

Cannabis Retail Store Licensing

Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch

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What We will be Covering

- End to End Application and Licensing Process
- Local governments' Role in Licensing
- Indigenous Nations' Role in Licensing

End to End Application and Licensing Process

Licensing depends on:

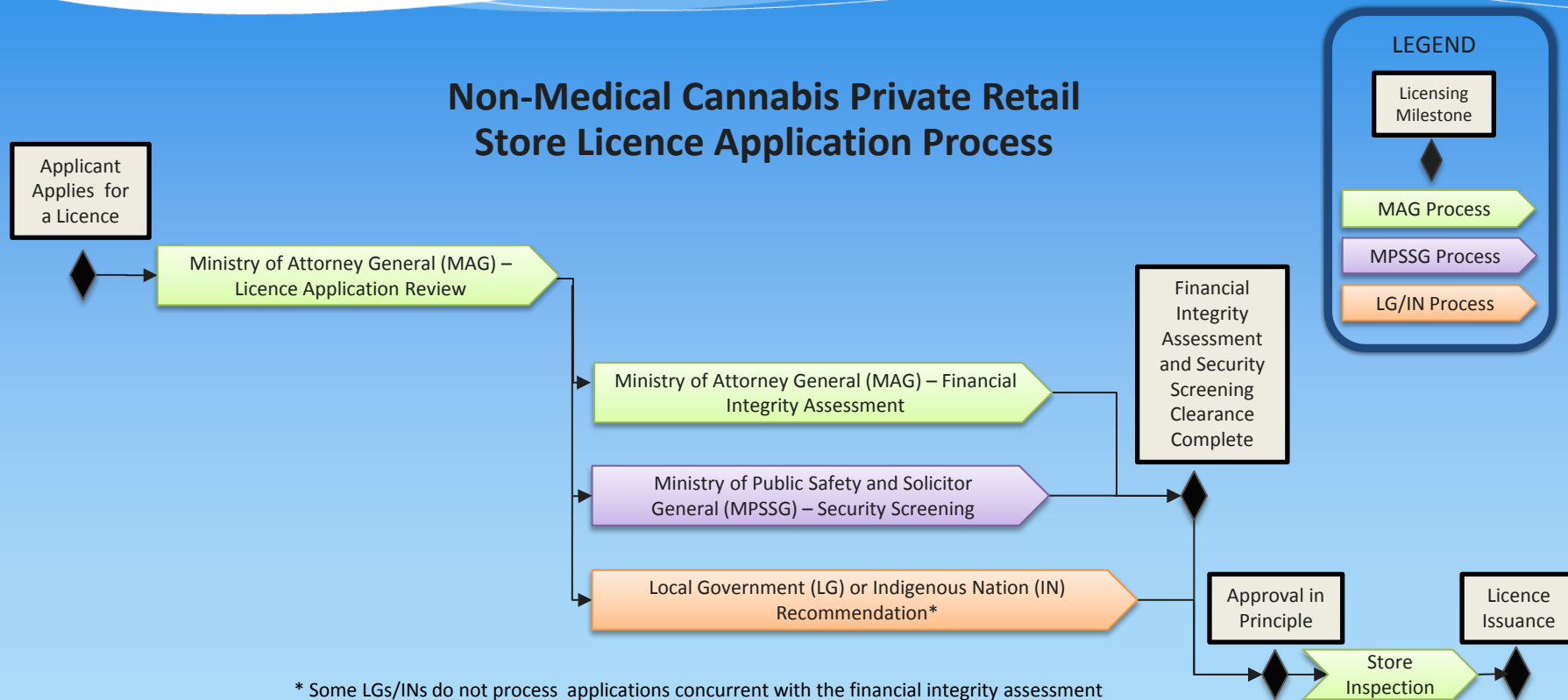


1. Applications can't be assessed until they're complete and the \$7500 fee has been paid.

2. The Province will not issue a licence without support from the local government or Indigenous nation.

3. Applicants must submit info for business financial integrity assessments and consent for security screening.

Non-Medical Cannabis Private Retail Store Licence Application Process



* Some LGs/INs do not process applications concurrent with the financial integrity assessment and security screening processes, therefore processing times may be longer in such cases.

Local Governments' (LG) Role in Licensing

Notice of Application

1. LCRB reviews applications to make sure they're complete
2. Once complete, LCRB notifies local government
3. The LG can choose whether to provide a recommendation or not
4. If the LG chooses not to provide a recommendation, LCRB terminates the application

LG Recommendation

- If the LG decides to provide a recommendation, there are requirements the LG must follow
- **LCRB will not issue a licence without positive LG recommendation**
- Recommendation process requires public input

Requirements:

- Consideration of location
- Assessment of community impacts
- Views of residents
- How residents' views were gathered
- Recommendation & rationale
- In writing (e.g. a resolution)

Regulatory Powers of Local Governments

Regulatory powers of LGs

LGs may:

- Impose restrictions on store locations in their zoning bylaws
- Charge applicants fees for assessing applications
- Municipalities only (not regional districts or local trust committees): limit hours of operation or impose other conditions (i.e. signage)

These powers also apply to future relocations of existing cannabis retail stores

Indigenous Nations' Role in Licensing

Differences from LG process

The process and regulatory powers are similar to those for LGs (as previously outlined), however there are key differences which reflect the unique rights of Indigenous nations:

- The Cannabis Control and Licensing Act (CCLA) gives the Province ability to enter into agreements with Indigenous nations that can vary the requirements under the CCLA
- An Indigenous nation can apply for a cannabis retail store licence in its own name – without being incorporated as a business

Indigenous Nations Applying

If an Indigenous nation applies for a licence in its own name:

- LCRB will work closely with the Indigenous nations and their partners
- There isn't a 'one size fits all' approach/application document, so each case would be treated uniquely

LG or Indigenous Nation Recommendation - Recap

YES → LCRB retains discretion whether or not to issue the licence (but must consider recommendation)

NO → LCRB will not issue the licence

YES (CONDITIONS) → LCRB has discretion to issue licence with restrictions (e.g. hours of operation)

If the LG or Indigenous nation recommendation does not meet regulatory requirements, LCRB will ask for new or amended comments

Answering Common Misconceptions

- Applications aren't time stamped. The LCRB sends applications to the LG or Indigenous nation in the order they are deemed complete (not in batches)
- There is no specific deadline to provide recommendations back to the LCRB
- The method for how the LG or Indigenous nation provides a recommendation to the LCRB is up to them – provided it is in writing (electronic or paper) and provides the required information

Number of Stores

The Province	LGs and Indigenous Nations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No limit on the number of non-medical cannabis stores that can operate in B.C.• No provincial distance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May impose local limit on number of stores and/or distance criteria based on the needs of the community

Number of Stores

- A licensee can only hold or have an interest in a maximum of eight cannabis retail store licences. This limit will be reviewed on January 1, 2021.
- For the purposes of this licence cap, generally a franchisor cannot have more than 8 franchisees.
- Additionally, at this time federally licensed producers of cannabis are not eligible for a cannabis retail store licence.

Useful Links

[Local Governments' Role in Licensing Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Stores](#)

[Indigenous Nations' Role in Licensing Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Stores](#)

For detailed information regarding cannabis retail store policy and licensing visit:
www.gov.bc.ca/cannabisregulationandlicensing

Cannabis Policy Questions -- Email: cannabisregs@gov.bc.ca

Thank you!

Questions?