

Message in a Bottle



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Update on the Handling Fee Offer

Thanks to all who have participated so far in the online Handling Fee Survey. Due to the great response from depots the BCBRDA Board has asked that we let the survey continue for another week. Those who have not participated so far will receive another online survey link. Please take a few moments to fill it out. The information that has been collected to date has been very informative. These are indeed "trying times" and your input is so valuable. If you did not get your survey please contact the BCBRDA immediately and one will be sent to you.

In our last newsletter the BCBRDA suggested to depots that they consider refraining from signing the new agreement until all issues are and settled. The BCBRDA still holds the opinion that the offer does not sufficiently address the massive increases in overhead expenses over the past five years or the anticipated increases in the next 5 years. Combined with the proposed changes to Schedule D, Depot operators say that they still see no reason to sign.

So far 80% of depots who participated in the survey have not signed, some have signed but surprisingly 2 depots signed but without receiving the bonus.

- + 100% of depots disagree with the terms of the Encorp offer
- + 87.5% of depots had put their faith in the Encorp handling fee panel to determine a good offer.
- + 67% trusted Encorp to use their own MNP consultants report to come up with a good offer.
- + 37.9% supported a 5 year contract, 37.5% supported a three year 3 year contract.

More detailed information gathered from the survey will be shared when the survey is complete. We expect more responses will alter the results.

Contrary to some information that has apparently been circulating the BCBRDA is not considering a counter-counter offer of 35% nor has arbitration been decided as a method of negotiation. The BCBRDA continues to be optimistic that this issue will be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

4th Bottle Depot in as many years closing as of March

The Tofino Bottle Depot will close its doors as of March 2017. Owner Ann Kim stated in a recent press release that there are not enough revenues to move into a larger depot space and the current space is too small. Residents of Tofino are being encouraged to take their recyclables to the next closest Town of Ucluelet 25 miles away. An Encorp spokesperson has suggested that residents bring their containers back to local grocery and liquor stores in Tofino. Bridesville, Nakusp and Steveston (Richmond) Bottle depots have already closed

Ex-military personnel hired to help with Vancouver recycling collection,

Ice and snow stall garbage and recycling collection cause weeks-long backlog [CBC News](#)

Multi-Material B.C, the province's recycling pickup organization, has hired ex-military personnel to get collection back up to speed. December's cold snap left slick roads that were too difficult for larger vehicles to navigate. "The alleyways I've seen are about as bad as I've ever seen in terms of road conditions," said Allen Langdon, the managing director of Multi-Material B.C.

Multi-Material B.C. has been using four-wheel-drive vehicles to access icy residential lanes in the City of Vancouver. (Multi-Material B.C.) "The potential for damage to public property or someone getting hurt is definitely high in some areas considering the size of these vehicles," he added. MMBC has had to hire additional workers to its regular crews including five former military members to drive four-by-four trucks on the narrow, icy roads. It's also been renting extra trucks to help with the backlog for the past 10 days.

Frustration Growing

Some Vancouver residents say their bins have been overflowing for more than a month. "It's just cans and bottles, all over the place, I actually brought some of it back inside my house," said Michelle Plant, a resident of Vancouver's Cambie Village area. She said some of her neighbors have resorted to throwing their recyclables into the regular garbage.

Some residents have grown so frustrated with delayed recycling pick up, they have started to put recyclables out with the regular garbage. (Rachel Lynn) Marlyn Shearer, 78, has been waiting five weeks for garbage collection. "I either want to put it on the street and run over it or bring it down to City Hall," said the Cedar Cottage resident. After CBC's calls to the city, Shearer's garbage, along with her neighbor's, was picked up immediately. Before CBC's inquiry about the delays, residents were told they would have to wait until Jan. 20.

Getting back up to speed

The city has hired an additional 100 workers just to deal with the backlog caused by the ice and snow. "It's very challenging trying to navigate these very narrow lane ways, especially in these snowy areas of the city," said Albert Shames of the City of Vancouver. One resident in the Cedar Cottage neighborhood says her garbage was not picked up for more than five weeks. (Margaret Gallagher, CBC) Shames says the city is working diligently to get caught up with the collection backlog. With warmer weather on the horizon, the city and MMBC are hoping that waste collection will be back up to speed by next week.

*Note: As of October 2016 the City of Vancouver stopped collecting recyclables and handed the collection over to MMBC

The BC Bottle and Recycling Depot Association

“Your voice in the recycling industry.”