



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: July 2, 2025
Contact: Sarah Hicks
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: July 22, 2025
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Chief Licence Inspector
SUBJECT: Liquor Establishments and Restaurants Regulatory Review

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Licence By-law to do the following, all as described in this report:
- (a) incorporate the Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law regulations, not including regulations for Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers, into the Licence By-law;
 - (b) update the business hours and the regulation areas for Liquor Establishments;
 - (c) add authority for the Chief Licence Inspector to grant temporary extensions of hours for Liquor Establishments, Restaurants and Limited Service Food Establishments;
 - (d) remove certain licence conditions for Liquor Establishments and Restaurants; and
 - (e) update licence requirements regarding security and metal detectors for Liquor Establishments;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment amendments to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix A.

- B. THAT Council lift the policy restriction on new licences and new operators of Restaurants with Liquor Service that limits their liquor service hours to midnight for the first six months of operation as described in this report.
- C. THAT Council rescind the *Hours of Liquor Service Policy and Special Event Extension Policy Guidelines* and adopt the *Policy on Temporary Hour Changes on Establishments with Provincial Liquor Primary or Food Primary Licences* as shown in Appendix E.
- D. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers By-law to incorporate the Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law regulations for Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers into the Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers By-law as described in this report;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment amendments to the Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B.

- E. THAT, subject to Council's approval of Recommendations A and D, Council approve, in principle, the repeal of the Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment a by-law to repeal the Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law generally in accordance with Appendix C.

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report seeks Council approval on recommendations to modernize and streamline regulations for Liquor Establishments and Restaurants. The proposed changes would expand the latest closing time of 3am to all areas Downtown and extend latest closing times outside Downtown to 3am on weekends and 2am on weeknights. Staff also propose to enable liquor service hours at Restaurants to 2am every night.

Staff also recommend lifting existing restrictions on operating and service hours for new businesses during initial months of operation. Additional proposals streamline and extend special event hours for Liquor Establishments citywide and enable extended hours at existing Downtown Eastside Oppenheimer District establishments.

Proposed updates aim to provide more opportunity and flexibility for new and existing businesses, reduce regulatory barriers, bolster local economies and enhance neighbourhood vibrancy by providing more late-night options in the city for dining, hospitality and nightlife for residents and visitors, while considering neighbourhood livability, public safety and health.

Further proposed measures involve streamlining processes to support simple and efficient application processing. This includes granting the Chief Licence Inspector authority to approve temporary hours changes for special events and consolidating business hours into one by-law. Staff seek approval to update existing security requirements in the Licence By-Law and repeal several licence conditions for Liquor Establishments and Restaurants that duplicate provincial rules. Removing overlapping requirements will streamline regulations, reduce regulatory

burdens and allow businesses to operate more efficiently while staying compliant with provincial standards.

There are processes in place to address potential public safety and health risks that could be associated with the proposed opportunities. All applications for new liquor primary licences and changes to existing establishment's operating hours undergo case-by-case reviews led by the Province with input from the City, with the City conducting inter-departmental evaluations including feedback from Vancouver Police Department. Provincial regulations require public notification for new provincial Liquor Primary licence applications or changes to existing liquor licences. Staff propose to monitor impacts of expanding operating and service hours and bring forward proposed adjustments if needed.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

- [Liquor Licensing Hours of Service Policy Recommendations \(Nov 18, 2004\)](#) Council adopted a new model for regulating liquor service hours and pursued a Charter amendment to classify liquor establishments as a business type.
- [Hours of Liquor Service Policy: Regulatory Impact Reduction Measures \(Sept 20, 2005\)](#) Council defined Extended Hours Liquor Establishments and established licence requirements to mitigate regulatory impacts.
- [Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements \(Dec 13, 2023\)](#) Council removed distancing requirements between same-size liquor establishments and lifted restrictions on new liquor establishments and seat expansions in select areas, including GED and five DTES subareas.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

Provincial Regulations

The *BC Liquor Control and Licensing Act* and Regulation provide the framework for provincially licensed Liquor Primary (bars, nightclubs) and Food Primary (restaurants) businesses. The Provincial statute sets standards for responsible alcohol service, safety, licensing, compliance, and enforcement. They also define the role of local governments in licensing decisions, allowing local governments to address community-specific needs through land use, operating hours, and business licensing. The Province allows maximum liquor service from 9am to 4am for Liquor Primary and Food Primary businesses, with local governments having authority to regulate hours to reflect community needs and priorities.

City Regulations

The Vancouver Charter grants the City authority to regulate business and alcohol service hours. The Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law governs business hours for Liquor Establishments such as bars, nightclubs, and private clubs, allowing maximum hours of operation from 9am to 3am, or less depending on location and the type of licence issued as described in Appendix D. Factors such as zoning and commercial intensity influence operating

hours. The Licence By-law sets liquor service hours for restaurants from 9am to 1am on weekdays and 9am to 2am on weekends.

Bars, pubs, nightclubs and private clubs serving liquor on site are issued Liquor Establishment business licences. There are two types of Liquor Establishment licences: Standard or Extended Hours, which provide for different operating hours and licence fees (Appendix D). Restaurants that serve alcohol are issued Restaurant with Liquor Service business licences. Licence requirements for both Liquor Establishments and Restaurants are set in the Licence By-law.

As of April 2025, Vancouver has licensed 209 Liquor Establishments (i.e. bars, nightclubs) and 1,225 Restaurants with Liquor Service.

Stakeholder Consultation

In July 2023, the City created the Hospitality Sector Working Group consisting of industry leaders from across the hospitality sector to collaborate on ways to streamline and modernize municipal regulations. Following feedback from the working group, staff reviewed operating and service hours along with other regulations with the aim to support businesses, local economies, and neighbourhood vibrancy while considering neighborhood livability, public safety and health. Staff conducted extensive stakeholder consultation to gather feedback on expanding operating and service hours, meeting key stakeholders including Vancouver Police Department (VPD) and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). Staff also considered simplifying licence requirements, allowing longer special event hours, and consolidating all hours-related rules into one by-law.

Other stakeholders consulted include business operators, hospitality industry associations, Business Improvement Associations, support and service organizations and the transportation sector. Staff also held a public survey on the City's Shape Your City page from February 18 to March 9 and received over 3,700 public responses. There is significant support to expand operating and service hours for Liquor Establishments and Restaurants among the public and stakeholders. See the full list of stakeholders and a summary of the feedback in Appendix F.

In formulating the recommended By-law amendments for Council's deliberation, staff have considered a number of primary factors identified by stakeholders and the public:

- Increased flexibility and revenue opportunities for liquor establishment and restaurant operators
- Public safety
- Public health
- Availability of late night transportation services
- Uptake on existing opportunities for extended hours of operation

Increased flexibility and revenue opportunities for businesses

The proposal to streamline and expand hours is meant to simplify regulations and provide opportunity for those businesses that may want to apply for longer hours. Based on feedback from industry, late night hours including the last hour of business at Liquor Establishments can improve business profitability and earlier opening hours provide flexibility to take advantage of events such as live televised sports that often occur during morning hours.

The proposed changes support a more vibrant, fair, and business-friendly nightlife across Vancouver, bringing consistency and new opportunities to neighbourhoods citywide. Changes to the types of events and hours permitted for special events will help the city better support

festivals, concerts, and major cultural moments. To reduce barriers and encourage entrepreneurship, new operators will be able to apply for and operate at full hours immediately, without unnecessary restrictions. The City is also removing overlapping municipal licensing requirements and updating safety and security rules to give businesses more flexibility in how they operate responsibly. These changes aim to support business, the local economy and create a more enjoyable nightlife experience for residents and visitors alike.

Public Safety

Extending Liquor Establishment operating hours and Restaurant service hours can affect public safety and health. Staff consulted with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) who are experts in public safety risks associated with later operating hours of licensed establishments, late night crowds and intoxication. VPD is not opposed to the proposed changes to hours.

Extending operating and service hours increases risk of late-night disorder, violence and over-consumption. This has the potential to increase demand for police services. In consultation with VPD, staff heard that the proposed changes are not expected to significantly impact police operations, as existing establishments are not all operating to maximum hours and uptake of later hours is anticipated to be incremental. VPD states they will monitor calls for service that directly result from increased operating hours at establishments and will monitor any approved changes with liquor licensing staff. Moreover, VPD can adjust staffing based on calls for service, and while an increase in late-night incidents could necessitate changes, it would be assessed over time. If a substantial rise in calls occurs, resource allocation may need to be reconsidered.

While VPD can monitor and track impacts on public safety, pinpointing a correlation between liquor policy changes like longer operating hours with calls for service is complex. The City in collaboration with VPD will reassess the impact of later operating and service hours following an initial period of monitoring.

Public Health

Staff consulted with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) who confirmed expanding liquor operating and service hours does increase risk to public health. VCH has noted that extending late night liquor service hours is higher risk due to the risk of injuries, violence and the potential for harm to others compared to allowing earlier opening hours which is considered lower risk. Extending liquor service hours at restaurants is also viewed as lower risk due to food service requirements. The overall increase in alcohol access raises concerns from VCH, as expanding liquor service hours will lead to increased consumption and related health harms, including additional burden on the healthcare system. VCH does not support increasing alcohol access through longer hours, as any expansion will lead to increased consumption and both short-term and long-term public health consequences. See Appendix G.

Late-night Transportation

The City considered late-night transportation when evaluating Liquor Establishment hours and assessed safe travel options for patrons in consultation with stakeholders. While TransLink's SkyTrain service ends before 1:30 am, most of their NightBus service starts at 1:30am until 5am or until regular service begins, providing late-night transit from central locations, running every 20-30 minutes to neighbouring cities and beyond. Taxis in combination with ride-hailing services, introduced in 2020, has increased availability of options for late-night travel and help to address gaps for passengers travelling beyond transit stops. See Appendix H.

Late-night Hours Uptake

In 2023, Council approved commercial hours of 3am closing each day of the week in five DTES subareas (Chinatown, Gastown, Thornton Park, Victory Square, Industrial District) and the 1000 to 1300 blocks of Granville Street ([report](#), [minutes](#)). Since then, 6 of 38 establishments have applied for these extended hours. Given uptake on recent changes, staff anticipate a similar modest increase in applications from businesses in areas where closing at 3am on weekends is already permitted and greater interest from businesses in areas where later weekend hours would be enabled. Currently, the maximum hours permitted in each area of the city are not fully used with some existing businesses choosing to operate with a Standard Hours licence.

Discussion

Liquor Establishment Operating Hours

Staff propose expanding Liquor Establishment operating hours and moving to a simpler regulatory framework with one set of hours Downtown and two sets of hours Outside Downtown (Appendix D). The proposed changes would provide for the following operating hours:

- 9am opening time for all Liquor Establishments city-wide. This change would provide for an earlier opening time for 42% of establishments in Vancouver and will open opportunities to take advantage of international sporting events that are often broadcast during morning hours.
- For Liquor Establishments in the downtown, 3am closing time. This change would extend the latest closing time for 41% of establishments in this area.
- For Liquor Establishments outside the downtown, 3am closing time on weekends and 2am closing time on weekdays. This change would extend the latest closing time for 97% of establishments in this area.

