

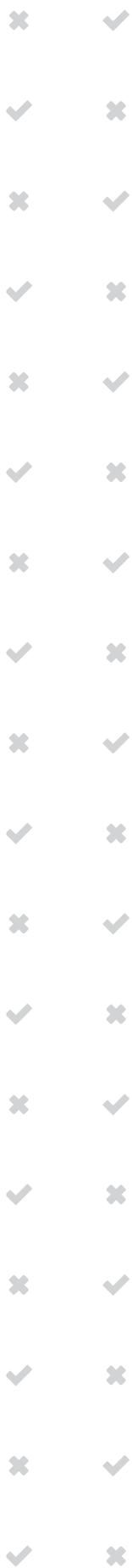


# Minors as Agents Program

PREVENTING THE SALE OF LIQUOR AND CANNABIS TO MINORS



Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch



# Regulating Liquor and Cannabis Sales

**The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) oversees the regulations for liquor establishments and events and cannabis stores.**

These are the rules that govern B.C.'s private liquor and cannabis establishments. The LCRB also issues licences in B.C. for private retail cannabis sales as well as the making and selling of liquor products

In B.C. there are over **400 cannabis stores** and **10,000 liquor licensees**, including pubs, bars, lounges, stadiums, nightclubs, restaurants, liquor stores, breweries, distilleries, wineries, and UBrews/UVins.

In addition, the LCRB regulates almost **30,000 Special Event Permit events**, for events like concerts and weddings each year.

## The Role of the Inspector

The LCRB Compliance and Enforcement team works to protect public safety and minimize the health and social harms of alcohol and cannabis. LCRB inspectors regularly inspect licensed establishments to ensure they are following the liquor or cannabis laws and terms and conditions relevant to their licence, permit, or authorization. These inspections may happen with or without advance notice.



## Selling Liquor or Cannabis to a Minor is a Serious Contravention.

In B.C. it is against the law to sell, serve or supply liquor or cannabis to a minor (someone under the age of 19). If asked, customers must show valid identification (ID) to purchase liquor or cannabis.

Licensees may set their own policies for checking ID. For example, some licensees check everyone's ID, while others only check those who look under 30. However, if there is any doubt the customer is of legal age, licensees must take reasonable steps to verify age by checking ID. Licensees must refuse service if they believe that a customer is a minor or attempting to purchase liquor or cannabis for a minor.



## About the Minors as Agents Program (MAP)

Under the Minors as Agents Program (MAP), minors employed by the LCRB are allowed to purchase liquor or cannabis during MAP inspections from licensed private retail stores, government-operated retail stores, and other licensed establishments to help LCRB inspectors monitor that licensees are checking ID.

This program is allowed under the [\*Liquor Control and Licensing Act\*](#) and the [\*Cannabis Control and Licensing Act\*](#) and is one of the most effective programs to prevent underage drinking and cannabis use. Given the potentially severe consequences of underage drinking and cannabis use, preventing the sale of liquor and cannabis to minors is one of the LCRB's key priorities.

## How do MAP Inspections Work?

Minor Agents work under the close supervision of inspectors and are trained to answer all questions honestly and not to misrepresent themselves in any way. Minor Agents are always supervised by at least two inspectors and will travel in a government vehicle.

Minor Agents with an existing contract are authorized through the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* and the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* to purchase liquor or cannabis only during MAP inspections.

### MAP inspections happen at establishments, including:



**Licensed private liquor or cannabis retail stores**



**Government-operated liquor or cannabis stores**



**Food primary establishments:** restaurants



**Liquor primary establishments:** bars and pubs



**Manufacturers:** wineries, distilleries and breweries



**Special event permits:** one-time licenses, such as events



**Catering** when hosting an event under their licence



**UBrew or UVin** establishments



**Charity** auctions

If at any time Minor Agents feel their safety, security or identity may be compromised in any of the establishments, the agent must immediately notify an inspector and the inspection will not proceed.



## Become a Minor Agent

**Current contract rates are: \$20 per hour, with standard meal allowance rates.**

Minor Agents work under a contract with the LCRB. Contracts end yearly on March 31 and must be signed by a parent or guardian. Minor Agents must be between 16 and 18.5 years of age to conduct inspections.

