



February 27, 2008

**To: Liquor-Primary Licensees with a Licensee Retail Store Licence  
Third Party Operators of Liquor-Primary and Licensee Retail Stores**

The following is important information that pertains to individuals involved in operating licensee retail stores:

**Recent Cancellations of Licensee Retail Store Licences**

Recently, the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) has had to suspend and, in some cases, cancel a licensee retail store licence because the associated liquor-primary establishment has ceased to operate. The circumstances included such things as the licensee losing their lease, not renewing their licence within the required time frame, or not operating their bar or pub a sufficient number of hours and/or days each week.

A licensee retail store (LRS) may only operate if it is associated with an active liquor-primary licence. Under the regulations, liquor-primary licensees have been the only individuals eligible to apply for an LRS. Consequently, if a licensee no longer holds a liquor-primary licence, they are no longer eligible to hold a LRS licence. In addition, the liquor-primary establishment has to be open and operating in order for the LRS to remain open, except for temporary closures due to major renovations at the same site or an approved relocation (as described on the following page).

Licensees and third-party operators need to fully understand the implications of entering into third-party agreements to run a licensee retail store. The licensee retail store licence only exists in association with a liquor-primary establishment, and the liquor-primary licence holder must continue to own and be responsible for the licensee retail store. He or she cannot sell one business and retain ownership of the other. In addition, if the associated liquor-primary licence is cancelled for any reason, we are obliged to cancel the associated licensee retail store licence as well. Once an LRS licence is cancelled, it cannot be reinstated.

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**Ministry of Public Safety  
and Solicitor General**

Liquor Control and  
Licensing Branch

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Licensees who are thinking about relocating their liquor-primary establishment are strongly encouraged to check with Liquor Control and Licensing first regarding the potential implications of this on their LRS licence. If a licensee is moving their liquor-primary establishment to another location, and they want to continue to run the LRS, they must keep their bar or pub open at the current site until the LCLB has confirmed that the proposed site meets the regulatory criteria of being in the same community and within a reasonably close walking distance. Community is defined as a particular area or neighbourhood within a city, and does not include the whole municipality. It is critical that the licensee maintain valid interest at the current site during this time.

Moving further away than the regulations allow would require the licensee to cancel their existing liquor-primary licence and apply for a liquor-primary licence at the new location. Without the existing liquor-primary licence in place, the licensee is no longer eligible to have an LRS licence, and consequently, Liquor Control and Licensing must cancel the LRS licence. Because of the moratorium, the LRS licence cannot be reinstated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Ayers".

Karen Ayers  
Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager  
Liquor Control and Licensing

cc: Local governments and First Nations  
Civic Info BC  
Liquor industry associations  
Industry consultants