



September 28, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Your Worship and Council:

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR EXPANDED PATIO PERMISSIONS – LCRB Extension Received

On behalf of the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association, the Alliance of Beverage Licensees, and the BC Craft Brewers Guild, we are writing to follow up on our request for expanded outdoor dining in your municipality.

One hurdle that municipalities have brought to our attention is the expanded service area permissions that are regulated by the Liquor Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB). **We are pleased to report that the LCRB has extended their approval of Temporary Expanded Service Areas (TESA) for patios until October 31, 2021 under policy directive 20-26.** We have linked to this directive in the cover email.

This extension will allow operators who have already received the approval to October 31, 2020 to extend an additional year. As a result, having municipality support for low-cost, simple to execute winterizing guidelines and approvals for these temporary spaces is especially urgent for operators.

We do hope that you will continue to work to support restaurant operators facing considerable financial challenges and reduced guest counts. BC restaurants, pubs and breweries employ people in every municipality around the province. They continue to be significantly impacted by changing COVID-19 operating regulations.

The recent Public Health Order limiting alcohol service from 11 am to 10 pm has had an additional adverse impact on operators that are struggling to make ends meet. While it seems on the surface that this reduced window would have a limited impact, with people working longer hours and internal travel between BC towns by car or ferry, many responsible business owners rely on an additional late dinner and drinks service. The time between 10 pm and 12 am can amount to as much as 65% of an operator's gross revenue. Our industry, under the Business Technical Advisory Panel, has made a submission to request reconsideration of these limited hours in order to allow compliant operators to meet their obligations (attached).

Expanded outdoor dining into the winter months will allow operators to maintain much needed physical distance between tables that would not be possible without the additional footprint.

Our industry has never faced a crisis of this magnitude. With 190,000 families across the province relying on restaurant and foodservice jobs, the impact of additional business closures will be widespread. We are doing everything we can to help struggling operators to think differently and pivot to face the unknown.

It is our sincere hope that we can support your council to find material and hard-hitting measures to ensure this industry survives. We are at your disposal to offer advice and perspective on these issues. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at any time.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]
Ian Tostenson, President and CEO [Redacted]
British Columbia Restaurant and Foodservices Association

[Redacted Signature]
Jeff Guignard, Executive Director [Redacted]
Alliance of Beverage Licensees

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Ken Beattie, Executive Director [Redacted]
BC Craft Brewers Guild