

June 8, 2026

Mayor and Members of Council
C/O Infrastructure and Environment Committee
City of Toronto
iec@toronto.ca

Sent via: [Email]

Re: Support for Councillor Perks' Letter on a Province-Wide Deposit-Return System for Non-Alcoholic Beverage Containers

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of the Toronto City Council,

On behalf of the Canadian Beverage Association (CBA), I am writing to express strong support for Councillor Perks' letter advocating for a province-wide deposit-return system (DRS) for non-alcoholic beverage containers.

As outlined in our 2026 Ontario Pre-Budget Submission, non-alcoholic beverage producers are a major economic driver in Ontario, generating \$1 billion in direct GDP and supporting over 8,200 full-time jobs across the province. The sector is committed to maintaining and growing this contribution while advancing a more circular, efficient, and cost-effective recycling system.

Ontario currently has the lowest beverage container recovery rate in Canada, with about 50% of non-alcoholic beverage containers being collected. In contrast, provinces with modern DRS models, such as British Columbia and Alberta, achieve 78% to 83% recovery, supported by strong public participation and proven system design. As our submission notes, *"Ontarians have been clear through recent polling: over 90% support a DRS for both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage containers."*

A made-in-Ontario DRS, building on the province's existing alcohol container return system, represents the most practical and effective pathway to lift recovery rates above 80%, reduce litter, and keep valuable materials circulating in Ontario's economy. Eunomia's modelling for the CBA demonstrates that expanding the existing depot-based infrastructure and enabling returns at retail and authorized partner locations would deliver a convenient, reliable, and cost-effective system for consumers.

Importantly, a DRS would also help address escalating costs and inefficiencies in the Blue Box program. As highlighted in our submission, *"escalating costs for the Ontario Blue Box program have created significant financial burdens for many manufacturing-based sectors, including the beverage industry."* Transitioning beverage containers into a standardized DRS would reduce system costs, eliminate duplicative payments under EPR, and align Ontario with national best practices



Councillor Perks' letter reflects a responsible, evidence-based approach that aligns with the direction of almost every other Canadian province. It also aligns with the Government of Ontario's recent commitment to work with producers and stakeholders on improving beverage container recovery.

For these reasons, the Canadian Beverage Association strongly supports the letter before the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and encourages the Committee to endorse it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership on advancing practical, effective environmental policy for the people of Toronto and Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Scaldwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Scaldwell

President, Canadian Beverage Association
info@canadianbeverage.ca

Canadian Beverage Association

20 Bay Street | WaterPark Place, 11th Floor
Toronto Ontario | M5J 2N8

E: info@canadianbeverage.ca

canadianbeverage.ca