



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AGENDA

May 21, 2024, 2:00 pm
2nd Floor Conference Room at City Hall
1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC

*We respectfully acknowledge the unceded ancestral lands of the Lheidli T'enneh,
on whose land we live, work, and play.*

Pages

A. COMMENCEMENT

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION:

That the agenda for the May 21, 2024 Standing Committee on Public Safety Meeting, BE ADOPTED.

C. REPORTS

C.1 Introductions

Introductions of Committee Members and Resources

C.2 Overview of Committees, Commissions and Boards

1

Abbreviated version of Legislative Services Presentation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the presentation 'Overview of Committees, Commissions and Boards'

C.3 Vice Chair Appointment

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Standing Committee on Public Safety APPOINTS one of its members as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

C.4	Review of Terms of Reference for Standing Committee on Public Safety	19
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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the Standing Committee on Public Safety Terms of Reference.

C.5	For Discussion: Crime Severity Index Conference	23
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C.6	Referred from Council: Illicit Drug Decriminalization Changes	26
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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Standing Committee on Public Safety RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated May 13, 2024 from the City Manager titled "Illicit Drug Decriminalization Changes".

C.7	Referred from Council: Liquor Licence Application No. LL100194	33
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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the referred item from Council, titled 'Liquor License Application No. LL100194.'

D. CORRESPONDENCE

D.1	Media Release - Community Safety Town Hall	43
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E. ADJOURNMENT



Committees, Commissions and Boards

A Session for Committees

Introduction

- The City of Prince George is assisted by dozens of volunteers serving on various committees, commissions, and boards.

Agenda

1. Overview: Purpose of Council Committees
2. Definitions
3. Role of the Legislative Support Person
4. Role of the Staff Liaison
5. Work of the Committee
6. Reporting
7. Meeting Guidelines
8. Where to Get More Information
9. Questions and Answers

Overview: Purpose of Council Committees

- In addition to the purpose established by statutes, terms of reference, and bylaws, Council committees:
 - Provide information and well-considered advice to Council and City Staff on issues of concern relevant to the Committee's mandate;
 - Educate and raise awareness of Council and City Staff on issues relevant to the Committee's mandate; and
 - Provide concrete recommendations for consideration by Council and City Staff.

Definitions

- **Legislative Support Person**: Non-voting staff member assigned to provide administrative support in the preparation and circulation of agendas, meeting logistics, and the recording and retention of meeting minutes.
- **Staff Liaison**: Non-voting staff member assigned to assist the committee in an advisory and resource capacity.
- **Chair**: Person authorized to control the proceedings and procedure of a committee meeting.
- **Quorum**: The number of voting committee members required to be present for the committee's business to be validly conducted. Unless otherwise stated in the committee's Terms of Reference, quorum is 50% + 1 of appointed committee members (i.e.: of a committee of nine, five members constitute a quorum).

Role of the Legislative Support Person

1. Not a member of the Committee; does not vote
2. Provides administrative support
 - Circulates agendas
 - Logistical support (arranges meeting space)
 - Recording, preparing and retaining minutes
 - Maintains committee membership contact information

Role of the Staff Liaison

1. Not a member of the committee; does not vote
2. Provides information and advice ensuring matters considered falls within the committee's mandate and aligns with council's strategic priorities
3. Assists in writing reports and recommendations to Council
4. Assists in preparing agendas, minutes and correspondence
5. Although the staff liaison's work for the City may relate to the work of the committee, the committee does not direct the work of the staff liaison.

Role of the Committee Member

- Committee members are expected to attend and actively participate in regular meetings, quickly respond to City staff requests/emails, and engage in constructive dialogue.
- Review all agenda materials in advance of the meeting
- Respectfully engage with committee members, staff, Council and members of the public

Meeting Attendance

Meeting agendas are circulated by the Legislative Support Person one (1) week in advance of the meeting. When the agenda is circulated members are asked to confirm via email if they will be attending in-person or electronically.

If attending electronically, members are required to advise the Legislative Support Person at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting and must be connected to the meeting before the meeting is called to order at its scheduled start time.

Meeting Guidelines

1. Follow the agenda
2. Rule of the Clock
3. Handling the Business of the Meeting
4. Decision-Making
5. Voting
6. Role of the Chair
7. Rules of Decorum and Debate

Committee Decisions (Resolutions)

1. Decisions of the committee are made by majority vote
2. All members may make or second motions, debate motions and vote
3. If a vote of committee members are equal for and against a motion, the motion is defeated
4. A committee member who abstains from a vote is deemed to have voted in the affirmative
5. If a conflict of interest is declared, the member can be recused from the discussion and vote and must leave the room until the matter is completed
6. Voting is conducted publicly by a show of hands (in person) and the stating of names (electronic). There are very few matters in which the vote will be conducted by ballot

Conflicts of Interest

- A conflict of interest exists where a committee member:
 - Is a director, member or employee of an organization seeking a benefit from the City upon which the committee will make a recommendation;
 - Has a direct or indirect pecuniary (business) interest in the outcome of committee deliberation.
- A conflict of interest does not exist if the
 - The pecuniary (business) interest of the committee member is a financial interest in common with members of the municipality generally; or
 - The pecuniary (business) interest is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonable be regarded as likely to influence the member in relation to the matter.

