

Discussion Paper: Special Event Permits

**Liquor Control and Licensing Branch
August 2017**

Background

There are over 25,000 Special Event Permits (SEPs) issued by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) each year, covering a variety of events from small private weddings to large public festivals. In the previous regulatory framework, SEPs were intended to be non-profit. If a permittee chose to charge over the cost recovery price list all profits made from the event had to be distributed to a charitable purpose.

On April 6, 2017 the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation was amended authorizing the general manager to exempt permittees from the requirement to donate profits to charity if they charge over the cost recovery list. This policy change was made, in part, to support the music industry in BC. However, due to the election period, an exemption policy and criteria have not yet been determined.

During this interim period the general manager has been considering each exemption request as a unique submission and basing the approval decision on policy guidelines in use in Ontario. Exemption approvals were granted during this time with the understanding that once an approved policy is adopted the criteria for the exemption may change.

At this time, LCLB is seeking input on a draft policy that could guide the general manager's decisions respecting exemptions from the requirement to donate profits to charity if the SEP holder were to charge over the cost recovery list.

Proposed Policy

The general manager may exempt SEP holders from donating event profits to charity when they charge more than the cost recovery list provided that the permittee's event is of a municipal, provincial, national or international significance.

The general manager will use different criteria to determine whether an event is of municipal significance versus provincial, national or international significance.

Municipal Significance

Municipally significant events are those deemed uniquely important to that specific municipality. For example, a municipally significant event may have historical value to the region or benefit the community at large.

- An event of municipal significance requires a municipal resolution or a letter from a delegated municipal official designating the event as "municipally significant".
- This documentation will be required at the event site for inspection.

Provincial, National and International Significance

The Branch will review exemption requests for provincial, national and international significant events. To determine whether an event qualifies, the following questions will be assessed:

- Where are the participants and/or performers from? Are they primarily from around the province, Canada, or the world?
- Does the event attract spectators from around the province, Canada, or the world?
- Is there province-wide, nation-wide, or world-wide media coverage of the event?

Consultation Questions

- ❖ **What type of organization do you represent? (Promoter, charity, municipality, etc.)**
- ❖ **Is your organization generally supportive of the proposed policy?**
- ❖ **Are there any concerns you have with the proposed policy?**

Contact

Thank you for your input, your answers to the above questions will help shape government policy on Special Event Permits.

All submissions will be required by **September 15, 2017**. You may email your responses to lclb.lclb@gov.bc.ca – with the heading: SEP Policy Consult – or mail them to:

Policy, Planning, and Communications
Liquor Control and Licensing Branch
PO Box 9292 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9J8

Additionally, if you have any questions or concerns you may contact Josh Huska, project lead, directly at (250) 952 5794.

The personal information you submit may be collected by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch under s. 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the purposes of engaging and consulting with the public. To protect your own privacy and the privacy of others, please do not include any personal information or share personal information about others. If you have any questions about the collection of your personal information, please contact the Freedom of Information Officer at PO Box 9292 STN PROV GVT, Victoria, BC, V8W 9J8 or by phone at 250.952.5787. If you are outside of Victoria, please call 1.866.209.2111. By fax 250.952.7066.