Any by-law change to Liquor Establishment business hours approved by Council is not a blanket change that takes effect for all Liquor Establishments. Pursuant to Provincial regulations, each business must apply to the Province and City for the change. Such applications are also subject to public notification and input.

Restaurant Liquor Service Hours

Aligning liquor service hours at Restaurants to 2am, seven nights a week will provide additional opportunity to businesses on weeknights. Unlike bars and nightclubs, restaurants must serve food during all hours of liquor service. The proposed change streamlines and simplifies hours which is a benefit for businesses and patrons.

Additional Updates

Brand new operators

To support the success of new businesses, staff propose removing current restrictions that limit Restaurants to liquor service until midnight in the first six months and restrict Liquor Establishments to Standard Hours in the first three months. Rather than limit hours for all new operators, staff propose giving businesses the opportunity to operate with regular or extended hours right away subject to public feedback. At the same time, staff propose granting the CLI

authority to reduce hours if issues arise. These updates give businesses more flexibility and opportunity, allowing them to maximize revenue and operate without restrictions in their first several months of operation which are crucial to their long-term success, while providing the City responsible oversight to respond to the public's concerns.

Hours of Liquor Service Policy and Special Event Extension Policy Guidelines

The Hours of Liquor Service Policy permits Liquor Establishments citywide to extend hours for select special events up to six times per year in accordance with Provincial rules, with closing times from 1 am to 4 am based on location and licence type. Staff propose replacing the existing policy for granting special event hours with a new policy as shown in Appendix E allowing all establishments to apply for temporary maximum hours set by the Province (9am to 4am) and for a wider selection of events. The revised policy offers greater flexibility with longer hours beyond select festivals. To keep temporary extensions by-law compliant, staff propose amending the Licence By-law to grant the CLI authority to extend hours.

Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law

Staff propose repealing the Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law subject to moving all regulations to the Licence By-law, except for Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers, which staff propose be moved into the Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers By-law. These changes simplify and consolidate business regulation hours, making it easier for businesses to locate the hours that pertain to their business in the By-laws.

Updating Licence Conditions

Industry stakeholders seek streamlined regulations and more autonomy in operating their businesses citing costly compliance and city licence conditions that overlap provincial requirements. In response, staff propose removing various liquor establishment and restaurant licence requirements as shown in Appendix I. These changes will modernize and simplify City licence conditions and remove overlapping requirements while existing conditions that require businesses to operate responsibly and contribute towards reducing impacts to the surrounding community will continue to be in place.

Staff propose updating liquor establishment security rules to allow more flexibility while maintaining public safety. Currently, businesses with extended hours and over 200-person capacity must use metal detectors after 9pm, but industry feedback suggests businesses should be able to choose security measures based on their needs. Staff recommend broadening regulations and giving the CLI authority to require additional safeguards if public safety is not being upheld.

Additionally, staff propose revising security staff requirements. Establishments currently need at least one trained security person per 150 patrons, with a minimum of two after 9pm. Staff recommend keeping the requirement for one security person but removing training and minimum staffing rules, as there is already provincial oversight in these areas. Staff also propose the requirement for one trained security be for every 200 patrons and after 10pm. These updates aim to balance safety with industry concerns and remove duplication with provincial regulations. See Appendix A for the updates to security rules.

* * * * *

APPENDIX A

DRAFT By-law to amend the Licence By-law No. 4450 Regarding Business Hours and Miscellaneous Amendments

Note: A By-law will be prepared generally in accordance with the provisions listed below, subject to change and refinement prior to posting.

1. This by-law amends the indicated provisions of the Licence By-law No. 4450.
2. In section 2, Council adds the following new definitions in the correct alphabetical order:
 - (a) “**Downtown** means that area outlined in black on Schedule E.”;
 - (b) “**Downtown Eastside** means that area outlined in black on Schedule F.”;
 - (c) “**Outside Downtown - A** means that area outlined in black on Schedule G.”; and
 - (d) “**Outside Downtown - B** means that area outlined in black on Schedule H.”.
3. Council adds a new section 11.8 in the correct numerical order as follows:

“BUSINESS PREMISES REGULATION OF HOURS

- 11.8 In the Downtown Eastside, the following business premises may only remain open for business from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. each day, and must otherwise be closed for business:
- (a) Barber Shop or Beauty Salon;
 - (b) Bottle Depot;
 - (c) Cheque Cashing Centre;
 - (d) Dating Service;
 - (e) Fitness Centre;
 - (f) Laundry Services;
 - (g) Limited Service Food Establishment with Liquor Service;
 - (h) Limited Service Food Establishment without Liquor Service;
 - (i) Postal Rental Agency;
 - (j) Restaurant;
 - (k) Retail Dealer;

- (l) Retail Dealer - Food;
- (m) Social Escort Agency;
- (n) Tanning Salon or Tattoo and Piercing Studio;
- (o) Theatre,

except that the Chief Licence Inspector may permit temporary extensions of hours for Restaurants, Limited Service Food Establishments with Liquor Service, and Limited Service Food Establishments without Liquor Service.”.

4. In section 21.3, Council:

- (a) in subsection (1):
 - (i) strikes out clauses (a) through (j); and
 - (ii) renumbers clauses (k) through (o) as clauses (a) through (e), respectively;
- (b) strikes out subsection (2) in its entirety;
- (c) renumbers subsections (3) through (11) as subsections (2) through (10), respectively;
- (d) strikes out subsection (2) and substitutes the following:

“(2) The licensee of a standard hours liquor establishment – class 3, standard hours liquor establishment – class 4, standard hours liquor establishment – class 5, standard hours liquor establishment – class 6, extended hours liquor establishment – class 3, extended hours liquor establishment – class 4, extended hours liquor establishment – class 5, or extended hours liquor establishment – class 6 must ensure that at least one employee provides security for the liquor establishment from the earlier of the following until closing:

 - (a) 10:00 p.m.; and
 - (b) the time that the number of customers exceeds 200.”;
- (e) strikes out subsection (4) in its entirety;
- (f) renumbers subsections (5) through (10) as subsections (4) through (9), respectively;
- (g) strikes out subsections (4)(a), (b) and (c) and substitutes the following:

“(a) between 10:00 p.m. and closing, implement reasonable measures to prevent the entry of weapons into the liquor establishment, which may include any of the following:

- (i) visual inspections of bags, purses and clothing,
 - (ii) the use of metal detectors, including held-held devices,

except that if the Chief Licence Inspector determines that the measures taken are not effective, the Chief Licence Inspector may require other or additional measures to be taken; and
 - (b) if the measures referred to in subsection (a) indicate that a person may have a weapon on their person or in their belongings and the person cannot eliminate that indication, refuse the person entry to the liquor establishment.”;
 - (h) adds new subsections (10), (11) and (12) as follows:
 - “(10) Standard hours liquor establishments located in the following areas may only remain open for business during the hours on the days set out below for that area, and must otherwise be closed for business:
 - (a) Downtown and Outside Downtown – B, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. each day; and
 - (b) Outside Downtown - A:
 - (i) 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. from Sunday to Thursday, and
 - (ii) 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.
 - (11) Extended hours liquor establishments located in the following areas may only remain open for business during the hours on the days set out for that area, and must otherwise be closed for business:
 - (a) Downtown and Outside Downtown – B, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. each day; and
 - (b) Outside Downtown - A:
 - (i) 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. from Sunday to Thursday, and
 - (ii) 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.
 - (12) Despite subsections (10) and (11), the Chief Licence Inspector may permit temporary extensions of liquor establishment hours.”.
5. Council strikes out section 27.1(2) and substitutes the following:
- “(2) The owner or operator of a restaurant – class 1 with liquor service or restaurant – class 2 with liquor service must not serve, or allow the serving of, liquor to any customer between 2:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on any day,
- except that the Chief Licence Inspector may reduce the hours of liquor service for a restaurant – class 1 with liquor service or restaurant – class 2 with liquor service

permanently or temporarily if, in the opinion of the Chief Licence Inspector, the hours of liquor service are creating negative community impacts.”.

6. Council adds Schedules E, F, G and H in the correct alphabetical order, as attached to this by-law as Schedule A.

7. A decision by a court that any part of this by-law is illegal, void, or unenforceable severs that part from this by-law, and is not to affect the balance of this by-law.

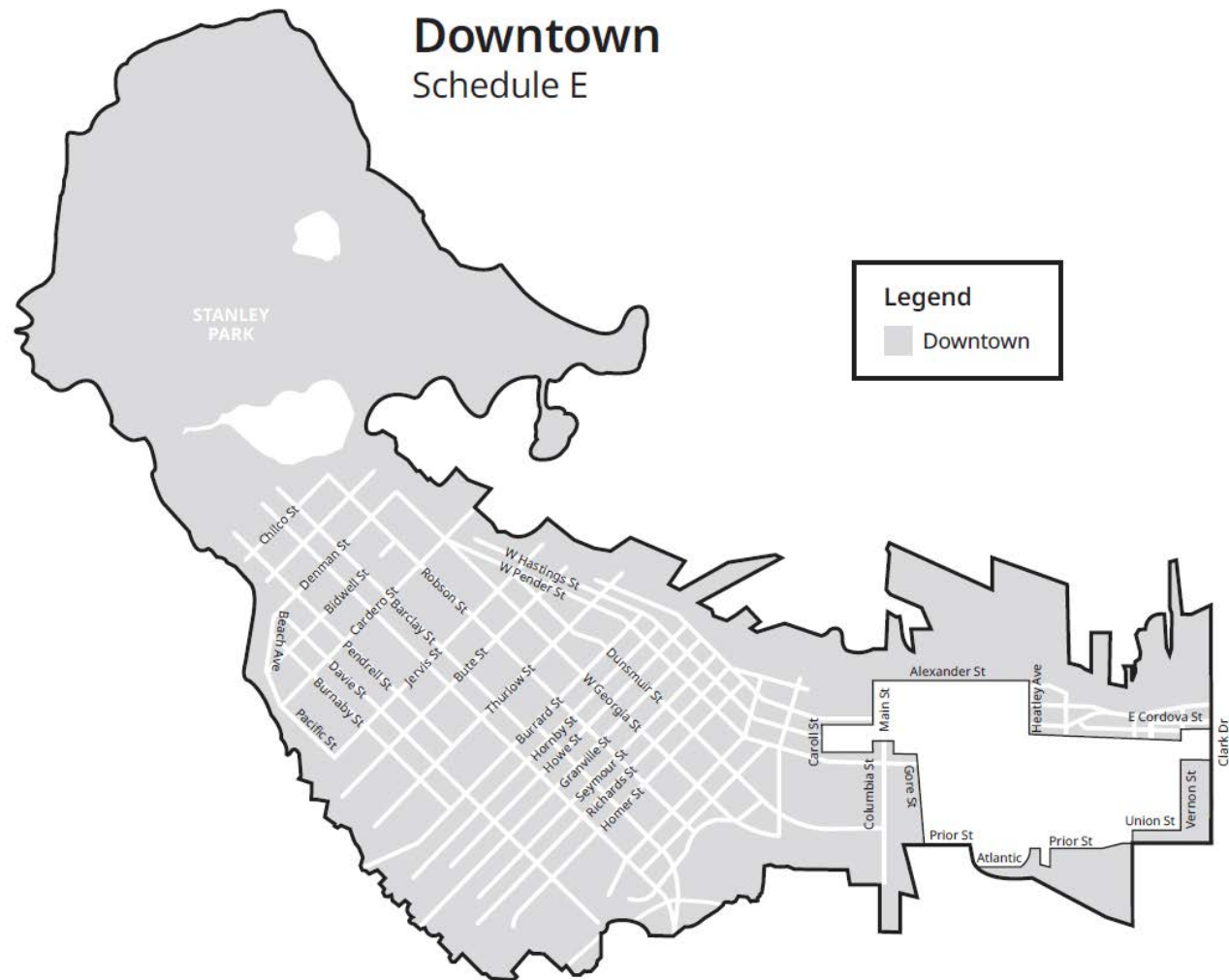
8. This by-law is to come into force and take effect on the date of its enactment.

ENACTED by Council this day of , 2025

Mayor

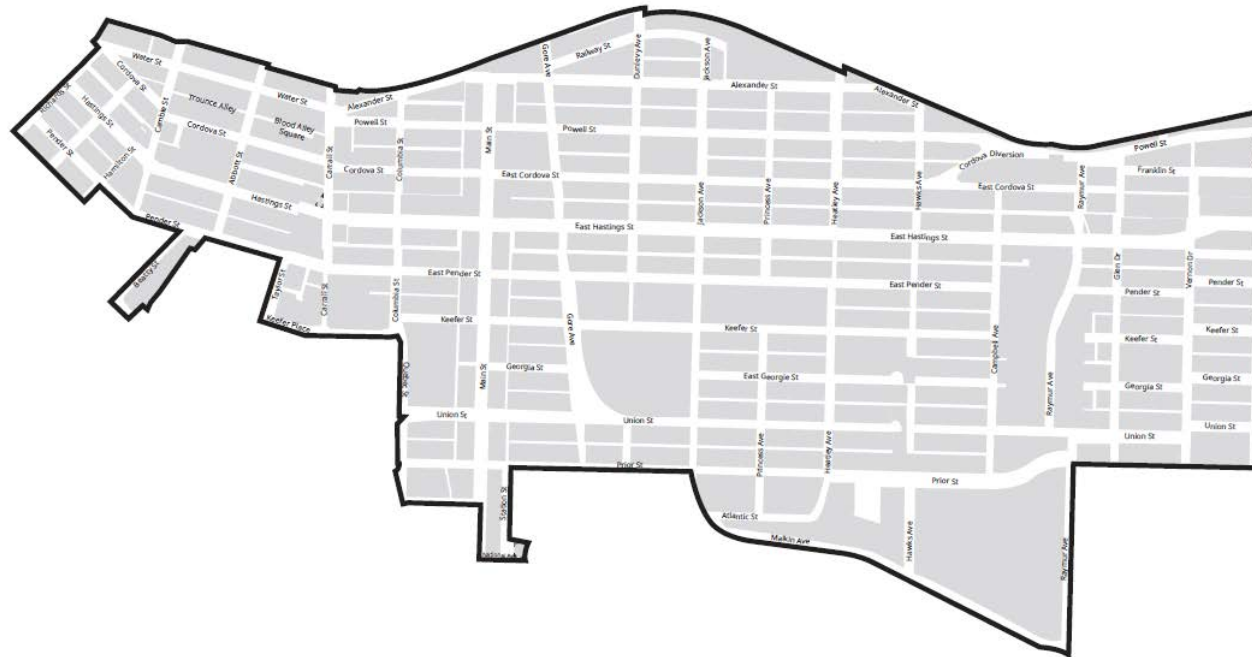
City Clerk

Schedule A



Downtown Eastside

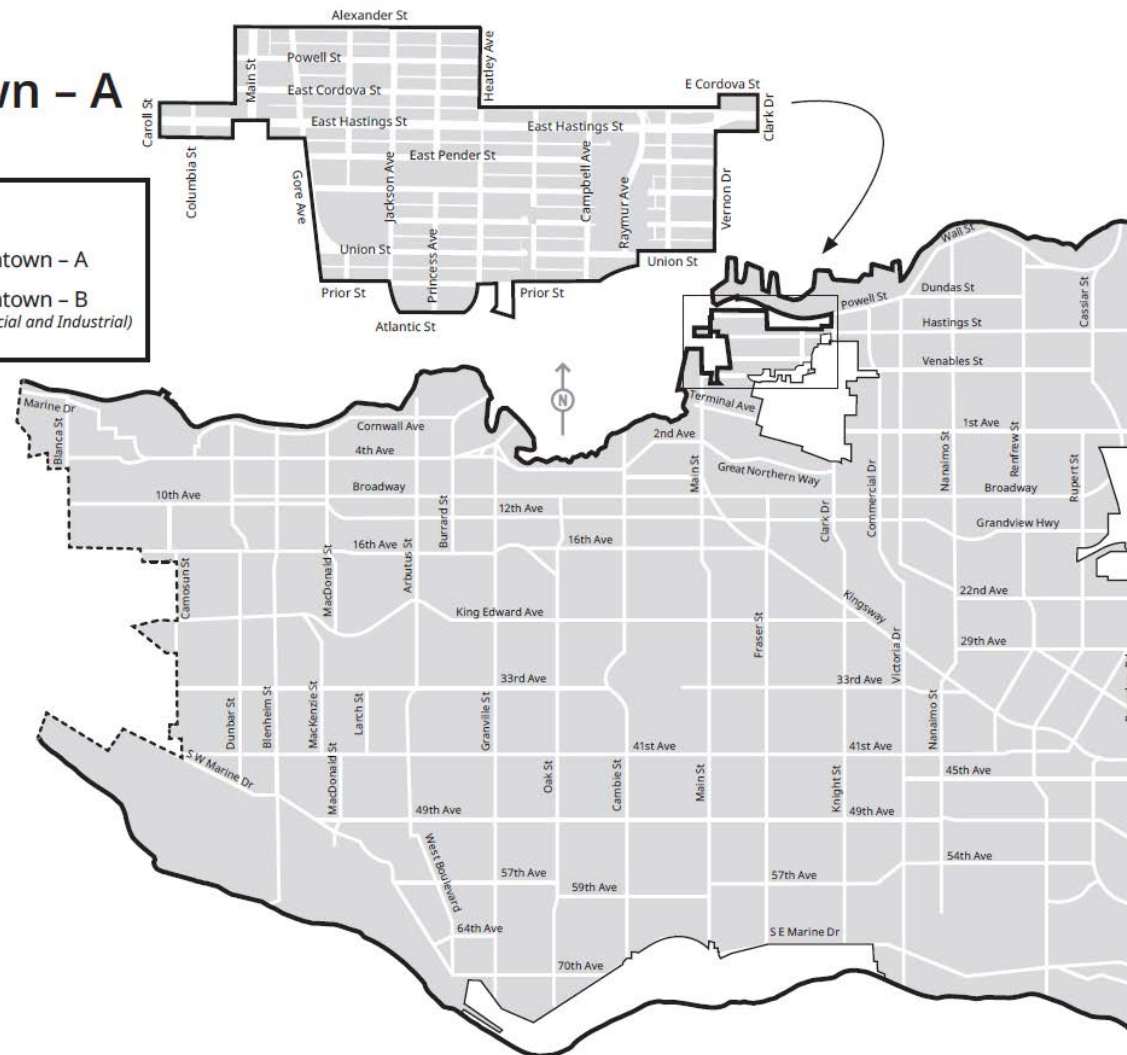
Schedule F



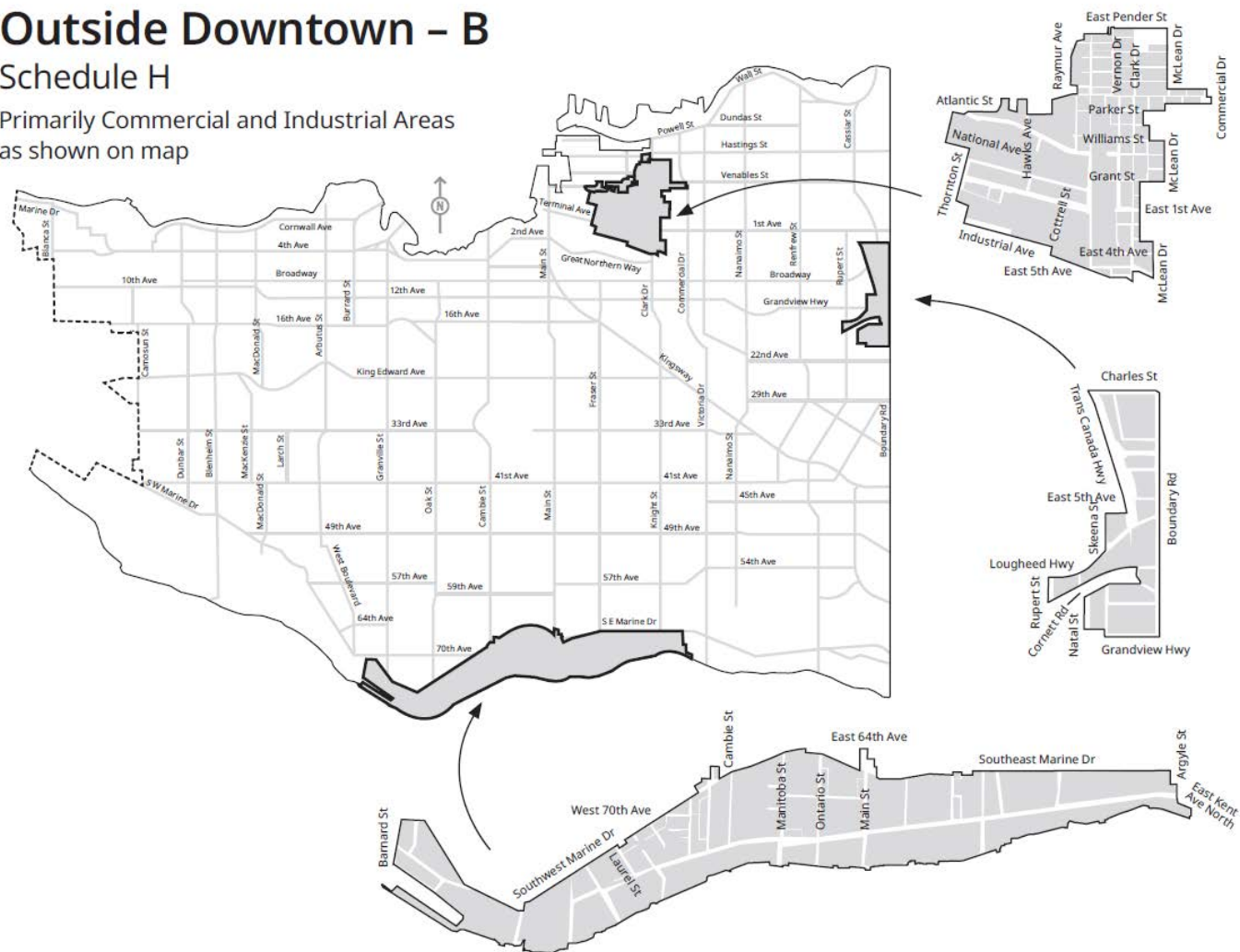
Outside Downtown – A Schedule G

Legend

- Outside Downtown – A
- Outside Downtown – B
(Primarily Commercial and Industrial)
– see Schedule H



Primarily Commercial and Industrial Areas
as shown on map



APPENDIX B**DRAFT By-law to amend
Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers By-law No. 2807
Regarding Business Hours**

Note: A By-law will be prepared generally in accordance with the provisions listed below, subject to change and refinement prior to posting.

1. This by-law amends the indicated provisions of the Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers By-law No. 2807.
2. In section 1.2, Council adds the following definition in the correct alphabetical order:
““Downtown Eastside” means that area outlined in black on Schedule C;”.
3. Council adds a new section 2.23 in the correct numerical order as follows:
“2.23 If a secondhand dealer’s premises are located in the Downtown Eastside, the premises may only remain open for business from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. each day, and must otherwise be closed for business.”.
4. Council adds a new section 3.21 in the correct numerical order as follows:
“3.21 If a pawnbroker’s premises are located in the Downtown Eastside, the premises may only remain open for business from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. each day, and must otherwise be closed for business.”.
5. In section 4, Council adds a new section 4.4 in the correct numerical order as follows:
“4.4 Despite the minimum fines referred to in sections 4.2 and 4.3, every person who commits an offence against section 2.23 or 3.21 is liable to a fine of not less than \$250.00 for each offence.”.
6. Council adds a new Schedule C in the correct alphabetical order as attached to this by-law as Schedule A.
7. A decision by a court that any part of this by-law is illegal, void, or unenforceable severs that part from this by-law, and is not to affect the balance of this by-law.
8. This by-law is to come into force and take effect on the date of its enactment.

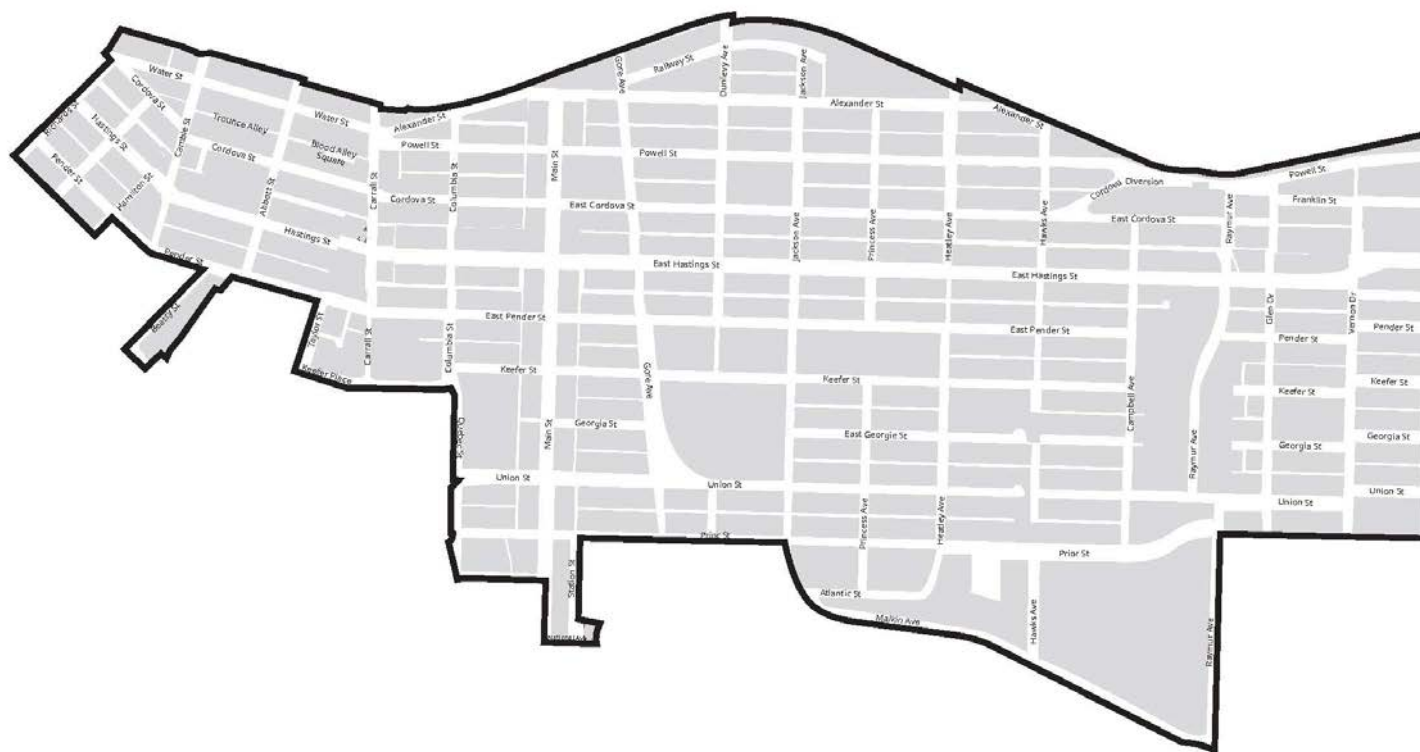
ENACTED by Council this day of , 2025

Mayor

City Clerk

Downtown Eastside

Schedule C



**DRAFT By-law to repeal
Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law No. 8022**

1. Council repeals Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law No. 8022.
2. This by-law is to come into force and take effect on the date of its enactment.

Mayor

City Clerk

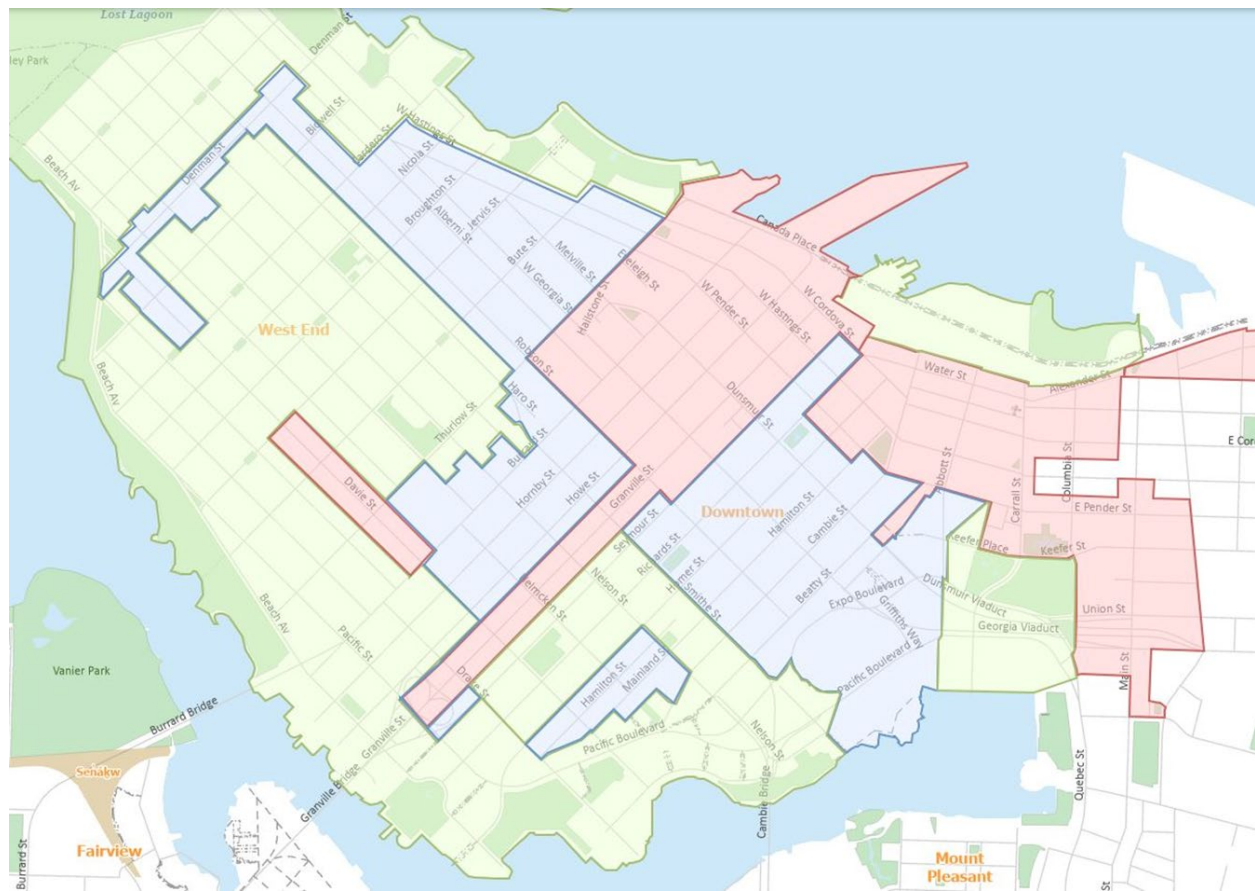
APPENDIX D**CURRENT AND PROPOSED LIQUOR ESTABLISHMENT BUSINESS HOURS****Current Hours in Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law**

Regulation Area	Standard Hours Licence	Extended Hours Licence
*Downtown – Primarily Commercial **Chinatown, Gastown, Industrial, Thornton Park, and Victory Square Non-Downtown – Primarily Commercial and Industrial	11am - 2am nightly	9am - 3am nightly
Downtown – Primarily Mixed Use	11am - 1am weeknights 11am - 2am weekends	9am - 2am weeknights 9am - 3am weekends
Downtown – Primarily Residential	11am - midnight weeknights 11am - 1am weekends	9am - 1am weeknights 9am - 2am weekends
Non-Downtown – Primarily Mixed Use	11am - midnight weeknights 11am - 1am weekends	9am - 1am weeknights 9am - 2am weekends
Non-Downtown – Primarily Residential	11am - midnight weeknights 11am - 1am weekends	9am - 1am weeknights 9am - 2am weekends
Downtown Eastside Oppenheimer District (DEOD)	11am - midnight weeknights 11am - 1am weekends	- -

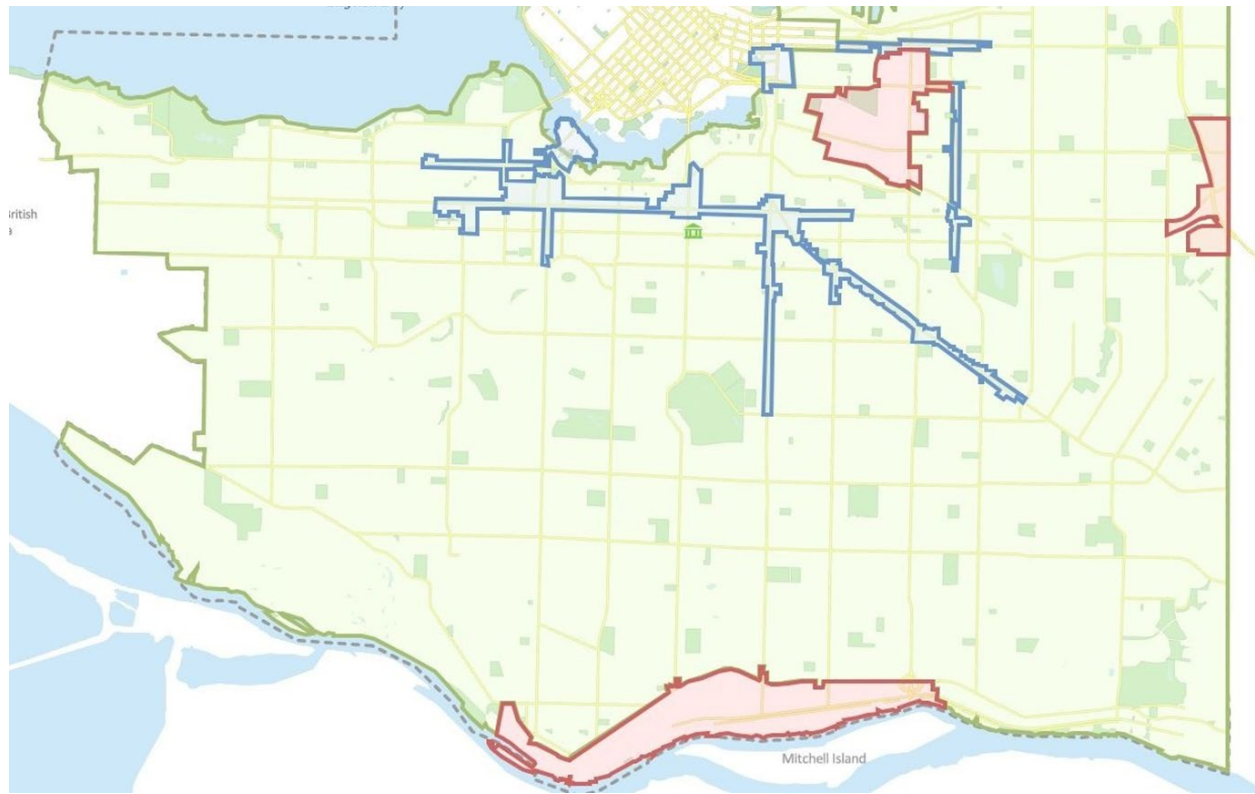
* *Downtown – Primarily Commercial includes the 1000 to 1300 blocks of Granville Street*

** *Chinatown, Gastown, Industrial, Thornton Park, and Victory Square and the 1000 to 1300 blocks of Granville Street were approved by Council to align with Downtown – Primarily Commercial hours in December 2023.*

Map of Current Downtown Regulation Areas



Red	Blue	Green
<p>Downtown – Primarily Commercial</p> <p>Chinatown, Gastown, Industrial, Thornton Park, and Victory Square</p>	<p>Downtown – Primarily Mixed Use</p>	<p>Downtown – Primarily Residential</p>

Map of Current Non-Downtown Regulation Areas

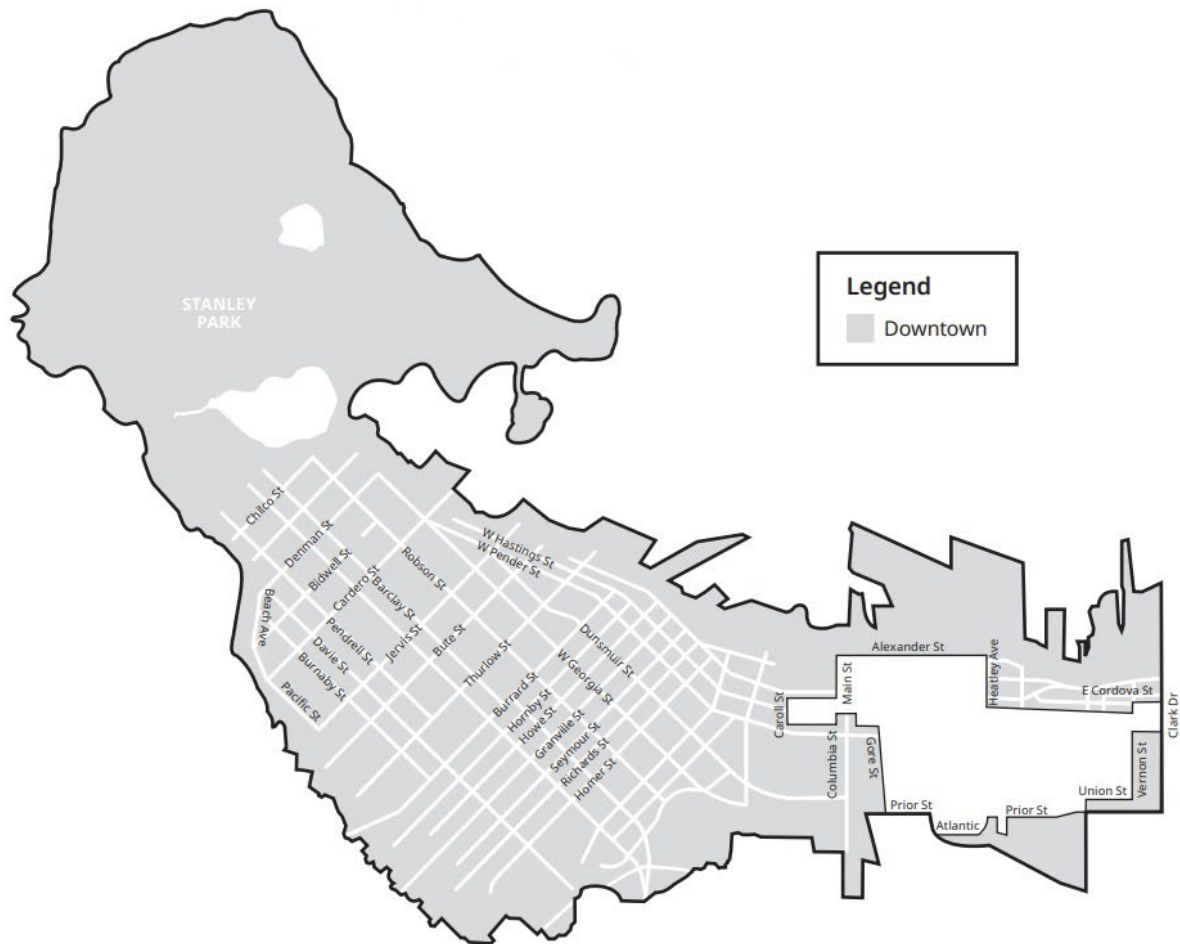
Red	Blue	Green
Non-Downtown – Primarily Commercial	Non-Downtown – Primarily Mixed Use	Non-Downtown – Primarily Residential

Proposed Hours

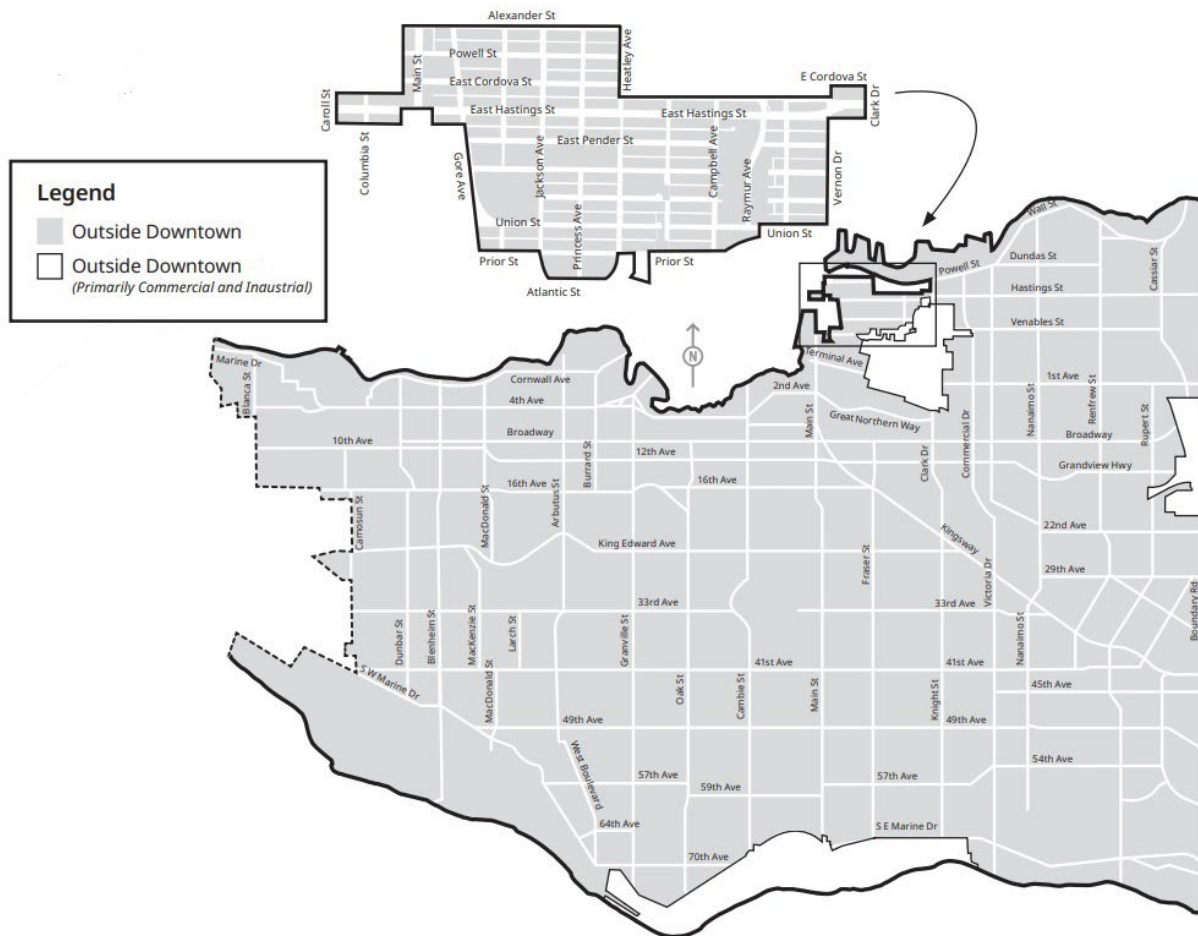
Downtown includes the Downtown peninsula and the five DTES subareas of Chinatown, Gastown, Victory Square, Thornton Park, and Industrial District. Outside Downtown includes the Downtown Eastside Oppenheimer District.

Regulation Area	Standard Hours	Extended Hours
Downtown	9am to 2am	9am to 3am
Outside Downtown	9am to 12am weeknights 9am to 1am weekends	9am to 2am weeknights 9am to 3am weekends
Outside Downtown – Primarily Industrial/Commercial	9am to 2am	9am to 3am

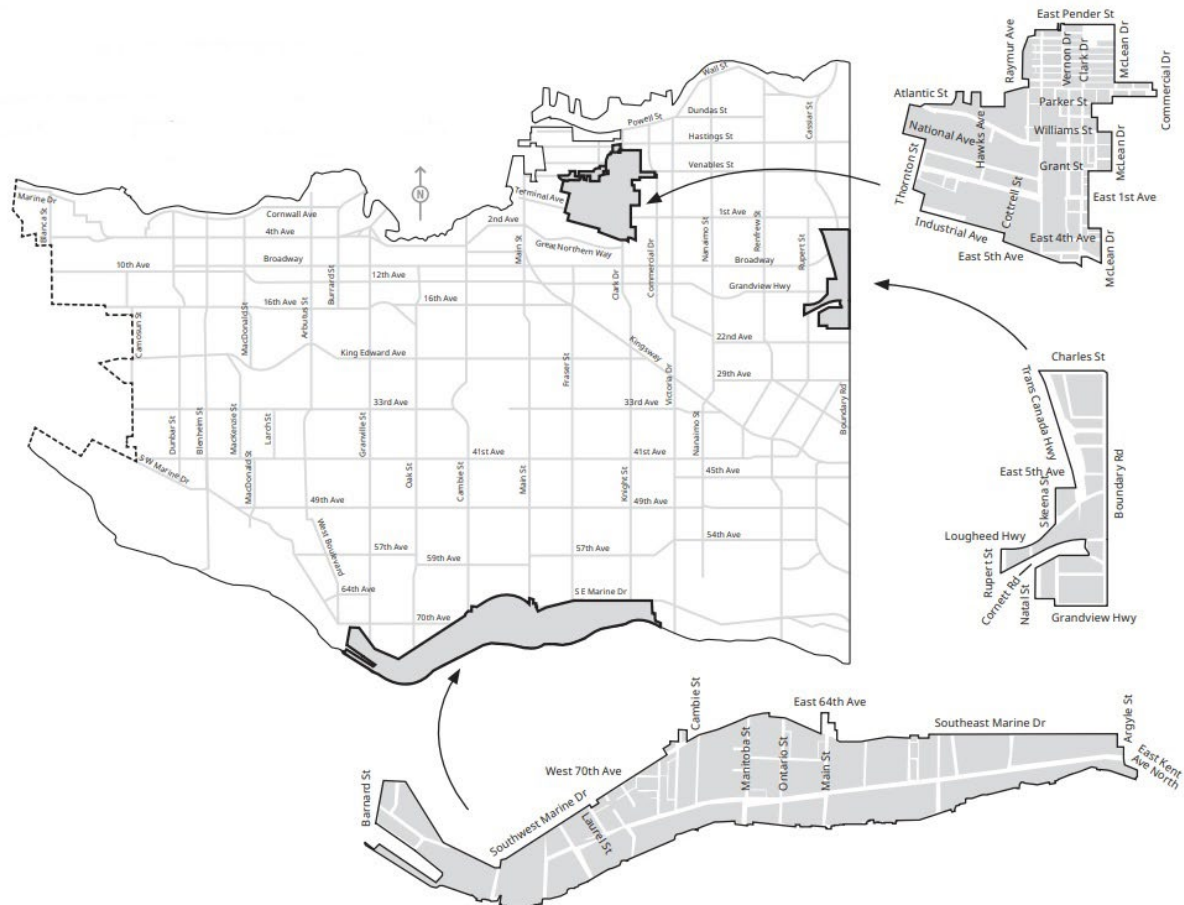
Map of Proposed Downtown Regulation Area



Map of Proposed Outside Downtown Regulation Area



Map of Proposed Outside Downtown – Primarily Commercial and Industrial Regulation Areas



APPENDIX E

POLICY ON TEMPORARY HOUR CHANGES FOR ESTABLISHMENTS WITH PROVINCIAL LIQUOR PRIMARY LICENCES

The Provincial Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch allows Establishments with a provincial Liquor Primary Licence to apply to change their hours for events a maximum of six times per year.

The City provides comments in respect to each application. The Chief Licence Inspector will consider a variety of factors prior to making a decision on each application including but not limited to Vancouver Police Department comments, enforcement history and feedback, comments and complaints from area residents.

Latest temporary hours allowed are up to 4am.

APPENDIX F

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Organizations, businesses and groups consulted

Aegir Consulting Inc. Atira Bagheera Hospitality BarWatch Blau and Associates Blue Diamond Hospitality Blue Print Brighton Public House Cabana Chinatown BIA Coordinated Community Response Network Downtown Eastside Women's Center Downtown Vancouver BIA Dunbar Village BIA Fringe Café Gastown BIA Good Night Out Hastings Crossing BIA Hastings North BIA Hospitality Working Group Restaurants Canada Rising Tide Consulting BC Craft Brewers Guild ABLE BC BC Restaurant & Food Services Association Blueprint Hospitality Vancouver Association	IRL Group Kerrisdale BIA Leo's Group Liquor and Cannabis Regulations Branch Marquis Wines Mothers Against Drunk Driving Mount Pleasant BIA MRG Group (Vogue, Slate, Yale Saloon) No 5 Orange PACE Parlour Parq Public Safety and Solicitor General, BC Government Pumpjack Pub Robson Street BIA South Granville BIA Strathcona BIA The Biltmore The Pint Thrive Advisors Vancouver Coastal Health Vancouver Police Department Victoria Drive BIA West Broadway BIA West End BIA WISH
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BIA Members Survey – October 28 to November 19, 2024

Survey Instrument	Representation	# of Participants
Online Survey	Members from 6 BIAs: Commercial Drive Downtown Vancouver Gastown Hastings Crossing Hastings North Mount Pleasant Robson South Granville Yaletown	45

Shape Your City Survey – February 18 to March 9, 2025

Survey Instrument	Representation	# of Respondents
Online Survey	Vancouver Metro Vancouver (excluding Vancouver) Outside Metro Vancouver	3,700

Key Proposals to Liquor Establishment Operating Hours and Restaurant Liquor Service Hours – Stakeholder feedback from organizations, businesses and groups**Allowing later closing times at Liquor Establishments**

Feedback overwhelmingly supported expanding Liquor Establishment closing hours. Some business owners and BIAs outside Downtown stressed a desire for one set of operating hours citywide, while some Downtown business owners and one BIA noted that operating hours should be later in the Downtown core.

Community Service Groups did not oppose later closing times but noted that any change to expand hours should be done in consideration of late-night transit and impact on local and vulnerable populations. Expanded hours of liquor service should be accompanied by increased late night services particularly for people who are vulnerable to gender-based violence.

Aligning opening hours for Liquor Establishments citywide

Significant support to align opening hours for all Liquor Establishments to 9am. Business owners and industry associations noted this change supports businesses and provides expanded opportunities. Across stakeholder groups, there was agreement that alignment of opening hours streamlines and simplifies regulations.

Expanding Liquor Service to 2am for Restaurants on weekdays to align with weekends

Overall support across stakeholder groups to expand and align liquor service hours at Restaurants to 2am. There are also notable reservations from liquor establishments to extending liquor service hours at restaurants.

Key Proposals to Liquor Establishment Operating Hours and Restaurant Liquor Service Hours – BIA members survey feedback

Overall, survey responses indicate strong support for earlier opening hours and later closing hours for liquor establishments in both Downtown and outside Downtown and support for longer liquor service hours at restaurants.

Key Proposals to Liquor Establishment Operating Hours and Restaurant Liquor Service Hours – Shape Your City respondents' feedback

Feedback overwhelmingly supported extending and streamlining Liquor Establishment closing hours to 3am, seven nights a week across Downtown. For closing hours outside Downtown, the survey asked the public to pick their preferred option out of the following:

1. Keep current hours
2. Extend weekday hours only

3. Extend weekend hours only
4. Extend all hours to be the same as the latest Downtown hours

While a majority preferred the option to extend hours to be the same citywide, 17% of respondents preferred to keep the current operating hours outside Downtown as their top option. Survey respondents identified neighbourhood vibrancy, more opportunities to business and a boost to local economies as the top benefits of later closing hours and lack of late-night transportation, public safety and noise and nuisance as their top concerns.

Survey respondents overwhelmingly support longer service hours at restaurants.

Seventy-four per cent of respondents either work, own or operate a business in Vancouver. Sixty-seven per cent of respondents are between the ages of 30 and 60 years old; 25% are within 20-29 years old.

A summary of the survey feedback is available at shapeyourcity.ca/liquor-hours.

APPENDIX G

VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH SUBMISSION

Alcohol Consumption and Health Outcomes

Prepared for the City of Vancouver

Dr. Mark Lysyshyn
Medical Health Officer* for the City of Vancouver
June 2025

*Medical Health Officers are required under the BC Public Health Act to advise local governments in an independent manner on public health issues, including on bylaws and policies that could impact the health of the population. The messages in this presentation reflect the advice of the Medical Health Officer.



Key Message 1: Health Risks

- Alcohol consumption is associated with numerous health risks including, cancer, heart disease, liver damage, unintentional injuries, violence, addiction and death.
- Canada's new guidance on Alcohol and Health (2023) recommends that Canadians consider reducing their alcohol consumption based on the continuum of risk. **The guidelines tell us that even drinking 1-2 standard drinks per week carries risk for you and others and no amount of alcohol is good for you.**

New Canadian Guidance on Alcohol and Health – January 2023



Canadian Centre
on Substance Use
and Addiction

Evidence. Engagement. Impact.

Risk associated with alcohol use:

- cancer
- heart disease and high blood pressure
- inflammation of the gastrointestinal system
- liver damage
- unintentional injuries
- violence, child abuse, neglect
- alcohol use disorder
- death

Alcohol consumption per week



Source: Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health: Final Report. Ottawa: Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, 2023. https://www.ccsa.ca/sites/default/files/2023-01/CCSA_Canadas_Guidance_on_Alcohol_and_Health_Final_Report_en.pdf.

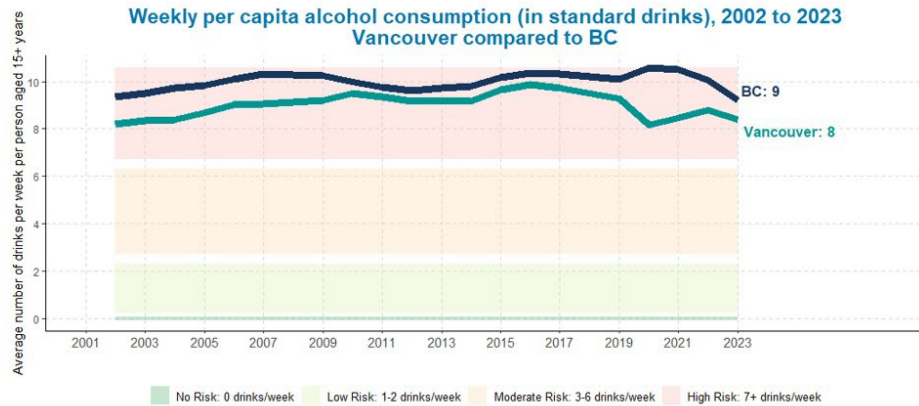
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Key Message 2: High Consumption rates

- Alcohol consumption in BC is higher on average than other provinces.
- Alcohol consumption in Vancouver is high, with residents consuming an average of 8 standard drinks per week, significantly increasing the risk of alcohol-related harms for themselves and others.
- Average alcohol consumption varies across the city:
 - Vancouver City Centre = 16 standard drinks per week
 - Vancouver Centre North = 10 standard drinks per week
 - Vancouver Midtown = 9 standard drinks per week.
 - South Vancouver = with 4 standard drinks per week, the lowest rate of consumption.

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Alcohol consumption in Vancouver compared to BC



Prepared by: VCH Public Health Surveillance Unit, June 2025

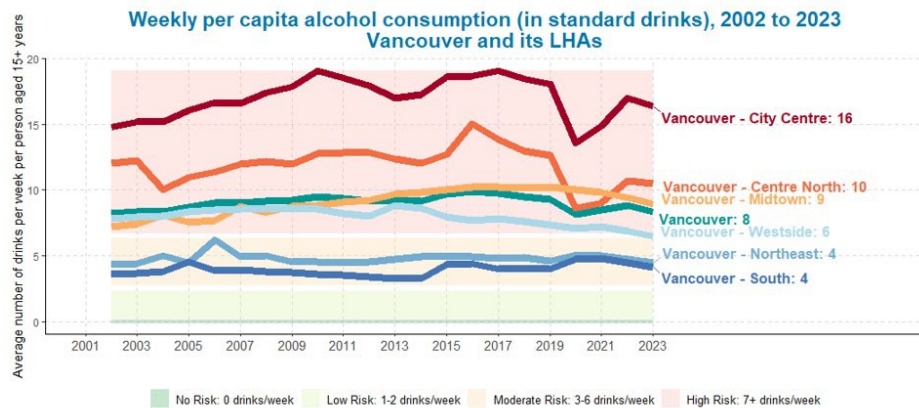
Data source: Canadian Institute of Substance Use Research, University of Victoria, February 2025

Note: Estimates are based on sales data from the BC Liquor Distribution Branch and the Ubrew/Uvin data from the BC Liquor Control and Licensing Branch. One standard drink contains approximately 17mL of pure alcohol, this amount is found in a typical bottle of beer, a glass of wine, or a shot of spirits. Risk levels follow the recommendations by Canada's Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines.

Note: Vancouver value includes UBC.

5

Alcohol consumption by Vancouver Local Health Area



Prepared by: VCH Public Health Surveillance Unit, June 2025

Data source: Canadian Institute of Substance Use Research, University of Victoria, February 2025

Note: Estimates are based on sales data from the BC Liquor Distribution Branch and the Ubrew/Uvin data from the BC Liquor Control and Licensing Branch. One standard drink contains approximately 17mL of pure alcohol, this amount is found in a typical bottle of beer, a glass of wine, or a shot of spirits. Risk levels follow the recommendations by Canada's Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines.

Note: Vancouver value includes UBC.

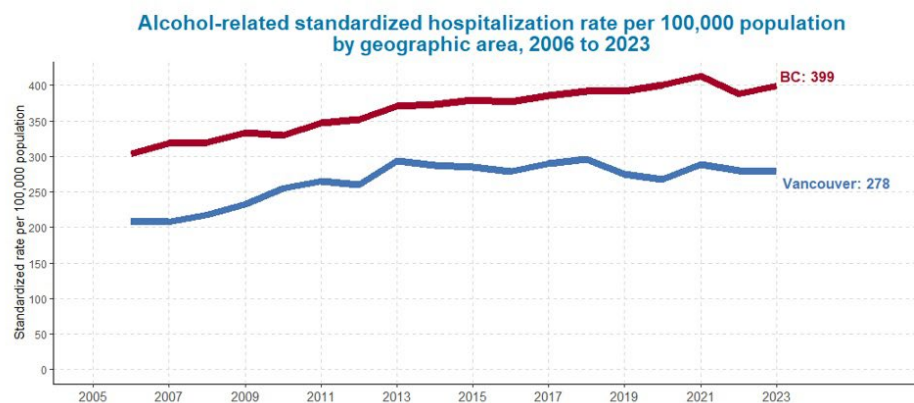
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Key Message 3: Hospitalizations and deaths

- Alcohol-related harms among Vancouver residents, including hospitalizations and deaths, are high and have been increasing in recent years, placing a significant burden on the health care system, as well as police and other emergency response service providers.

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Alcohol-related hospitalization in Vancouver compared to BC

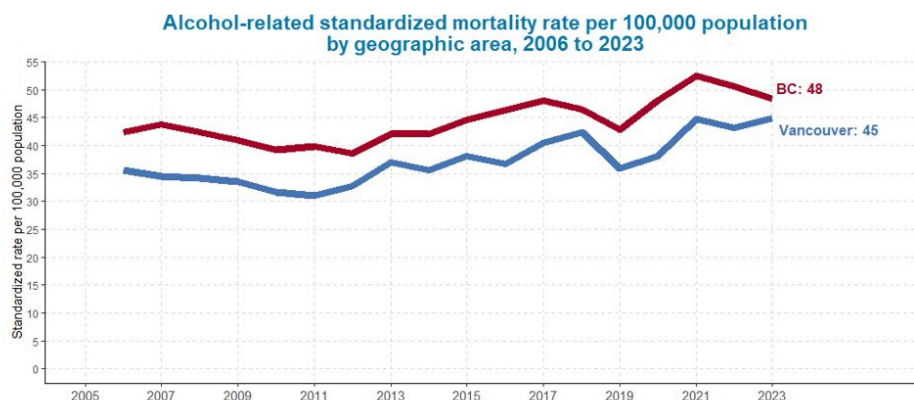


Prepared by: VCH Public Health Surveillance Unit, June 2025
Data source: Canadian Institute of Substance Use Research, University of Victoria, May 2025
Notes: Hospitalizations are calculated using the condition-based alcohol attributable fraction method. This technique is widely used globally for quantifying alcohol-caused health harm.

Note: Vancouver value includes UBC.

8

Alcohol-related death in Vancouver compared to BC



Prepared by: VCH Public Health Surveillance Unit, June 2025

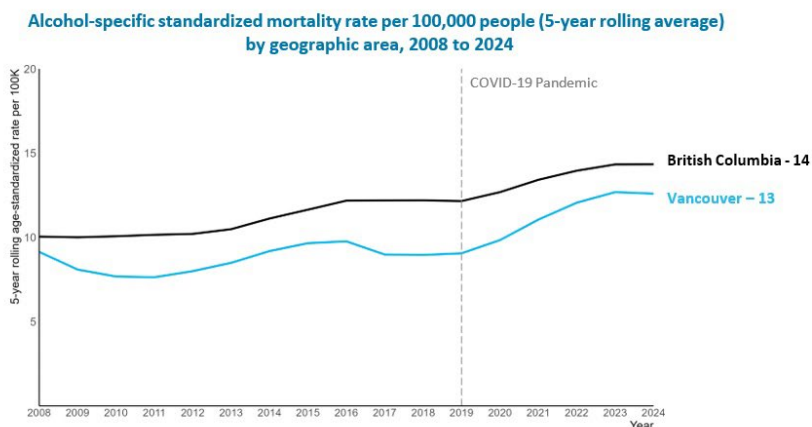
Data source: Canadian Institute of Substance Use Research, University of Victoria, May 2025

Notes: Deaths are calculated using the condition-based alcohol attributable fraction method. This technique is widely used globally for quantifying alcohol-caused health harm.

Note: Vancouver value includes UBC.

9

Alcohol-specific death in Vancouver compared to BC



Prepared by: BC Observatory for Population & Public Health, BCCDC.

Data source: BC Vital Statistics.

Note: Alcohol-specific deaths only include health conditions where each death is a direct consequence of alcohol. It does not include all deaths that can be attributed to alcohol. The ICD-10 codes used in this analysis are E24.4, F10, G62.1, G31.2, G72.1, I42.6, K29.2, K70, K85.2, K86.0, R78.0, X45, X65, Y15 [1,2,3]. All inferences, opinions, and conclusions drawn in this report are those of the authors, and do not reflect the opinions or policies of the Data Steward(s).

Note: Vancouver value includes UBC.

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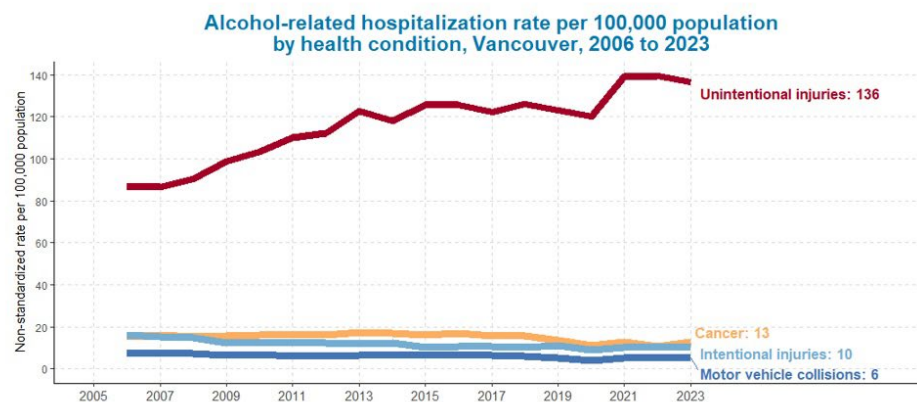
Key Message 4: Increased availability = increased harm

- Expanding the hours of alcohol sales, particularly into the early hours of the morning is predicted to increase the risk of certain alcohol-related harms such as unintentional injuries. Hospitalizations for alcohol-related unintentional injuries among Vancouver residents are high and have been increasing significantly in recent years.
- Regulating the physical availability of alcohol, by limiting the number, location, and operating hours of licensed establishments is one of the most effective strategies to reduce consumption and related harms. **Stated another way, increasing alcohol availability is likely to increase consumption and harm.**
- This is clear in Vancouver, where the areas with the greatest access to alcohol, such as Vancouver City Centre, have the highest rates of binge drinking.

World Health Organization (WHO) [2018], Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health 2018, internet, [Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health 2018 - World Health Organization - Google Books](#)

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Alcohol-related hospitalization in Vancouver - by health condition

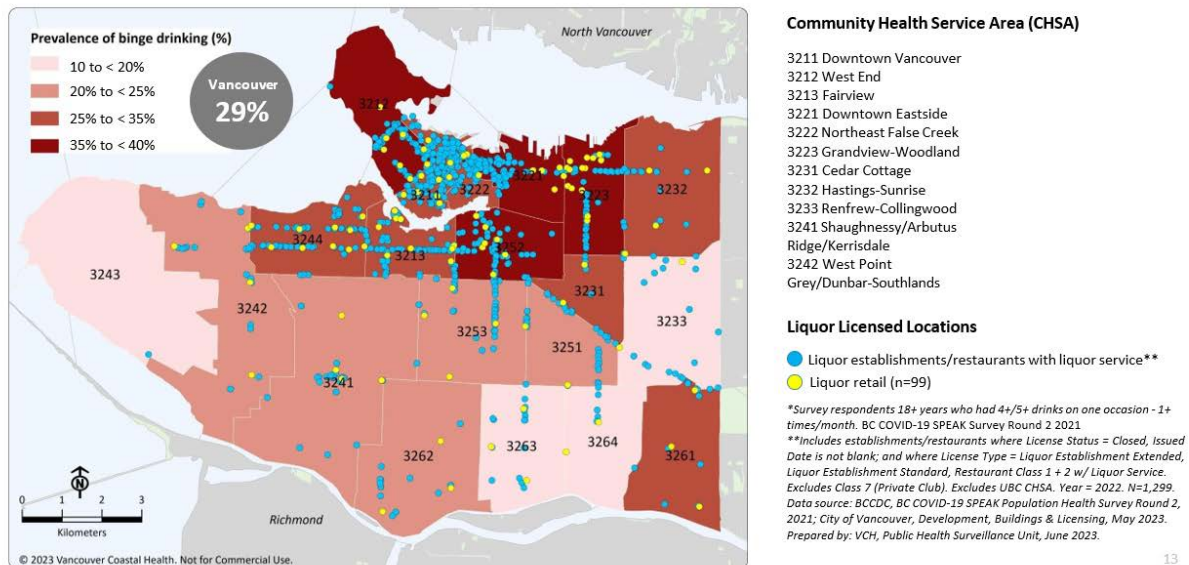


Prepared by: VCH Public Health Surveillance Unit, June 2025
Data source: Canadian Institute of Substance Use Research, University of Victoria, May 2025
Notes: Hospitalizations are calculated using the condition-based alcohol attributable fraction method. This technique is widely used globally for quantifying alcohol-caused health harm.

Note: Vancouver value includes UBC.

12

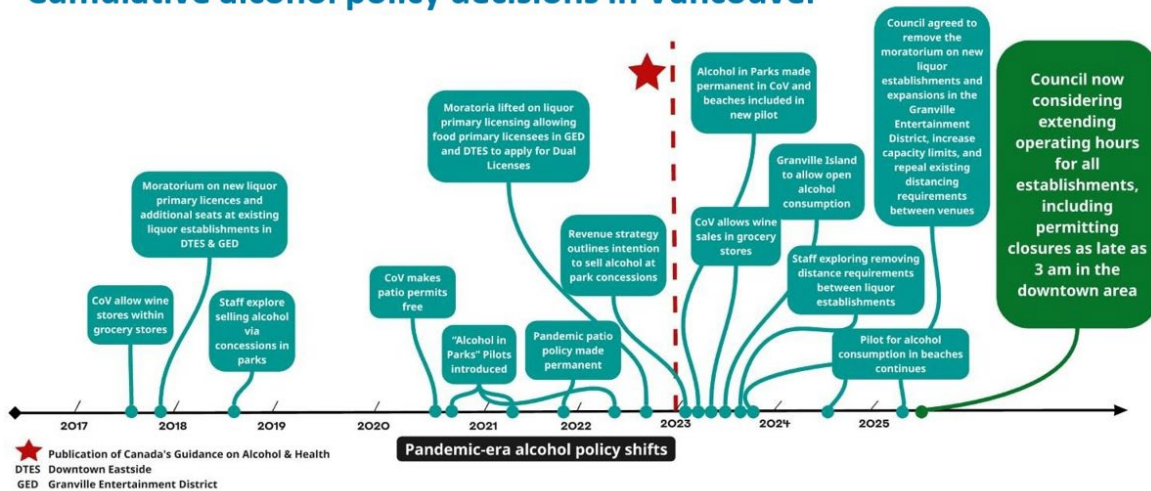
Prevalence of binge drinking (among drinkers) and proximity to licensed liquor establishments in Vancouver



Key Message 5 – Vancouver has significantly expanded alcohol access

- In recent years, City of Vancouver has significantly expanded alcohol access - expanding retail sales, normalizing public consumption, lifting restrictions in high-impact areas, and promoting alcohol-friendly urban design. **Over the past five years, at least 11 policy changes have contributed to this shift.**
- These cumulative policy changes reflect a substantial and ongoing liberalization of alcohol regulation in Vancouver, often framed as efforts to make the city more 'fun.'
- **Although risks related to alcohol are well known, alcohol is now more accessible than ever in Vancouver, at a time where public services such as the health care system are increasingly straining to meet demands.**

Cumulative alcohol policy decisions in Vancouver



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Recommendation

That the City of Vancouver maintain current operating hours at liquor establishments to prevent further increases in alcohol consumption and harms in the City of Vancouver.

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APPENDIX H

LATE-NIGHT TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

SkyTrain Constraints

Engineering Services is frequently in discussions with TransLink on transportation needs in Vancouver, including the expansion of late-night transit services. In 2019, TransLink released a [report](#) on late-night services, outlining the impacts of extending and expanding transportation options. Following a recent review on late-night transit in 2024, City of Vancouver staff have confirmed with TransLink in April of 2025 that the conclusions from the 2019 late-night transit study remain current.

Today, there are three automated rapid transit SkyTrain lines operating around Metro Vancouver, including the Expo Line, the Millenium Line and the Canada Line. The last train departure times for these lines vary, though most terminate service around 1AM. SkyTrain service terminates around 1AM because it requires gaps in service to maintain the track and vehicles. As an automated network, SkyTrain operations and maintenance teams use the non-revenue hours of service to perform critical safety checks on the Automatic Train Control System, as well as other Fire Life Safety Systems such as tunnel ventilation. The independent consultant on the 2019 study determined that extending SkyTrain operating hours to 24-hour service on Friday and Saturdays would significantly reduce the time available for essential maintenance, making such an extension unfeasible at this time. Further,

- Extending Friday and Saturday hours requires making up lost maintenance hours during the week. This would result in the cancellation of the last hour of Sunday to Thursday service and part-closures of SkyTrain during Statutory Holidays, which results in a net negative impact on ridership numbers (affecting last-hour weekday passengers).
- Currently, SkyTrain opens about an hour later on Saturdays and two hours later on Sunday/Holidays than on weekdays. These longer weekend maintenance windows provide staff with more time to perform maintenance operations than weeknight maintenance windows. Without these longer maintenance periods, staff will have insufficient time to complete complicated SkyTrain maintenance tasks like replacing rail components.

Current late-night transit options

TransLink continues to operate a [NightBus service](#) to provide overnight service on key corridors, mirroring the SkyTrain system and major daytime bus routes to serve customers after the SkyTrain closes.

- TransLink's NightBus network begins in the Granville Entertainment District after the SkyTrain closes at 1:30am
 - Buses leave every 20 to 30 minutes, seven nights a week
 - There are 10 NightBus routes that serve the North Shore, Burnaby, New Westminister, the Tri-Cities, Surrey, Richmond, and Vancouver

Current and future plans/funding to expand late night transit

TransLink has expressed the need for additional funding to support the addition of new night bus routes or to increase the frequency of existing bus routes. Through TransLink's [Access for](#)

[Everyone Plan](#), late-night bus-service is planned for expansion, with ~1/3 of routes (approximately 70 bus routes) with 24-hour service, and most other routes running from early morning until midnight or later. However, the Plan is currently unfunded, and implementation is subject to expansion funding.

TransLink's 2024 Investment Plan includes some limited funding for additional evening service, such as extending hours of operation on 11 bus routes in the late evening (though these bus routes are outside of Vancouver). The 2025 Investment Plan does not include funding for late-night transit service, which is instead pushed to later Investment Plans.

APPENDIX I**PROPOSED LICENCE CONDITIONS TO REMOVE****Liquor Establishments**

Category	By-law Section 21.3	Licence Condition	Applies to
Name Plate	1(a)	wear, and cause each employee who works in the liquor establishment as a manager, door attendant, server, busser, or security person to wear, a name plate that is clearly visible and that shows an identification number;	Class 1 to 7
Employee List	1(b)	maintain a list showing the full name, address, telephone number, and identification number of any person required to wear such a name plate;	Class 1 to 7
	1(c)	allow the Inspector or Chief Constable to inspect and copy such list at any time;	Class 1 to 7
Employee Training Program	1(d)	require that all serving and bar staff participate in a training program, satisfactory to the Inspector, that includes responsible serving practices, emergency procedures, preventing and managing aggressive behaviour, awareness of drug use and abuse, and city and provincial operating regulations;	Class 1 to 7
	1(e)	ensure that each new employee completes the training program referred to in clause (d) within 120 days from his or her date of commencing employment;	Class 1 to 7
	1(f)	maintain a list showing the full name of each employee including the employee's date of employment, and completion date of training;	Class 1 to 7
	1(g)	allow the Inspector, Chief Constable, or city Fire Chief to inspect and copy such list at any time;	Class 1 to 7
Minimum Drink Price/ Size & Alcohol Content	1(h)	refrain from selling, or offering for sale, an alcoholic beverage at a retail price of less than \$3.00 per standard serving, inclusive of taxes, being: (i) one fluid ounce of spirits having an alcoholic content of 17% or more, served on its own or in a mixed beverage, (ii) five fluid ounces of wine having an alcoholic content of 1.5% or more, or (iii) 20 fluid ounces of beer, cider or a cooler, having an alcoholic content of 1.5% or more;	Class 1 to 7
	1(i)	calculate pro rata the minimum price of an alcoholic beverage containing a fraction of one standard serving;	Class 1 to 7

	1(j)	ensure that a list is available to customers that provides the standard drink size, or the size in fluid ounces or millilitres and the percentage of alcohol per volume, for all beer, wine and spirits sold, and that customers are made aware that such list is available	Class 1 to 7
Membership and Guest Ledger	2(a)	maintain, at the liquor establishment, a current list of names and addresses of members of the club in which the liquor establishment is situate;	Class 7
	2(b)	allow only members of the club and their guests, as permitted by this section, to attend the liquor establishment;	Class 7
	2(c)	require members to sponsor guests, and to sign in the guests in a guest register including the name and address of the guest and the date; and	Class 7
	2(d)	allow the Inspector or Chief Constable to inspect and copy the guest register at any time, and retain any guest register for two years.	Class 7
Security/Door Staff Requirements	3(a)	require that each employee the licensee hires to provide security, and uses to satisfy the requirements of subsection (c), participates in a training program, satisfactory to the Inspector, that includes access control, search techniques, personal safety, conflict management and incident report writing;	Class 3 to 6
	3(b)	ensure that each employee referred to in subsection (a) completes the training program referred to in section clause (a) within 120 days from his or her date of commencing employment;	Class 3 to 6
First-Aid Requirement	5(c)	ensure that one employee who has first aid certification is on duty in the liquor establishment from and after the earlier of: (a) 9 p.m., and (b) the number of customers exceeding 500, until closing.	Class 5 to 6

Restaurants

Category	By-law Section 27.1	Licence Condition
Liquor on Tables	2(b)	not allow liquor on tables between: (i) 1:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Monday to Friday, and (ii) 2:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Saturday or Sunday;
Offer Full Menu	2(c)	during all hours of allowable liquor service, offer the full restaurant menu to customers;

Drink Size / % of Alcohol	2(d)	ensure that a list is available to customers that provides the standard drink size, or the size in fluid ounces or millilitres and the percentage of alcohol per volume, for all beer, wine and spirits sold, and that customers are made aware that such list is available.
Financial Records	2(e) 2 (f) 2(g)	have financial records, and a ratio of receipts from food sales to liquor sales, that are consistent with a restaurant use; keep the records and receipts referred to in subsection (d) for at least one year, and show them to the Inspector upon request; and keep sales receipts for all sales of food and liquor for at least one year, and show them to the Inspector upon request.