

SELKIRK COLLEGE'S TRASH BIN OVERPOPULATION PROBLEM

Apr 8th, 2025

There are over 864 trash bins spread across Selkirk College campuses, some large, some small, which, in 2024, resulted in the consumption of 54,000 bags, totaling \$8,000. This doesn't account for the cost of labour changing bags, which at about 10% of custodial time, amounts to 2,800 hours annually, and \$81,000 in equivalent labour costs.

630 (73%) of these bins are the personal sized ones (505 small, 125 small-medium), located in offices and classrooms. With recycling sorting stations located a short distance from any office or classroom, most office and classroom bins are not necessary, especially considering eating and drinking are not permitted in classrooms. If we reduce or eliminate trash bins in offices and classrooms, we could save up to 34,700 plastic bags from ending up in the landfill every year, and \$3,139 in bags. This would free up 2,800 hours of custodial time to focus on other cleaning duties.

Reducing office and classroom bins would also improve recycling efforts, as the convenience of throwing away compostable or recyclable items in the nearby trash bins reduces the likelihood of people walking to a recycling sorting station or compost bin. This would also support the health and wellbeing of staff and students by encouraging mobility.

Trash bins will be removed from select classrooms over the summer of 2025. Please help to enforce the no eating and drinking policy within classrooms, and direct students to the recycling sorting stations, trash bins, and/or recycling bins in common areas and hallways.

THE GREAT TRASH BIN TURN-IN

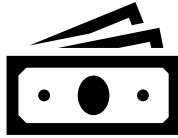
Turn in your office trash bin between **Apr 8th and Apr 22nd** and have your name entered to win a \$50 smart card, good for use at any Selkirk College Bookstore or Cafeteria! Alternatively, leave a note on your bin and email campus management to be entered. If you are located at a campus that doesn't have a bookstore or cafeteria, we will send you a gift of equivalent value.

campusmanagement@selkirk.ca

Campus	Drop-off location
Castlegar	Welcome Centre
Tenth St	Mary Hall: 2 nd floor front entrance Patenaude: Front entrance
Silver King	Student commons
Trail	Just outside of doors of the staff lounge
Victoria St	Staff kitchen on the main floor
Kaslo	Front desk
Grand Forks	Front desk
Nakusp	Front desk

THE DATA

2024 trash bag consumption



\$8,000



54,000 bags

Table 1: Total custodial time to change trash bags and take out trash, all campuses, based on 2024 FTE numbers and wages. Estimated 10% of custodial time is spent changing garbages.

Custodial time (hours, annual)	Equivalent labour costs (\$, annual)
2,800	\$81,200

Table 2: Number of staff, number of FTE staff, and total people at each campus (for context)

Campus	Staff 2024	Students, W2024	Total people
CASTLEGAR	361	1,341	1,702
SILVER KING	101	290	391
TENTH ST	110	301	411
TRAIL	43	191	234
VICTORIA ST	12	28	40
GRAND FORKS	10	36	46
KASLO	5	19	24
NAKUSP	6	8	14

All trash bins were inventoried in August of 2024. The results of this inventory are displayed below.

Note about the data: Student housing rooms were not inventoried. The daycares at Castlegar and Silver King campuses were not inventoried. Castlegar student housing common areas were not inventoried. The Selkirk Innovates building, and the Selkirk

Technology Access Centre were not inventoried. The true number of trash bins is greater than captured in the below data.

