

Inside this Issue:

Regulatory Changes

Information and updates on recent legislative amendments and what this means for licence holders and the public.

Liquor Legislation Review

Information about the multi-year process to make things more streamlined and modern for licence holders and the public.

NWT Special Purpose Permits

Information on eligibility and the application process. For more information, please see Page 4 of this newsletter.

We want to hear from you!

If you have any ideas or suggestions for future newsletters, please email the Board at LLBinfo@gov.nt.ca



Working with NWT Licence & Permit Holders

The Liquor Licensing Board completed its review of its policies and procedures, and the updated documents were loaded onto the LLB Database. The licence application forms and special occasion permit forms were simplified and streamlined, and were uploaded to the website in January 2020. This past year the Board worked with the Department of Finance to improve the website to generally make it more "user friendly" and to make it easier for applicants to determine which of the three liquor entities (Liquor Board, Liquor Enforcement or Liquor Commission) they need to contact. That work was completed in late 2019, and we trust that the website is now easier for applicants and licensees to navigate.

The Board continued to review the *Liquor Act* and *Liquor Regulations*, and made additional recommendations to the Department of Finance for changes that should make the licence application process easier, quicker, and less expensive for applicants. The Board suggested that the Department of Finance consider liquor

services available in other jurisdictions to determine if they would be suitable for the Northwest Territories.

The Department of Finance was considering these recommendations when the landscape changed in March 2020 due to COVID-19. We all recognize how difficult these past few months have been for businesses generally, and certainly for our licence holders. Many of our clients reached out to the Board and to the Department of Finance to see if changes could be made to authorize liquor services that would allow businesses to continue to operate within the restrictions placed upon them by the directions of the Chief Public Health Officer. The Board worked with the Department of Finance and reviewed suggested changes to the *Liquor Regulations*. The Department facilitated changes to the provisions for off premises licences and home delivery for Class A and Class B establishments, to allow greater flexibility to licence holders and their customers. As this situation develops it may be necessary for the Board and the Department of Finance to be open to consider further administrative and legislative adjustments to enable licensees to weather the disruptions caused by

the pandemic. Licence holders should continue to approach the Board and/or the Department of Finance if they have ideas for reforms that would help their businesses to continue operations until such time as the COVID-19 restrictions can be lifted.

The final few months of the 2019-20 reporting period, and the first months of the next were very difficult for our licence holders. We appreciate their forbearance, their understanding and their perseverance. They have come up with reasonable and innovative ideas, and have been very gracious with the Board and its staff. We truly hope to see them come through this very difficult time; they deserve good fortune.

**Sandra Aitken
Chairperson**



REGULATORY CHANGES

Off Sales and Delivery is now permitted for Class A and Class B Licence Holders.

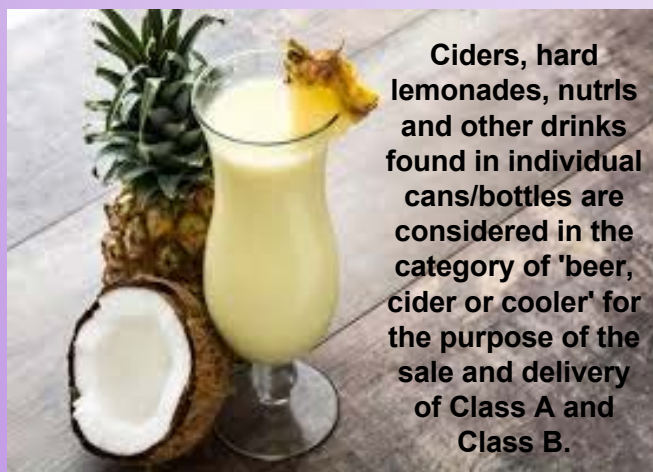


Overview

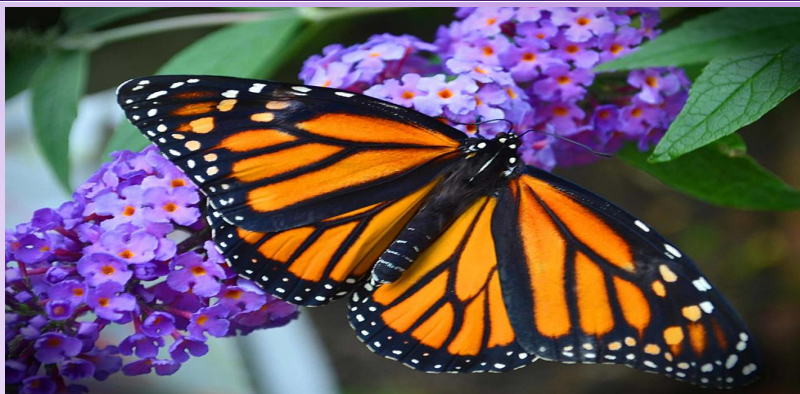
A recent amendment to the *Liquor Regulations* allows licensed restaurants and bars to sell liquor as part of their take-out and delivery services. These amendments help restaurants and bars stay open and keep staff employed during this time as we continue to practice social distancing.

