

# Policy and By-law Updates on Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Location and Distance

Sarah Hicks, Chief Licence Inspector  
December 13, 2023



1. Overview of Liquor Licensing
  1. Provincial and City roles
2. Overview of Liquor Establishment regulatory framework
  1. Distancing Policy
  2. Moratorium Areas
  3. Additional Considerations

## June 15 & July 5, 2022

- Suspend Distancing Policy in all of Downtown for existing Restaurants seeking Dual licensing (includes DTES & GED) **IMPLEMENTED**
- Review the City's Liquor Establishment Distancing Policy & report in 2023 on options and recommendations to update and modernize the regulatory framework for Liquor Primary licensed establishments. **REPORT BACK  
December 13, 2023**

## *Policy and Guidelines for Liquor Establishment Capacity & Location (2005) aka “Distancing Policy”*

- Manages the density and distribution of pubs and nightclubs throughout the city with rules on location and size
- Appropriate to areas and neighbourhoods

# Liquor Establishment Distancing Policy (2005)



Liquor Est. Class (person capacity)	Allowed where Neighbourhood Public House or Cabaret is permitted ZDBL use	Distance Required between same Class Establishments Downtown & Non-Downtown	
		Downtown	Non-Downtown
Class 1 (1- 65)	Residential, commercial, industrial & mixed-use.	50m	500m
Class 2 (66-150)	Residential, commercial, industrial & mixed-use. Downtown residential only with food service Non-Downtown residential only in local shopping areas	100m	500m
Class 3 (151-300)	Commercial, industrial & mixed-use <b>Not abutting primarily residential</b>	100m	500m
Class 4 (301-500)	Commercial, industrial Downtown mixed-use only with food Non-Downtown mixed-use only with major hotel <b>Not abutting primarily residential</b>	100m	500m
Class 5 (501-950)	Commercial, industrial	500m	750m
Class 6 (>950)	<b>Not abutting primarily residential or</b>	750m	1km
Exceptions to distance and location considered for major hotels & business developments			

# Licensing of Liquor Serving Establishments



<b>Provincial Liquor Licences Issued by LCRB</b>	<b>COV Comments on applications to LCRB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location</li> <li>• Neighbours views</li> <li>• Hours of operation</li> </ul>	<b>COV Distancing Policy Applies</b>	<b>COV Business Licence</b>
<b>Food Primary (FP)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restaurants that serve liquor</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	Restaurant Class 1 or Class 2 With Liquor
<b>Liquor Primary (LP)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pubs &amp; Bars: Primary business is the service &amp; sale of liquor</li> </ul>	YES	YES	Liquor Establishment Class 1 - 6 (based on occupant capacity)
<b>Dual Licence (FP/LP)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment holds both an FP and an LP license; operate under FP by day, LP at evening</li> </ul>	YES (LP)	YES (LP)	Restaurant Class 1 or Class 2 With Liquor + Liquor Establishment Class 1 – 6

