



BACKGROUND

AMENDMENTS TO THE *LIQUOR ACT*

On November 3, 2022, the 19th Legislative Assembly passed Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*, to address the following matters:

IMPORTATION LIMITS

- New legislation increases the amount of liquor a person can legally bring into the Northwest Territories (NWT) without paying an importation fee:
 - 1L of wine to 9L (or 12 standard bottles)
 - 1.14L of spirits to 3L (or 4 standard bottles)
 - 8.52L of beer to 24.6L of beer, cider, or coolers (about 70 standard bottles)
- People who wish to bring amounts in excess of these limits into the NWT must complete an Application for a Liquor Importation Certificate and pay an associated fee.
- Applications and instructions are available online at: www.ntlcc.ca
- Increasing personal limits on liquor is consistent with a commitment made by the Premiers of Canada in 2019 to increase or eliminate limits and an agreement in the *Federal-Provincial-Territorial Action Plan: Trade in Alcoholic Beverages* to improve the cross-Canadian trade of alcoholic beverages.

SEPARATING ENFORCEMENT FROM THE LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD

- The *Liquor Act* has been updated so that NWT Liquor Enforcement and the Liquor Licensing Board operate independently of one another.
 - Liquor enforcement personnel are responsible for monitoring the industry and reporting alleged violations, which are then heard by the Board in its role as an independent body.
 - Separating the Board from enforcement is necessary to remove any perceived conflict of interest and to ensure the Board remains impartial.
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REMOVING THE LIQUOR LICENCE BANS ON INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH CRIMES

- Under previous legislation, the Liquor Licensing Board could not issue a liquor licence to a person who was charged with a crime—even if the charges had not been proven in court.
 - New legislation allows the Board to issue a liquor licence to a person who has been charged with a crime, in keeping with the legal principle of “innocent until proven guilty”. If a court find that person guilty, the Board can cancel the licence.
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FORMALIZING THE NAME OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LIQUOR AND CANNABIS COMMISSION

- The Commission has been doing business as the Northwest Territories Liquor and Cannabis Commission since the legalization of cannabis in 2018.
 - Bill 53 amends the *Liquor Act* to include the new name.
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For more information, please visit:

www.ntlcc.ca

https://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/en/services?combine=&field_service_category_tid=401&field_program_type_tid=All