

July 09, 2020

TO: Casino Operators
Horse Racing Alberta
Alberta Gambling Research Institute
Problem Gambling Resource Network
Albert Urban Municipalities Association
Rural Municipalities of Alberta

RE: Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Amendments

For nearly 25 years, AGLC has been recognized as a regulatory leader in Alberta's gaming, liquor and now cannabis industries.

Recently, amendments were made to the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act* (GLCA) and Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation (GLCR). These changes are another example of the way AGLC is working to make it easier to do business in Alberta, while making life better for Albertans. The amendments impact the following:

Repeal Prohibition Area

By removing the outdated prohibition legislation, a number of communities will now have the autonomy to decide what is best for them.

Liquor licences where no previous licence exists

This amendment removes the costly and time-consuming compulsory vote of electors when an application is submitted for a liquor licence in municipalities, First Nations or Metis Settlements, where no previous licence is in effect. Municipalities will still be able to determine whether they approve of liquor licences being issued to applicants within their boundaries, including via plebiscite – should they so choose.

Placing conditions on a licence once it has been issued

The amendment will allow AGLC to ensure public safety by being able to place conditions on licensed premises in advance of an offence occurring. This supports AGLC and its partners in working proactively to address public safety concerns stemming from activities in licensed premises.

Clarify liquor permitted as a raffle prize

The amendment clarifies that liquor is permitted as a raffle prize.

Reduce restrictions on public liquor consumption in parks where permitted; permit liquor consumption without food

By removing the requirement for food to accompany liquor consumption in designated picnic areas of parks, park owners have more options to determine if and where liquor consumption is permitted and may also set designated picnic areas.

Prize Disentitlement – Self-Exclusion Program

By removing prize opportunities as an incentive for participants registered in the Self-Exclusion Program, these individuals will be less enticed to enter gaming venues and violate their Self-Exclusion agreement. Prize disentitlement will also deter legally excluded and banned individuals from entering gaming facilities as they will not be eligible to win a prize. Should a prize winner be confirmed as ineligible, their prize will be returned to the prize pool.

Loyalty programs from other separate businesses

To be more responsive to the needs of Alberta liquor stores and consumers, the regulation and AGLC policy are changing to accommodate retail liquor stores that wish to extend customer loyalty programs beyond their other separate business operations.

Bring-Your-Own-Liquor

To be more responsive to consumers and Alberta liquor licensees, the Bring Your Own Wine endorsement in the regulation and AGLC policy will be expanded to include all liquor products. Class A, B and C licensed premises will be able to decide whether they wish to offer this to their customers. Bring Your Own Wine policy has been in place since 2003.

Clarify definition of a school as it pertains to location of retail cannabis stores (s. 105)

The amendment removes home school locations from the definition of schools for purposes of proximity to retail cannabis locations to add clarity for municipalities and prospective applicants.

These amendments will be effective as of **July 15, 2020**.

AGLC's continued dedication to reviewing and updating policies demonstrates our deep commitment to a modern regulatory environment that supports consumer choice, innovation and economic growth.

For more information on these policy changes, please email Inspections.Mailbox@aglc.ca.

Yours truly,



Dave Berry
Vice President
Regulatory Services