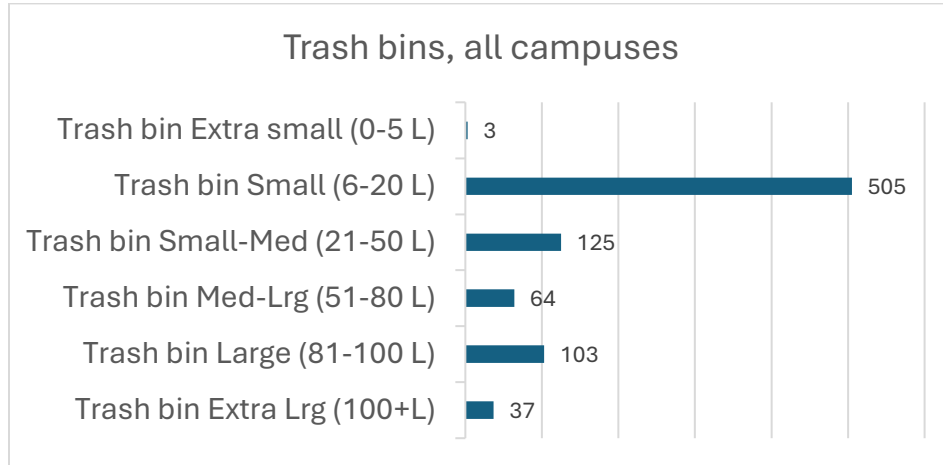


Figure 1: Number of trash bins in each size across all Selkirk College Campuses.

