



**Arctic Co-operatives
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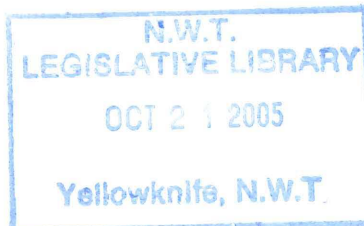
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October 6, 2005

Mr. Bobby J. Villeneuve
MLA, Tu Nedhe
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9



Dear Mr. Villeneuve:

I'm writing to you on behalf of the co-operative system in Northwest Territories, to express our concerns over the Beverage Container Recycling Program (BCRP) that will take effect on November 1, 2005. We believe that the environmental and handling levies will place undue hardship on consumers – especially in the many communities that have no recycling depot.

As you are aware, many people in Northwest Territories have limited means as they have low incomes or rely upon social assistance. These new levies increase the cost of basic, essential consumer goods which are already very high in this part of the country due to the immutable factor of shipping costs. An unnecessary burden is being placed upon people who collectively struggle with issues of poverty and food security.

Our co-operative system fully supports environmental responsibility, and understands the role recycling plays towards this. We feel there are reasonable modifications that could be made to the BCRP to minimize the negative impact on consumers, while effectively encouraging recycling:

- Reduce the deposit and handling fees. We believe the fees should reflect those used in Alberta.
- Provide fair access to recycling depots for all communities. Currently, only six communities in the Territory have depots.

These concerns are shared with other business leaders in the Territory. We have partnered with the Northern Stores, as well as Peterson & Auger and Territorial Beverages, to communicate these messages to our customers and the general public. Enclosed is a copy of an ad that is being circulated, as well as a backgrounder that further explains the Beverage Container Recycling Program.

We hope you will give this matter your consideration, and work towards a modification of the BCRP that is both responsible towards the people of Northwest Territories and a sustainable solution to a significant environmental challenge.

Sincerely,

Herman Neaves,
Regional Manager
Arctic Co-operatives Limited
Northwest Territories

HN/jd
Attachment

