

BUSINESS TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

There are approximately 600 breweries, wineries and distilleries in the province with total sales in B.C. of \$1.4 billion in fiscal 2016/17. The manufacturing sector has seen significant growth in numbers and sales in recent years. Most of these sales are made through over 8000 licensed bars and restaurants and almost 1,200 liquor stores.

The liquor industry plays a significant role in the provincial economy and employs thousands of workers. However, there are significant health and social harms arising from liquor consumption. Government regulates liquor to balance these interests.

Scope and Purpose

The Business Technical Advisory Panel (Panel) is a time-limited panel that will focus on liquor policy and legislation issues of concern to the BC liquor industry including manufacturers, retailers, bars and restaurants. The Panel, through the panel chair, will provide advice and recommendations to the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Liquor Policy comprised of the Deputy Attorney General, the Associate Deputy Minister of Attorney General, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and the Deputy Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology.

Guiding Principles

Panel recommendations shall target improved efficiency and outcomes in government and business interactions that:

- respect obligations under international and interprovincial trade agreements;
- consider health and social impacts;
- consider financial impacts;
- provide equitable stakeholder treatment;
- respect obligations under collective agreements; and
- be evidence-based.

The Panel is expected to reach consensus in providing recommendations.

Membership

Chair

The Panel will be chaired by Mark Hicken, the Attorney General's Liquor Policy Advisor

Members

In addition to the Chair, one representative from each of the following associations will be invited to constitute the Panel members:

- BC Wine Institute

- BC Craft Brewers Guild
- Canada's National Brewers
- Craft Distillers Guild of BC
- Restaurants Canada
- BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association
- Alliance of Beverage Licensees (ABLE)
- Rural Agency Store Advisory Society

Expectations of the Chair

It is expected that the Chair will ensure the Panel satisfies its responsibilities as set out in the Terms of Reference. The Chair will provide leadership and guide the Panel in establishing a consensus on issues and recommendations while allowing full and open debate. The Chair will schedule Panel meetings, develop the meeting agenda, and coordinate the Panel's consultation with other agencies or individuals.

The Chair will report to the Deputy Ministers Committee as required or as requested by the Committee.

Expectations of Membership

It is expected that the views expressed by a member represent views at a sector or industry level. Members are expected to be prepared for all meetings. If a member requires an alternate to attend on their behalf the alternate must be briefed and able to represent the organization in discussions.

Other Parties to be consulted

The Panel is expected to engage representatives and invite submissions from other agencies, including the following: BC craft cider producers, BC Craft Distilling Association, BC and Yukon Command Royal Canadian Legion, Spirits Canada, Import Vintners and Spirits Association, Union of BC Municipalities, Indigenous wineries, and Canadian Vintners Association.

The Chair of the Panel will engage with representatives from health agencies including the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (formerly CARBC), the Provincial Health Officer, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and the Tripartite First Nations Health Authority.

The Chair of the Panel will also engage with labour organizations, including UNITE HERE Local 40 and the BC Government and Services Employees' Union.

As required to support Panel discussions, the Chair may invite other subject matter experts to meetings.

Confidentiality

All submissions to the Panel and Panel recommendations will be made public on government website(s).

Meetings and Panel Duration

Meetings will be by teleconference and in person. The type and frequency of meeting will be determined by the Chair in consultation with Panel members.

The Panel must submit an interim recommendations report to the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Liquor Policy by March 29, 2018, and a final recommendations report to the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Liquor Policy by April 30, 2018.

Member Expenses

Panel member travel, meal and other related expenses incurred in attending meetings will be reimbursed by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch in accordance with provincial government per diem limits.