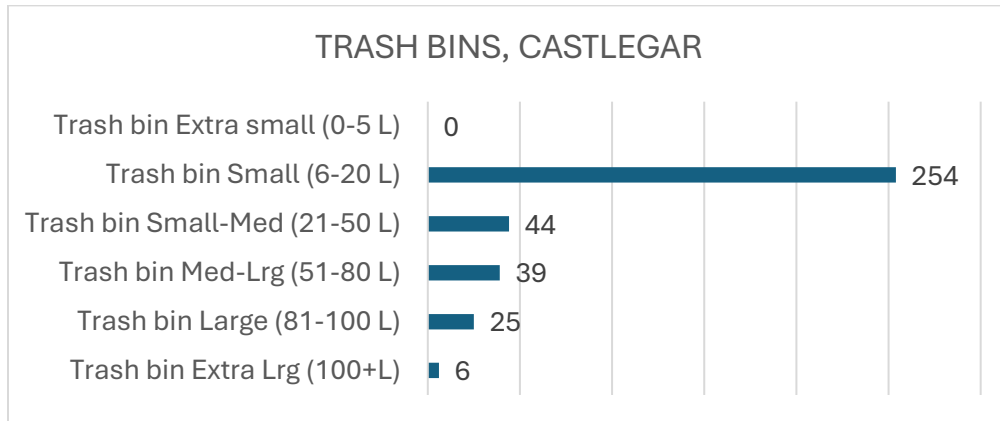


Figure 2: Number of trash bins in each size at Castlegar Campus

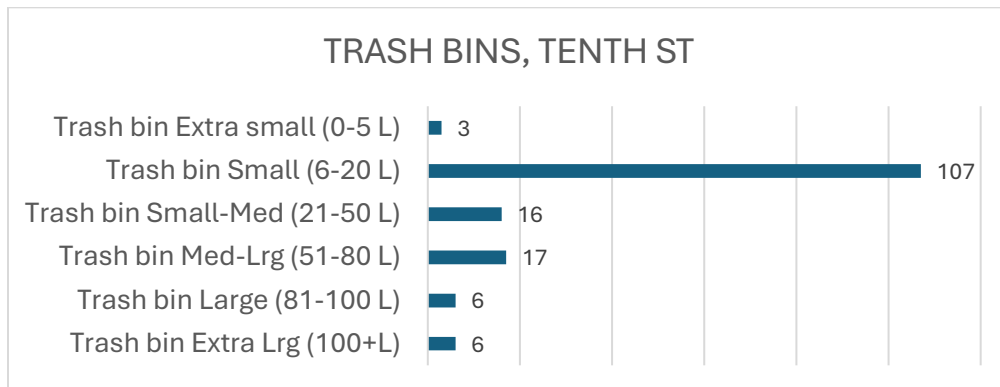


Figure 3: Number of trash bins in each size at Tenth St Campus

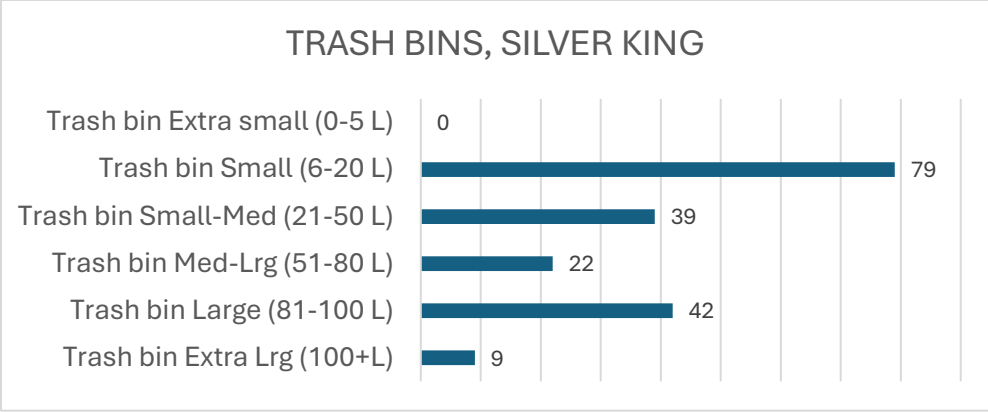


Figure 4: Number of trash bins in each size at Silver King Campus

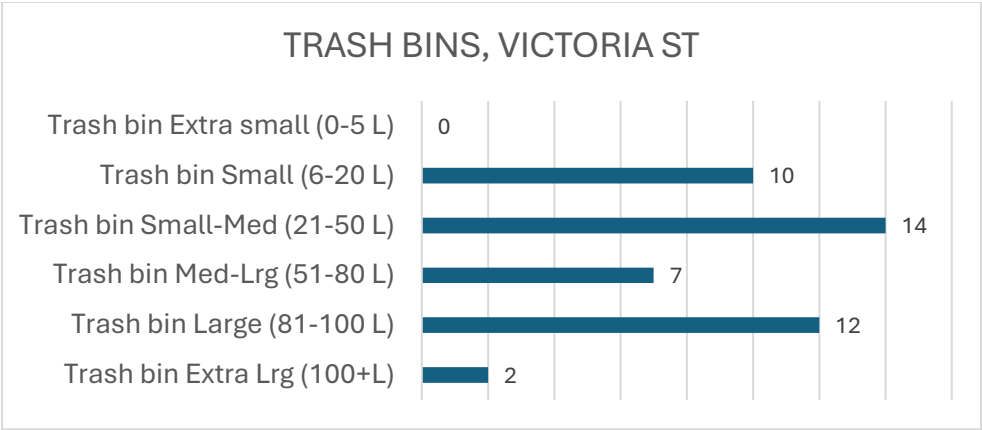


Figure 5: Number of trash bins in each size at Victoria St Campus

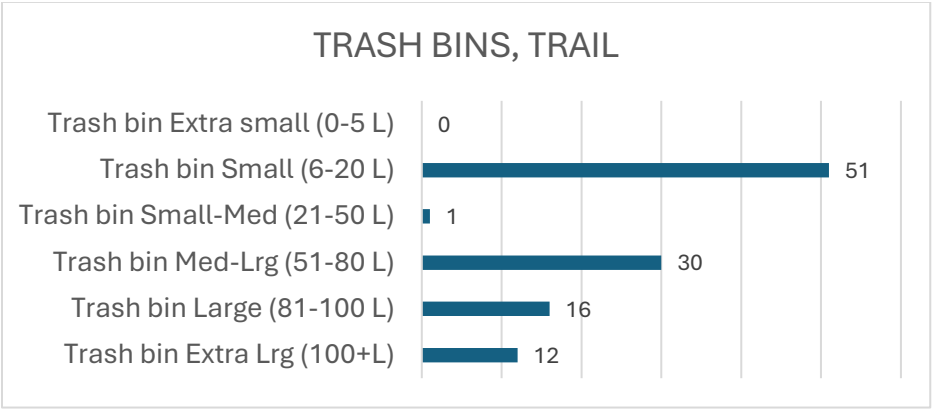