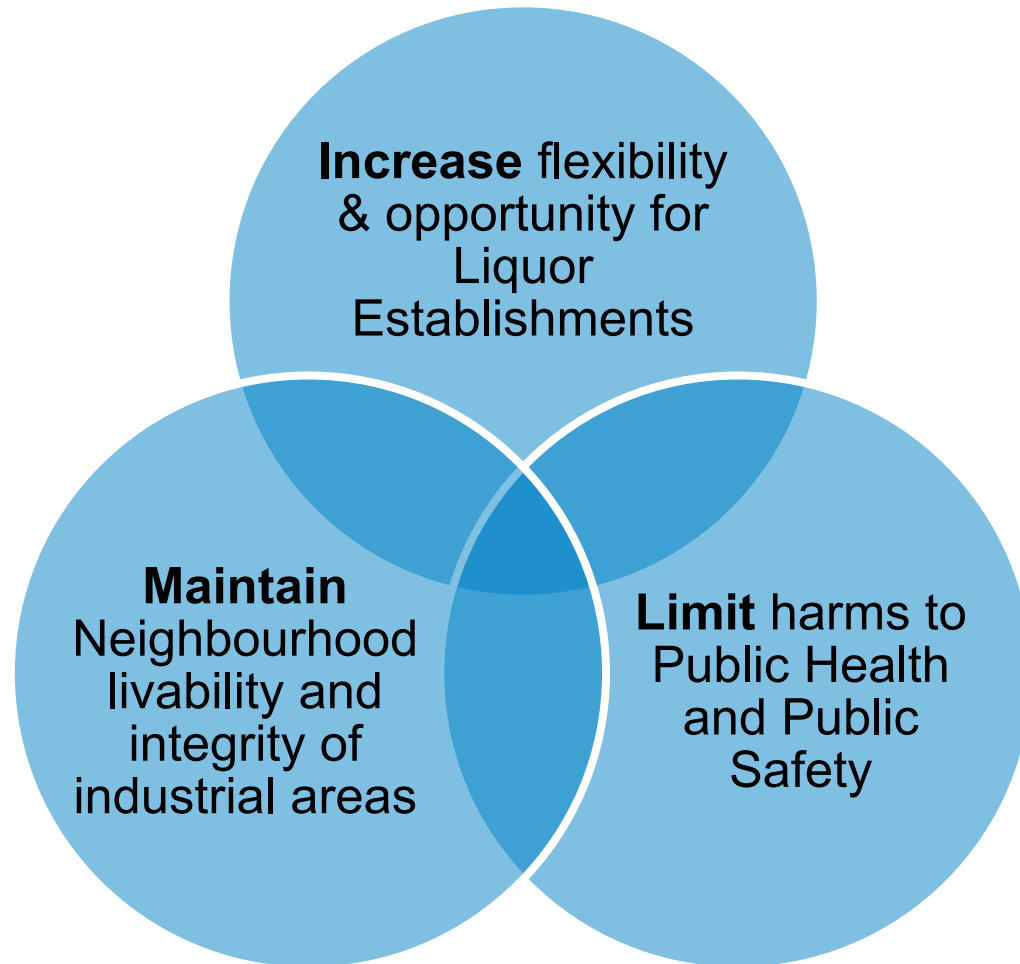
# Licensing of Liquor Serving Establishments



<b>Provincial Liquor Licences Issued by LCRB</b>	<b>COV Comments on applications to LCRB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location</li> <li>• Neighbours views</li> <li>• Hours of operation</li> </ul>	<b>COV Distancing Policy Applies</b>	<b>COV Business Licence</b>
Liquor Primary (LP) non-traditional liquor serving establishment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service of liquor to customers of the principle business (eg. book store, spa)</li> </ul>	YES	NO	Liquor Establishment Class 8
Liquor Primary (LP) Event Driven <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liquor served in conjunction with programmed events</li> </ul>	YES	NO	Venue
Manufacturer Lounge Endorsement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brewery, winery, distillery with liquor service area</li> </ul>	N/A	NO	Manufacturer - Food

- Distancing Policy on Liquor Establishments city-wide
- Granville Entertainment District Moratorium
- Non-traditional Liquor Serving Establishments
- Hours of operation on Granville Street
- Process improvements
  
- Downtown Eastside
  - Review underway: moratorium on additional Liquor Establishments and seat expansions and hours of operation.
  - Report to Council in 2024.





- Industry associations, business owners, business consultants
- Business Improvement Associations
- Not for profit and neighbourhood based organizations
  - Good Night Out
  - Heritage Vancouver Society
  - Dr Sun Yat Sen Garden
- Vancouver Police Department
- Vancouver Coastal Health

## TOPIC

- **Distancing Policy**
  - Reduce or remove existing distance requirements on some or all classes
  - Limit the size of establishment next to residential
- **GED Moratorium**
  - Remove the moratorium on some or all classes of Liquor Establishment
- **DTES Moratorium**
  - Remove the moratorium on some or all classes of Liquor Establishment

