

# One Time Exceptions to Liquor Primary Establishment Distancing & Moratoria

March 30, 2021



## July 2020:

- Vancouver Fire By-law amended to align occupant load calculation with that of the BC Fire Code
  - Can yield higher occupant loads
  - Applies to all liquor serving establishments
  - Liquor Establishments (pubs and nightclubs) most likely to benefit
  - Occupant load calculations are site & building specific
- City Liquor Policy: Council direction to consider one-time exceptions
  1. Moratoria in the GED & DTES
  2. Distancing requirements citywide

1. **Moratoria (GED & DTES)** on new Liquor Establishments and occupant load increases at existing establishments in the Granville Entertainment District (GED) and the Downtown Eastside (DTES) prohibit establishments in these areas from obtaining increases.
  - Instituted in the 1990s
  - Reduce harms to public health and safety
  - Reviewed and renewed regularly; last renewed in 2017
2. **Distancing** requirements (citywide) can prohibit or limit the size of occupant increase an establishment can obtain
  - Distributes the size and number of Liquor Establishments throughout the city appropriate to neighbourhoods
  - Balance economic and social benefits of Liquor Establishment while limiting harm to public health and safety

## **Consideration for GED & DTES Moratoria:**

Allow one-time exception to moratorium on occupant increases for existing Liquor Establishments in the GED & DTES

- Staff assessed opportunities and risks; reviewed conditions central to the 2017 reaffirmation of the moratoria
- Stakeholder consultation including but not limited to,
  - Business Improvement Associations
  - Licensees
  - Hospitality Vancouver Association
  - Vancouver Coastal Health
  - Vancouver Police Department
  - Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch

## 2017

### Public Safety:

- Late night disorder & violence
- Late night crowds
- Limited range of late night entertainment options
- Few transportation options

Livability for resident populations



## 2021

### Public Safety Initiatives:

- Fine for fighting increased to \$500
- Ride-hailing available
- Business changes
- Granville Planning Process

Maintain moratorium on new Liquor Establishments

# Moratoria Approach & Stakeholder Feedback

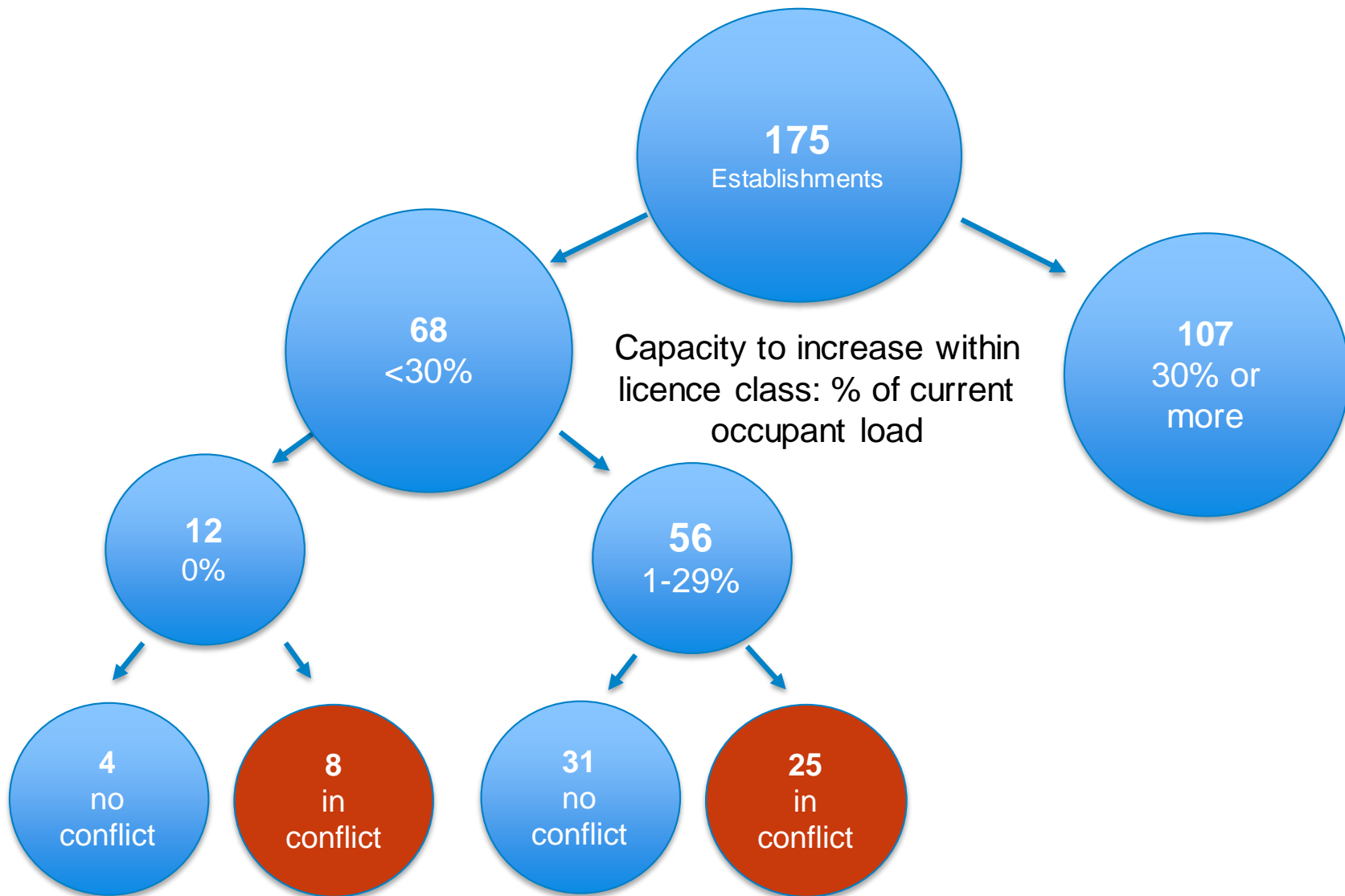
MORATORIA GED & DTES	INDUSTRY	BIAs	VPD	VCH	RECOMMENDED
Allow one-time occupant increase at existing Liquor Establishments	√	√	Not Opposed	Significant public health impact unlikely	√
No time limit for application submission	√	√	n/a	n/a	√
Standard review process	√	√	√	n/a	√

## Consideration

In cases where Distancing prohibits or restricts occupant increase, allow one-time exception to accommodate increases.

- Staff assessed the impact of Distancing on Liquor Establishments seeking occupant load increases
  - Number of establishments that have capacity to increase occupant load without changing licence class
  - Number of establishments that might be impacted by Distancing:
    - Occupant Increase prohibited
    - Increase limited in size
- Key stakeholder consultation
  - Hospitality Vancouver Association
  - Licensees
  - Business Improvement Associations

# Distancing: Assessment of Impact





# Distancing Approach & Stakeholder Feedback

PROPOSED APPROACH	INDUSTRY	BIAs	RECOMMENDED
Retain Distancing Requirements	√	√	√
In case of Distancing conflict allow one time exception up to 30% increase over current occupant load	√	√	√
Business retains current licence class	√	√	√

- Application Review Process: City
  - Follow existing application review process; no new or additional fees
  - Staff highly recommend applicants engage a registered professional; final occupant load can be constrained by code requirements such as number of exits and washrooms
  
- Application Review Process: LCRB
  - Blanket approval not feasible under current regulations
  - Streamlining of provincial application review process is underway

THANK YOU