Figure 6: Number of trash bins in each size at Trail Campus

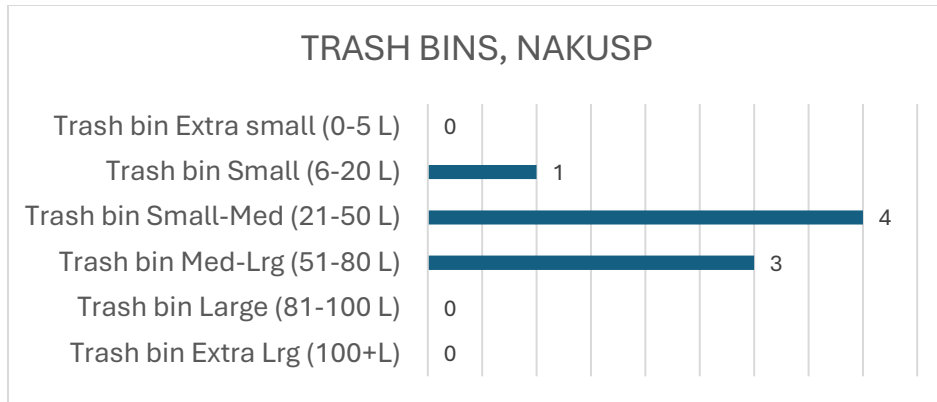


Figure 7: Number of trash bins in each size at Nakusp Campus

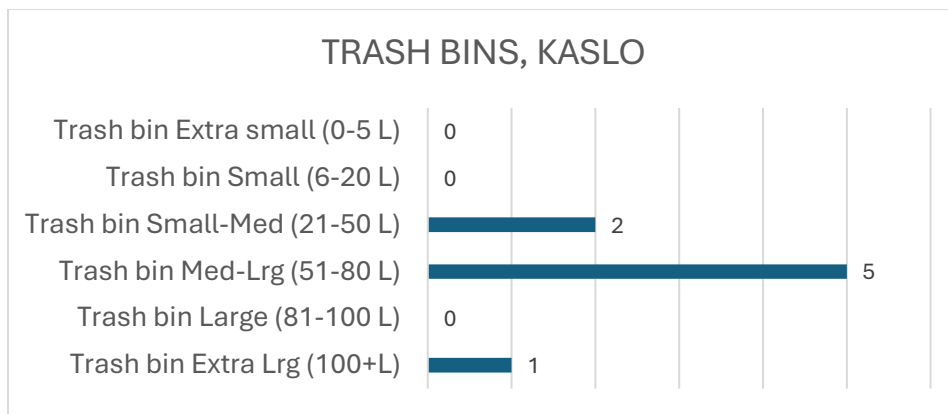


Figure 8: Number of trash bins in each size at Kaslo Campus

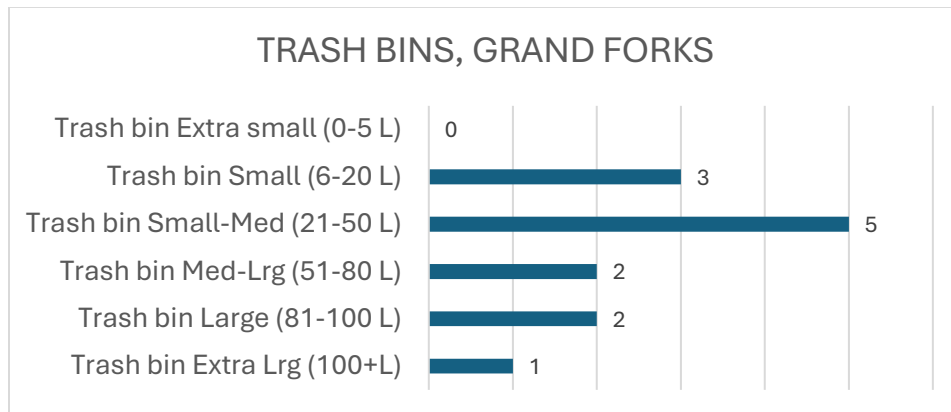


Figure 9: Number of trash bins in each size at Grand Forks Campus

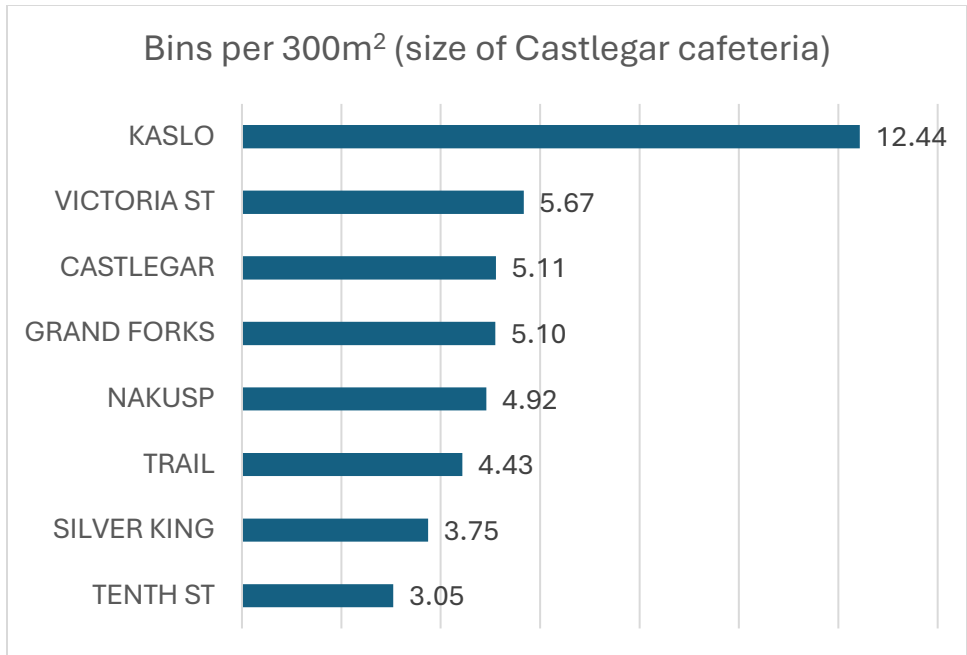


Figure 10: Number of bins within a 300m² area, averaged, for each campus. 