Where to Get More Information

1. Committees, Commissions, and Boards Procedures Manual
2. Committee Terms of Reference or Governing Bylaw
3. City of Prince George Council Procedures Bylaw No. 8388, 2011
4. City Website (<https://princegeorge.ca/committees>)
5. Legislative Support Person and Staff Liaison
6. City Clerk

Questions?



COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ROLE OF THE CHAIRPERSON

QUALITIES OF A CHAIRPERSON

- Willing to give up personal interests, and work with the whole group
- Does not dominate the conversation of the meeting but listens, encourages people to participate, helps people to listen to each other, and reflects back the common threads of the discussion.

DUTIES OF A CHAIRPERSON

- checking to see if a quorum (50% of the appointed membership +1) is present and starting the meeting on time;
- announcing the business items in the order noted on the agenda; do not blur multiple agenda items together in a discussion; each item should be distinct from one another
- recognizing members entitled to speak, in the order in which they request to speak;
- ensuring resolutions have been moved and seconded and voted on;
- enforcing the rules of procedure and decorum;
- expediting committee business;
- declaring the meeting adjourned.

GENERAL MEETING RULES

- the maker of a motion has a right to speak first to the motion once it has been seconded;
- to speak to a motion a second time, a member should wait until all those who wish to speak to the motion for a first time have done so;
- members must remain courteous and objective, and avoid personal comments;
- remarks must be relevant to the matter being considered;
- remarks are to be directed through the chairperson, who determines who has the right to speak and in what order;
- members should not interrupt another speaker;
- there are no limitations on the number of times a member may speak on a motion, or the length of time spent speaking to a motion;
- motions should be clear and unambiguous; and
- a decision to close debate can be made by unanimous consent, committee resolution, or the chairperson.

DURING THE MEETING

- **Communicate**
 - Start the meeting.
 - Ensure that additions or amendments to the agenda and minutes are recorded.
 - Ask if any member will have a conflict of interest for any items on the agenda. If a conflict is raised, members should leave the room during discussion on that project.

- **Control**
 - Committee meetings tend to be less formal than regular Council meetings. The chairperson of a committee has the authority and duty to determine the level of informality of a meeting in order to facilitate an effective meeting.
 - Maintain control and direction of the meeting. Set out any time limits. If there are a lot of agenda items, you can set out a time limit for discussion, if necessary.
 - Keep to the agenda. Once it is adopted, new items should not be added.
 - Ensure quorum is present (5 members).
 - Ensure time is used effectively – chit chat should be avoided. Discussion should be kept to the topic on hand and relevant.
 - Keep an eye on time.
 - The meeting is not the time to review and read the agenda documents. Committee members are responsible to review the agenda in advance of the meeting and come prepared to action those agenda items.

- **Clarify**
 - Summarize the discussion. Suggestions/recommendations should be summarized before voted upon.

- **Decision Making**
 - Decisions should be made in the context of the Committee's Terms of Reference and mandate
 - Committees should strive for consensus in their decision-making. However, final decisions are made by resolutions adopted by a majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote.

RUNNING THE MEETING

The agenda for committee meetings follow the same general format.

Call to Order

"I call this meeting to order."

- The minute-taker will record the time this occurs – it should be the same (or close to) the advertised start time on the agenda.

Adoption of the Agenda

"Are there any amendments to make to the agenda for today's meeting? Hearing none, I ask for a motion to adopt the agenda"

- Verbally note the name of the mover and seconder.

"Moved by _____, seconded by _____. All in favour? Opposed?"

- Verbally note the names of any individuals opposed. Declare the result of the vote.

"Carried unanimously" (All voted in favour)

"Carried" (More voted in favour than opposed)

"Defeated" (More voted opposed than in favour)

Adoption of the Minutes

"Are there any amendments to make to the minutes from the meeting held <INSERT DATE>? Hearing none, I ask for a motion to adopt the minutes as presented."

- Verbally note the name of the mover and seconder.

"Moved by _____, seconded by _____. All in favour? Opposed?"

- Verbally note the names of any individuals opposed. Declare the result of the vote.

"Carried unanimously" (All voted in favour)

"Carried" (More voted in favour than opposed)

"Defeated" (More voted opposed than in favour OR the vote was a tie)

New/Old Business

- Introduce the reports one at a time and hand it off to the staff liaison or committee member responsible for that item.

“Agenda item D.1. <Insert Name>, would you please introduce this item.”

