empty containers are, however, returned only to the cold beer/hotel outlets for a full deposit redemption... Retailers are paid a handling fee to manage the collection of beer containers they receive.” (Bottlebill.org MB)

Statistics support that a small percentage of beverage containers are recycled through municipal recycling programs. Except for aluminum cans, approximately 35% or less of beverage containers are recycled in Manitoba. (Bottlebill.org, MB) So, where do all of the wine and liquor glass bottles end up? Many of Manitoba’s recyclable beverage containers end up in landfill sites because there is little incentive for consumers and businesses to recycle them through a deposit-return system. A deposit fee would encourage users to bring them to the depot for a refund rather than being discarded in a landfill.

As evidenced by the success rate of the beer bottle and can return program, in stark contrast to the statistics for non-beer system (non-deposit non-dairy beverage containers), Manitobans have little incentive to recycle beverage containers on a regular basis unless there is a refundable deposit. The Manitoba provincial government is urged to require beverage producers to charge a refundable deposit for recyclable beverage containers in Manitoba and to provide for the establishment of depots for consumers to return recyclable beverage containers to recoup the deposit.

WORKS CITED Establishment of refundable deposits and return depots for recyclable beverage containers

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7. “Provincial Programs – Recycle Everywhere.” *Recycle Everywhere*, Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association, 3 Feb. 2018, <http://cbcra-acrcb.org/provincial-programs/#cbcra-manitoba>
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9. "Saskatchewan." *Recycling Legislation in Canada: Saskatchewan*. 28 Nov. 2018 <http://www.bottlebill.org/index.php/current-and-proposed-laws/canada/saskatchewan>.
10. "Waste Reduction & Recycling Support." *Government of Manitoba*. Sustainable Development. 28 Nov. 2018 <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/wastewise/wastereduction/>.

11. “What Is a Bottle Bill?” *Bottle Bill Resource Guide*, 22 May 2019, www.bottlebill.org/index.php/about-bottle-bills/what-is-a-bottle-bill.

ACTION PLAN Establishment of refundable deposits and return depots for recyclable beverage containers

1. Write to the premier, Minister of Sustainable Development and local MLA urging them to:
 - a. require producers to charge a refundable deposit for recyclable beverage containers in Manitoba, and
 - b. provide for the establishment of depots for consumers to return recyclable beverage containers to recoup the deposit.
2. Educate members about the need to recycle out of respect for the environment.
3. Monitor the provincial government's response to the requests contained in the resolution.