## FEEDBACK

- **Support**
  - Removal of distance requirements for all classes of Liquor Establishments citywide.
  - Retain a limit on the size next to residential districts with an increase in capacity to 200 or 250
  - Remove the moratorium on all classes in the GED
- **Concern**
  - Public health and safety harms associated with potential increased access to liquor citywide
  - Increase risks to safety for women and other equity deserving groups, particularly in the GED
  - DTES: Concerns about late night safety for residents resulting from conflict and disorder when patrons are leaving bars and pubs
  - DTES: Displacement of local serving, cultural and heritage based businesses

## TOPIC

- Non-traditional Liquor Serving Establishments
  - Expand types of businesses City will support for Provincial Liquor Primary licences
- Hours of operation
  - Alignment of Hours on Granville Street
  - Support 9pm start time for evening hours Liquor Primary (Dual licensees)
  - Hours for existing establishments in the DEOD
- Process improvements
  - Delegation of Council authority to Chief Licence Inspector of recommendations to LCRB

## FEEDBACK

There is support for these options overall with a particular interest in the potential for a 3:00 am closing time for all establishments.

1. Repeal the *Liquor Licence Capacity and Location Policy and Guidelines*  
Retain neighbourhood livability with requirement that Liquor Establishment Class 2, with an increased maximum person capacity of 200, is the largest establishment to locate directly next to residential districts.\*
2. Remove the GED Moratorium on additional Liquor Establishments and seat expansions
3. Expand the definition of Liquor Establishment Class 8 and Limited Service Food Establishment so more types of businesses can apply for non-traditional Liquor Primary licences

\*Exceptions considered for establishments located in major hotels and business developments

5. Align the hours of operation for Liquor Establishments on Granville Street between the 1000 and 1300 blocks with the hours north of Nelson.
6. Support evening hours for Dual Liquor Primary licences to start at 9:00 pm, aligned with hours allowed under provincial liquor licensing regulations.
7. Council to delegate authority to the Chief Licence Inspector to provide recommendations to the LCRB on all Liquor Primary applications

## **December 2023 – March 2024**

- DTES community consultation on options for the moratorium
- Report and recommendations on DTES to Council