### **JOB RESPONSIBILITIES**

**As a Minor Agent, you would be required to:**

- Attend and participate in all scheduled training as determined by the LCRB.
- As directed, attempt to purchase liquor and/or cannabis products from establishments licensed to sell liquor and/or cannabis products by the Province.
- Always follow and apply all safety and training protocols while on travel status and/or on operational work status.
- Always follow all reasonable directions of LCRB staff while on travel status or operational work status.
- Provide evidence, when required, at any administrative hearing.

*"I want to be a police officer after school. Being a MAP agent was a great job. It gave me real life experience for law enforcement. I liked working with the other agents and the inspector's team. The job itself can be a lot of fun, but you need to take it seriously because preventing kids my age from the dangers of drugs and alcohol is important."*

**— Agent #154**

## JOB REQUIREMENTS

### To apply to become a Minor Agent, you must:

- Be enrolled in full-time studies at an accredited educational institution within the past six months at Grade 12 or below.
- Have excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Meet safety standards of WorkSafe BC.
- Conduct field work which may include travel to local areas by vehicle or foot, and outdoor work in all weather conditions.

## HOURS AND AVAILABILITY

A Minor Agent's workday is up to eight hours. Work is conducted on an as-needed basis. The LCRB will work to schedule inspections around the Minor Agent's availability.

Minor Agents may be asked to accept work that requires an overnight stay in a different community. When this occurs, the minor may decline at no risk. When the minor agrees, the minor's parent or guardian must accompany the minor. The parent or guardian will be reimbursed for any meals, and travel accommodation, at the Group 1 rate for Government employees. The parent or guardian will not be otherwise compensated.

## Apply to Become a Minor Agent

Submit a cover letter and resume that includes past work or volunteer experience and your interest in the position to:

[LCRB.CandE.Admin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:LCRB.CandE.Admin@gov.bc.ca).

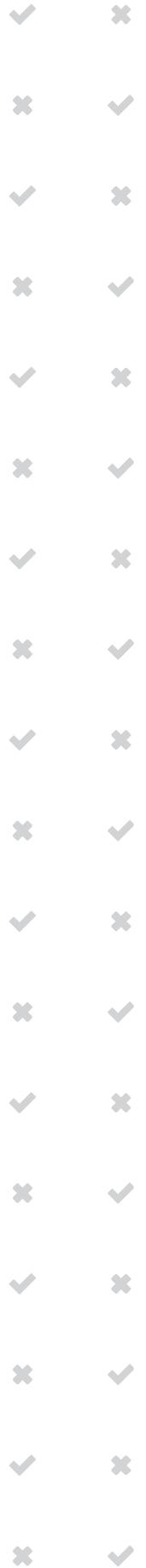
*"I think it has been amazing and it's always fun and low pressure/stress environments with the inspectors close by. I am very grateful for the experience and always excited to get more shifts. It has definitely made me consider a career in this field which I never expected. I am always happy to do this work and I hope as time goes on more money can be added to these contracts and I can work more."*

— Agent #165

*"The experience has been really enjoyable and eye opening into the world of liquor and cannabis usage on our Island. I'm always super eager for my next shift and to see where we'll be going next. And the inspectors are always fun to be around and super supportive. This whole experience has really opened my eyes to new possible career paths I would have never thought of or considered otherwise. This whole contract has been an amazing experience and I hope my contract is extended for another year."*

— Agent #166





## Learn more

To learn more about how the program works, penalties, and the inspection process, visit [gov.bc.ca/LCRB](https://gov.bc.ca/LCRB) or contact [LCRBLiquorPolicy@gov.bc.ca](mailto:LCRBLiquorPolicy@gov.bc.ca) or [CannabisRegs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CannabisRegs@gov.bc.ca).

## Submit a Complaint

Selling liquor or cannabis to minors is a serious contravention. If you suspect minors are gaining access to liquor or cannabis, you can submit a complaint to the LCRB online at [gov.bc.ca/LCRB](https://gov.bc.ca/LCRB).



## Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch

### Apply to become a Minor Agent

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