

Beverage Container Program Celebrates Year of Successes

Yellowknife, November 1, 2006 - The results of the first year operation of the Beverage Container Program are cause for celebration - more than 23 million beverage containers were returned to community depots from November 1, 2005 to October 31, 2006.

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Minister Michael McLeod has been watching the progress of the Program and is impressed with the participation of Northwest Territories (NWT) residents.

“Residents should be proud of the way they have embraced recycling as a part of their daily life. With more than 29.5 million beverage containers sold since November 2005 and 23 million returned, that’s an impressive return rate of 78 percent,” Minister McLeod said. “Not only are residents helping to recycle and reuse resources, but by returning containers to their local depots, they are also helping to keep our communities clean.”

Another success of the Program has been in finding recycling markets for beverage containers. Emery Paquin, Director of Environmental Protection said, “84% of the recovered containers are transported to southern recycling markets to be reused or turned into other useful products. Most of what is left, the non-reusable glass containers, is crushed and reused to substitute sand and gravel in construction sites.”

While the number of community depots increased from 11 to 26 in the first year of the Program, ENR continues to work towards the goal of having an independent licenced depot in every community.

Minister McLeod adds, “We are also looking towards undertaking public consultations by the fall of 2007 to identify additional waste types for recovery.”

The 2005/2006 Annual Report of the Beverage Container Program (which covers its first five months of operation) was tabled by Minister McLeod in the Legislative Assembly today. Copies can be obtained by visiting the ENR website at www.enr.gov.nt.ca.

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