

BACKGROUNDER

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:

- New legislation increases the amount of liquor a person can legally bring into the Northwest Territories (NWT) without paying an importation fee:
 - o 1L of wine to 9L (or 12 standard bottles)
 - o 1.14L of spirits to 3L (or 4 standard bottles)
 - o 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.

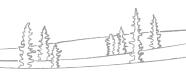
- Applications and instructions are available online at: www.ntlcc.ca
- Increasing personal limits on liquor is consistent with a commitment made by the Premiers of Canada in 2019 to increase or eliminate limits and an agreement in the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Action Plan: Trade in Alcoholic Beverages to improve the cross-Canadian trade of alcoholic beverages.

SEPARATING ENFORCEMENT FROM THE

LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD

IMPORTATION LIMITS

- 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.



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.

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.

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