300m² was chosen because it is the size of the Castlegar Campus cafeteria, which is easier to visualize than bins per square meter, which this chart is representing. Note: Kaslo Campus has 8 bins in its 193m² campus, which reflects as a high bins per square meter ratio, but the total number of bins, and total garbage production, is very small.

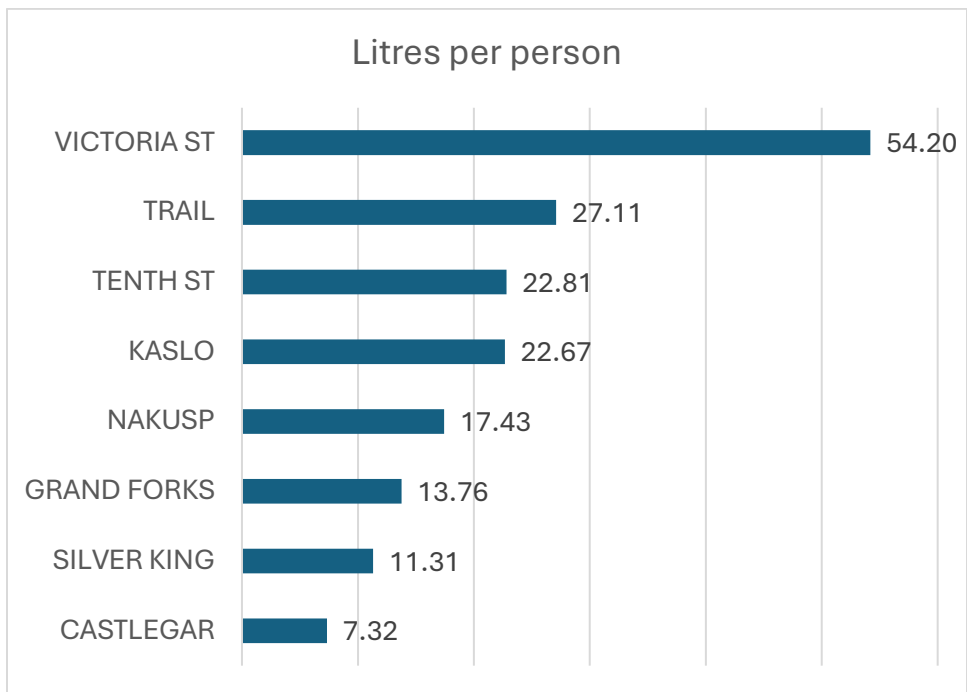


Figure 11: Volume (in litres) of trash bin space available per person at each campus, based on 2024 in-person employee and student head counts.