

## Direct Licensing - Consultation Document -

Under the current *Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act*, an employee licence can only be issued if an individual has secured an offer of employment from a licensed security business. An individual is permitted to work for multiple employers, provided the registrar is advised and one of the employers maintains responsibility for the licence renewal. The employer pays the cost of the licence application and renewal.

The new *Security Services Act* introduces “direct licensing” of employees, this means that:

- individuals performing security work must possess a security worker licence for that type of security work. A business must not hire an individual to perform security work if the individual is not licensed.
- individuals performing security work will be responsible for applying for and renewing their security worker licences. To apply for a security worker licence will cost \$120. Renewal of a licence will cost \$60 annually. Individuals may apply for, or renew, licences for a period of 1, 2 or 3 years.
- security worker licences will be fully portable. This means that an individual may apply for a licence even if they do not have current employment and may change employers without notifying the registrar.
- security businesses will no longer have to apply for transfers or multi-licence requests or inform the registrar of terminations. This means less paperwork for security businesses.
- enforcement action may be taken against a security worker. This can include a warning, a violation ticket or suspension or cancellation of a security worker licence.

The *Security Services Act* will be implemented in phases over the next two years. Once the new licensing scheme comes into effect, existing employee licences will be automatically converted into security worker licences, with the same expiry date. Before this licence expires, existing employees will need to apply for a licence renewal in order to continue performing security work. Individuals who have not previously been licensed will be advised well in advance of deadlines for obtaining a security worker licence and application and training requirements.

The purpose of this consultation document is to solicit input from the security industry and other interested stakeholders on Direct Licensing.

If you have any questions or want to provide feedback on this consultation document, please e-mail [SPDSSA@gov.bc.ca](mailto:SPDSSA@gov.bc.ca) by November 18, 2007.