

A money-back program

TIM KROCHAK FOR THE TORONTO STAR

April 28, 2007

Since 1996, the province of Nova Scotia has operated a deposit refund program for beverage containers, and it now boasts one of the highest return rates for such containers in North America.

A 10-cent deposit is charged on all non-liquor containers of less than five litres; the consumer gets 5 cents back on each container returned to what is called an enviro-depot.

A 10-cent deposit is charged on all liquor containers of less than 500 millilitres; when returned, the consumer gets 5 cents back on each container.

A 20-cent deposit is paid on all liquor containers greater than 500 millilitres; when returned, 10 cents per container is refunded.

Deposits on all domestic beer bottles are completely refundable, at 10 cents each.

There are some exemptions from the program, including milk cartons, baby formula containers and any container of five litres or more.

The recycling program is operated by the Resource Recovery Fund Board, a not-for-profit agency that is at arm's-length from the provincial government.

- **83** enviro-depots have been established across Nova Scotia.
- **246 million** containers were recycled in 2005.
- **79.3** per cent of containers were returned for recycling in that year.
- More than **2 billion** containers have been recycled under the program since it began in 1996.

Source: Province of Nova Scotia website