



12 Wordsworth Place  
St. Albert, AB T8N 3P4

May 8, 2009

Dear Recycling Authority:

By now you have undoubtedly heard that the Government of Alberta plans to include used milk containers in the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation, effective June 1, 2009. This means that the Alberta Dairy Council Milk Container Recycling Program, which for the past decade has helped support the recycling of used milk containers through municipal collection systems, will be coming to an end.

On behalf of the Alberta Dairy Council and everyone associated with this ground-breaking program, I would like to thank you for your participation over the past several years.

While we are disappointed with the direction the government has taken, we at least have the satisfaction of knowing that much has been accomplished over the life of the program.

Among the highlights, we diverted more than 15,000 tonnes of used milk containers from Alberta landfills, provided direct access to milk container recycling services for more than 94% of the provincial population and were recognized province-wide for outstanding contributions to environmental stewardship and environmental communications. None of this would have been possible without your support as partners in this first-of-its-kind initiative, which has since been replicated in other provinces.

With the change in regulation, bottle depots will start accepting used milk containers for refund on June 1. Needless to say, this will have an impact on your operations. With this in mind, here are a few additional notes to help you with your transition plans in the coming months:

1. To facilitate the transition, we will continue to provide funding for any material you ship until July 31, 2009. Funding applications will be accepted until August 31, 2009. Please note that we will not be sending out new funding application forms -- forms for the July 1 - 31 period may be downloaded from the web site, [www.milkcontainerrecycling.com/AB](http://www.milkcontainerrecycling.com/AB). If you do not have internet access, please call us at 1-877-414-5847.
2. To differentiate refundable from non-refundable milk containers, refundable HDPE milk jugs and polycoat milk cartons will be marked "AB Deposit;" sales of the new, marked containers are expected to begin the week of May 24th. Please note that in the event that you receive marked containers at your facility, you are not required to provide a refund unless you are a licensed bottle depot.
3. The Alberta Bottle Depot Association has advised that bottle depots will accept unmarked milk containers (but will not provide refunds) until May 31. The purpose of doing so is to reduce consumer confusion and the potential for hoarding by removing as many unmarked containers as possible from circulation prior to June 1.
4. Recycling Authorities currently participating in the Rack and Bag system will need to contact the Program Coordinator no later than August 15 to arrange their final pick-ups. Please note that you *must* contact us to ensure pick-up as we will need to notify the carrier of bag quantities. Participating RAs will *not* be required to return their stands (racks) or remaining bags to the program; however, if you do not want to keep them, please let us know and we will arrange for their retrieval.

5. To help communicate the changes that will occur on June 1, the Milk Container Recycling Program will be sending you some informational signs that you may post – at your discretion -- at your facility. The signs will explain the options for returning used milk containers as of June 1 and thank the residents in your community for participating in the Milk Container Recycling Program over the past ten years.
6. Recognizing that you are likely to receive many questions from residents in your communities, we will be making a set of communications materials available, for use at your discretion, via the Milk Container Recycling web site. These materials will include bulletins, Frequently Asked Questions, electronic versions of the signs noted above and other materials that may be useful to you. Please visit [www.milkcontainerrecycling.com/AB](http://www.milkcontainerrecycling.com/AB) and click on the Municipalities & Recycling Authorities menu for further information.

This is the first time a voluntary milk container recycling program has ended in favour of a regulated program anywhere in North America. While every effort is being made to ensure a smooth transition, it will come as no surprise if unforeseen questions or circumstances arise. In the event that you have any concerns, please contact Roberta Windrum at 1-877-414-5847.

I would like to thank you once again for your contribution to the Milk Container Recycling Program. Collectively, we have much to be proud of.

Yours truly,  
**ALBERTA DAIRY COUNCIL**



Brian Miller  
President