



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

July 31, 2013

Mr. John Yap
Parliamentary Secretary for Liquor Policy Reform
MLA Richmond-Steveston
East Annex
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Yap:

Congratulations on your new appointment as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice for Liquor Policy Reform.

Government regulates liquor in order to balance economic and social interests with the need to ensure public safety and the public interest. Regulation protects the public from the harm that may be caused by making and selling liquor or products that contain liquor. By requiring those who hold a liquor licence to meet strict terms and conditions, government works to prevent problems such as underage drinking, over-consumption, overcrowding and unlawful activities in licensed establishments.

From time to time government reviews liquor policy to ensure that liquor policies reflect societal values and business needs as they change over time. Notably, the last comprehensive policy review was completed in 1999. Many liquor industry associations, local governments, citizens and interest groups have expressed interest in a liquor review and in modernizing British Columbia's liquor laws.

One of the priorities of government and my mandate is to consult with stakeholders on modernizing British Columbia's liquor legislation and regulation and to bring forward options for reform to Cabinet.

Our approach must address such considerations as public safety, responsible use, the efficiency and fairness of the application process for licensees, the sustainability of the liquor manufacturing sector, and revenue security for government.

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Ministry of
Justice

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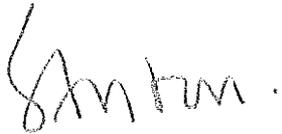
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Your consultation report and recommendations are to be submitted to me by November 25, 2013. The terms of reference for the liquor policy review are set out in the attached document.

My office will schedule monthly meetings for you to update me on your progress. I look forward to working with you.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Anton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Suzanne Anton QC
Attorney General
Minister of Justice

Attachment

pc: The Honourable Christy Clark

**PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
LIQUOR POLICY REVIEW
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

BACKGROUND

Government regulates liquor in order to balance economic and social interests with the need to ensure public safety and the public interest.

From time to time government reviews liquor policy to ensure that liquor policies reflect societal values and business needs as they change over time. Many liquor industry associations, local governments, citizens and interest groups have expressed interest in a liquor review and in modernizing B.C.'s liquor laws. There has not been a comprehensive policy review of liquor since 1999.

PURPOSE

On June 7, 2013, government announced that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice for Liquor Policy Reform would lead the stakeholder consultations on modernizing B.C.'s antiquated liquor laws and recommend improvements to the minister to take to Cabinet.

This comprehensive review should consider all aspects of liquor policy including licensing, control, and Liquor Distribution Branch distribution, and must provide recommendations that:

- Create a licensing system that responds to emerging marketplace realities and reflects current lifestyles and societal values;
- Provide flexibility for businesses and remove operational barriers to help grow the economy, while protecting public safety;
- Recognize the importance of jobs and investment in the hospitality, tourism and agrifoods sectors, in support of the BC Jobs Plan;
- Ensure there is a sustainable liquor manufacturing sector; and,
- Provide for an efficient and effective liquor distribution system.

Governance of the Liquor Distribution Branch is out of scope of the review.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Recommendations must:

- Ensure that government revenue is maintained or increased
- Minimize health and social harms caused by liquor
- Balance economic and social interests by ensuring public safety and the public interest of British Columbians and their communities is protected
- Be evidence-based and transparent

- Respect obligations under collective agreements and international and inter-provincial trade agreements

Your goals and tasks include:

1. Developing a consultation model and approach that is able to meet the objectives above. The consultation approach must:
 - include opportunities for the public to provide input; and,
 - incorporate methods to build transparency into the process.
2. Leading consultations with a broad range of stakeholders, including representatives from industry, local government and First Nations organizations, police, health and social policy associations. Consultations should be completed by October 31, 2013.
3. Producing a report by November 25, 2013 for Attorney General and Minister of Justice's consideration that she may take to Cabinet. The report must include the following:
 - Results from the stakeholder consultation;
 - Identification of potential opportunities and challenges; and,
 - Recommendations for liquor reform.

REPORTING

You will report to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice.

SUPPORT

The budget for the review will be provided by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch.

You will work through the Deputy Minister, Corporate Initiatives, and the Assistant Deputy Ministers of the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch and the Liquor Distribution Branch, to ensure resource requirements consistent with the work plan are met. This may include obtaining policy support from Liquor Control and Licensing Branch and Liquor Distribution Branch policy divisions or other resources as needed.