



Ministry of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

LIQUOR POLICY

*Stronger Focus on Public Safety
through
Effective Liquor Regulation*

- March 15, 2002 -

start

Overview

- Implement a 2-licence class system
- Shift focus to public safety issues
 - Cost to society of alcohol misuse
- Liquor control is in public interest
- Current licensing scheme issues
- Why reducing regulations will improve public safety

Overview cont'd . . .

Decisions Sought

- Policy framework to guide development of regulations

Implications of Change

- Greater control over public access to liquor
- Stronger role for local government

Shift Focus to Public Safety Issues

- Minors
- Intoxication
- Overcrowding
- Illegal liquor

Why Control Liquor?

- Improve public safety
- Minimize provincial costs
- Protect government revenue
- Manage justice and health costs
- Bars & restaurants sell 22% of all liquor sold

Problems With Current System

- 80 years of gradual change
- Complex rules
- Too many regulations
- Invites public ridicule
- Negative impacts on hospitality businesses
- Causes continuous requests for 'one off' changes

Why Reducing Regulations will Improve Public Safety

- Too many detailed licencing rules must be enforced detracting from enforcement of public safety measures
- Rule reduction is equivalent to increasing number of inspectors by 12

Decisions Requested

- Approval of 8 key policies that will drive development of 2-licence class regulations
- Regulations will be brought back to Cabinet in the Spring

Policy Framework

FIVE of 8 policies are fundamental to the 2-licence class scheme:

1. New licensing processes
2. No set maximum patron capacities
3. Broader grouping of businesses
4. Ability to relocate the licence
5. Policies for transition of licensees

Policy Framework cont'd . . .

Remaining **THREE** policies will modernize liquor regulations:

1. Extend operating hours
2. Dual restaurant/bar licencing
3. Clubs retain privileges and restrictions

Stronger Role for Local Government

- Province continues as licensing authority
- Licences continue to be limited by community need
- New process includes greater local government input into assessing community need and gathering views of residents

Stronger Role for Local Government cont'd . . .

Local governments:

- can charge fees to recover cost
- can opt out
- are involved in development of input processes

Implications of Changes

- No sub-classes of licence categories
- Eligibility broadened to food or beverage, entertainment or hospitality businesses
- Size will vary depending on location and community support

Implications of Changes cont'd . . .

- No licencing decision by Province until local government input received
- Community need and public interest will determine whether a licence is granted

Risks and Controls

Risk . . . a greater number of licenced establishments

Control . . . licences limited by community need

Risk . . . potential loss of investment

Control . . . existing licensees are already in the business

end