Off Sales and Delivery

All Class A and Class B licensed establishments in the NWT are now able to sell beer, wine and spirits for off-premises consumption without an 'off-premises extension' to their licence. In addition to off sales, Class A and Class B licence holders can deliver liquor through their own internal or in-house delivery service.



Ciders, hard lemonades, nutrls and other drinks found in individual cans/bottles are considered in the category of 'beer, cider or cooler' for the purpose of the sale and delivery of Class A and Class B.



Restrictions

Class B licence holders can only sell alcohol in combination with food.

Licensed establishments must use their own, in-house delivery service. The use of common carriers (i.e. taxis, private delivery services etc.) is not permitted for the delivery of liquor.

Establishments must limit their sales for off-premises consumption to the following:

- no more than 1.5 L of wine per day, per customer (two 750 ml bottles of wine); or
- no more than one 1.14 L of spirits per day, per customer (commonly referred to as a 40 oz. bottle); or
- no more than 8.52 L of beer per day, per customer (twenty-four 355 ml cans).

No off-premises sales (or delivery) are allowed on Sundays or after 10 PM.

All containers/bottles must be in closed sealed containers.

Establishments can determine best method for case/containers for delivery.

No single shots of spirits, single glasses of wine or mixed drinks.

This means that these licensed establishments cannot sell or deliver more than 8.52 L of these products per customer per day.



Licence Holders are also now allowed to advertise the price of liquor outside of the licensed premises. For example, this means that the price of liquor can be placed on websites. Prior to this legislative change, a licence holder was unable to advertise the price of liquor outside of their establishment.

All other advertising rules still remain in place.

Liquor Legislation Review

The GNWT Department of Finance has begun the multi-year process of overhauling the NWT's liquor legislation to make it more modern and streamlined. The Department will look at liquor laws across Canada, examine academic research, listen to those who work directly with the legislation, and hear from stakeholders and the public.

The Department is expecting to hold virtual meetings with licence holders on three occasions during the Review period, beginning in early 2021. As well, licence holders will be able to interact with the project's website, once it is complete.

The Liquor Licensing Board will provide more information as it becomes available.



Do you have questions about COVID-19?

Public Health has established an 811 phone line for information and services for residents: self-isolation, enforcement, regional centre accommodations and opening wisely. The line also has staff to provide callers with accurate information about COVID-19 and how it relates to residents of the NWT.

For more information about the GNWT Emerging Wisely Plan, please see the following GNWT link:

www.gov.nt.ca/sites/flagship/files/documents/emerging_wisely.pdf

***Board updates on recent and past application decisions can be viewed by the public on the LLB database at the following link: www.fin.gov.nt.ca/en/services/nwt-liquor-licensing-board/database/type/application**

***The online LLB database also includes up-to-date information that the Board maintains to assist licence and permit holders, stakeholders, and the public. To view the Board's online database, please see the following link: www.fin.gov.nt.ca/en/services/nwt-liquor-licensing-board/database**





How do I know if I am eligible for a Special Purpose Permit?

To be eligible for a special purpose permit, an applicant must be:

- a medical practitioner, dentist, nurse practitioner, registered midwife or a veterinarian;
- a person requiring liquor for a legitimate scientific or research purpose; or
- a person in charge of a facility that provides health services pursuant to the *Health Services Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act* or a person in charge of a nursing home.



For more information about Special Purpose Permits, please see:

www.fin.gov.nt.ca/en/services/nwt-liquor-licensing-board/nwt-special-purpose-permits

**For services in French, please call
1-866-561-1664.**

**Pour obtenir des services en français,
composez le 1-866-561-1664.**

NWT Special Purpose Permits

What is a Special Purpose Liquor Permit?

A special purpose permit authorizes the permit holder to possess and use liquor for a medicinal, scientific or other special purpose.



How can I apply for a Special Purpose Permit?

The Special Purpose Permit Application form can be viewed at the following link: www.fin.gov.nt.ca/sites/fin/files/special_purpose_permit_application_v2.pdf

There is no fee to apply.

How can I find out more about Special Purpose Permits?

For more information about Special Purpose Permits, please see the following link to the Board's Special Purpose Permit Information Sheet: www.fin.gov.nt.ca/sites/fin/files/spp_information_v2_0.pdf

