



Backgrounder

The NWT has three separate regulatory bodies with responsibility for liquor programs and services. All three are based in Hay River and operate under the GNWT Department of Finance. Each of these bodies is established by the *Liquor Act* and is independent from the other two.

The **Liquor and Cannabis Commission** is responsible for the purchase, sale, classification and distribution of liquor and cannabis in the Northwest Territories. It decides what liquor and cannabis products may be sold in the NWT and it provides those products to retail outlets and licenced premises. The Commission is also responsible for promoting and putting into place awareness and social responsibility campaigns. For more information on the roles and responsibilities of the Commission, please see:

<https://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/en/divisions/finance/nwt-liquor-commission>

The goal of **Liquor Enforcement** is to reduce liquor related threats to public safety such as serving to minors and allowing excessive intoxication. They provide certificates for alcohol server courses (which includes identifying signs of impairment by cannabis or other drugs), train and supervise contract Liquor Inspectors, and work with communities and the Department of Finance to issue temporary prohibition orders and conduct community option plebiscites. Liquor Enforcement investigates matters of compliance with NWT liquor laws, and their Inspectors are authorized to enter licenced and permitted premises to conduct inspections. Should violations be observed, a range of approaches may be taken, from assisting a Licence Holder to make corrections, to prosecuting an alleged violation before the Liquor Licensing Board. The following link provides more information about Liquor Enforcement:

<https://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/en/services/liquor-enforcement>

The **Liquor Licensing Board** ("Board" or "LLB") is a regulatory administrative body that operates independently from government and has powers or functions comparable to those of a court in making its decisions. The Board issues and sets the terms and conditions for liquor licences and permits, and holds compliance hearings when Liquor Enforcement chooses to seek a noncompliance penalty for an alleged violation. The LLB maintains an online database to provide up-to-date information to licence and permit holders, and the public. The database includes links to current NWT Liquor Licences, Board decisions, LLB policies, processes and procedures, and recent LLB newsletters. Please see:

<https://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/en/services/nwt-liquor-licensing-board>

This organizational structure is to provide more understanding of the 3 different liquor entities:

