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October 27, 2014

To: All Local Government and First Nations

To Whom It May Concern:

As you may be aware, John Yap, Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice for Liquor Policy Reform, led a stakeholder engagement and public consultation on modernizing B.C.'s liquor laws and made 73 recommendations, all of which have been accepted by government. The recommendations reflect the input received during the stakeholder and public consultations last fall.

Recommendation #42 relates to identifying target timelines for resolving liquor licence applications and reads as follows:

In the interest of customer service, First Nations, local and provincial governments should identify target timelines to resolve all applications related to liquor licensing.

The purpose of this letter is to bring this to your attention, and in the spirit of the recommendation, to ask for your help in communicating your own timelines to applicants wherever possible. For our part, we endeavour to indicate processing times on our application forms – such as 4-6 weeks for a food-primary or 7-12 months for a liquor-primary application and 14 business days for a temporary change. These timelines include time for local government or First Nations input where required, and we recognize that sometimes these have to be extended. Anticipated timelines at the local government input stage would further help applicants to plan their next steps.

Thank you very much for your help in this regard.

Sincerely,

Douglas S. Scott
Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager

cc:
UBCM Liquor Policy Working Group

Liquor Control and
Licensing Branch

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