# THANK YOU





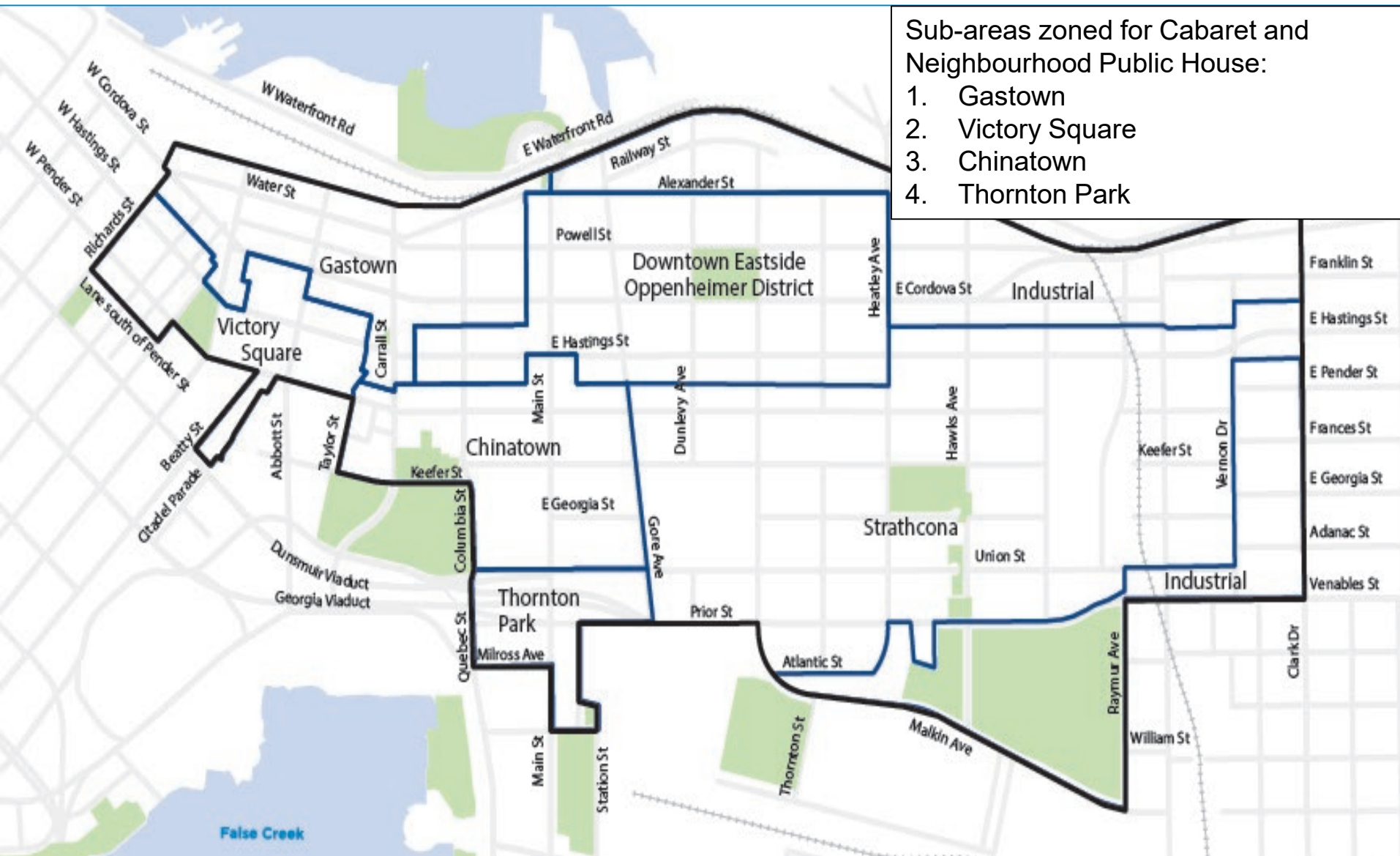
# Supplemental Information



# Downtown Eastside Moratorium Area

Sub-areas zoned for Cabaret and Neighbourhood Public House:

1. Gastown
2. Victory Square
3. Chinatown
4. Thornton Park



- 1988 first Council moratorium on additional pubs and bars and on seat expansions (DEOD and Gastown)
- 2012 expanded to include all sub-areas of Downtown Eastside
  - DEOD
  - Gastown
  - Chinatown
  - Victory Square
  - Strathcona
  - Thornton Park
  - Industrial

# Comparison to other cities

Jurisdiction	Number of Liquor Primary Licences
Burnaby	27
Whistler	39
Surrey	56
Richmond	60
Kelowna	82
Victoria	85
Vancouver	168

# Liquor Establishment Hours



<b>Location &amp; Zoning</b>		<b>Standard Hours Liquor</b>	<b>Extended Hours Liquor</b>
DEOD	Sun - Thurs	11 am to 12 midnight	11 am to 12 midnight
	Fri & Sat	11 am to 1:00 am	11 am to 1:00 am
Downtown - Primarily Commercial	Mon - Sun	11 am to 2 am	9 am to 3 am
Downtown - Primarily Mixed Use	Sun - Thurs	11 am to 1:00 am	9 am to 2 am
	Fri & Sat	11 am to 2 am	9 am to 3 am
Downtown - Primarily Residential	Sun - Thurs	11 am to 12 midnight	9 am to 1 am
	Fri & Sat	11 am to 1:00 am	9 am to 2 am
Non- Downtown - Primarily Commercial and Industrial	Mon - Sun	12 am to 2 am	10 am to 3 am
Non-Downtown - Primarily Residential & Primarily Mixed Use	Sun - Thurs	11 am to 12 midnight	9 am to 1 am
	Fri & Sat	11 am to 1:00 am	9 am to 2 am