- If a motion is required, it should be moved/seconded and voted on following the discussion.

Adjournment

- Once all business on the agenda is completed, the meeting should be concluded. You may adjourn the meeting.

“As all business is concluded on the agenda, this meeting is adjourned.”



STANDING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Advisory Committee Name:

Standing Committee on Public Safety

Meeting Frequency:

Meeting Frequency and Schedule to be Determined

The Standing Committee on Public Safety is a Standing committee of Council established in accordance with the *Community Charter and "City of Prince George Council Procedures Bylaw No. 8388, 2011."*

2. PURPOSE AND MANDATE

The Standing Committee on Public Safety is hereafter referred to as the "Committee" and the Mayor and Council of the City of Prince George is hereafter referred to as "Council".

The purpose of the Committee is to undertake observation and collection on crime statistics and to explore solutions through tested best practices learned from local and other jurisdictions in order to address public safety issues facing downtown Prince George including the area east of Queensway.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND COMPOSITION

3.1 Composition

3.1.1 Voting Members

The Committee shall be comprised of a maximum of seven (7) members, including:

1. Mayor (Chair)
2. Three Members of Council to be selected by the Mayor
3. Up to three (3) members appointed by the Mayor including, representation from:
 - Community (Three Members)

3.1.2 Staff and Council Members (Ex-Officio Members)

Staff Liaison

A city staff member shall be appointed by the City Manager to serve as Staff Liaison, who along with other city staff may attend meetings of the Committee in a resource capacity.

Legislative Services

The Corporate Officer will appoint a legislative support person to the Committee who will serve in an administrative support role.

Council

All members of Council are ex-officio members of the Committee and may attend meetings and participate in debate, but may not make motions and do not have voting rights.

Downtown Prince George

A member of Downtown Prince George will attend the meetings and act in a resource capacity.

RCMP

A member of the RCMP will attend the meetings and act in a resource capacity.

STANDING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.2 Length of Term

The Standing Committee on Public Safety will convene its first meeting in May 2024. The Committee will continue until disbanded by the Mayor.

4. OTHER GOVERNANCE

4.1 Review of Terms

Taking into account recommendations from the Committee, the Corporate Officer and Staff Liaison will review the Standing Committee *Terms of Reference* documents as required. The purpose of this review will be to ensure that the operations and function of the committee are aligned with its defined purpose.

4.2 Eligibility and Selection

Eligibility and selection for membership on Standing committees will be accepted in accordance with the *City of Prince George Committees, Commissions and Boards Procedures Manual*.

4.3 Decisions of the Committee

All acts and matters that come before the Committee must be done and decided by a majority of the members present at a duly constituted meeting with quorum present.

4.4 Budget

The Committee shall be responsible for the distribution or allocation of funding that may be available to the Committee and ensure that such allocation directly relates to the mandate of the Committee.



STANDING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

4.5 Governance

In all unprovided cases, meetings and operations of the Committee shall be governed by the provisions of the *City of Prince George Committees, Commissions and Boards Policies and Procedures Manual*. In case of conflict between the provisions of these *Terms of Reference* and the *Procedures Manual*, the provisions of the *Procedures Manual* shall prevail.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City of North Battleford
1291 101st Street
P.O. Box 460

North Battleford
Saskatchewan
Canada S9A 2Y6

PH: (306) 445-1728
FAX: (306) 446-3288

December 8, 2023

Your Worship Mayor Yu
City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Blvd.
Prince George, B.C.
V2L 3V9

Dear Mayor Yu,

RE: Crime Severity Index Conference – A Challenge to the Status Quo

You Are Invited

The City of North Battleford is proposing a conference, to be held February 28-29, 2024, in Saskatoon, comprised of attendees representing the 20 highest ranked communities with populations of more than 10,000 residents to discuss common struggles faced by this ranking system. The goal is to begin working on a public request to the Federal Government to change the way Statistics Canada reports communities' Crime Severity Index rankings. Due to lower populations, smaller communities, like ours and yours, are significantly impacted by one single "major" crime and it skews a community's publicly announced ranking in a very real and consequential way. The City of North Battleford would like to invite your leadership (Mayor or Deputy Mayor and CAO/City Manager) to attend this conference.

Background

Much like other municipalities, the City of North Battleford prepares for the annual onslaught of negative attention drawn by the release of the Statistics Canada Crime Severity Index ranking. Our communities receive negative media attention simply from the release of this list. As you are likely aware, the factors involved with the Crime Severity Index weighting are complex and not well-understood and/or properly interpreted by the public or the media. This causes significant damage to these smaller communities.

In evaluating the ranking of communities which are consistently atop the Statistics Canada listing of communities with populations of 10,000 or greater, one factor stands out: each of these communities has a significant Indigenous population.

According to data from Statistics Canada's 2021 Census, the top five highest-ranking communities on the Crime Severity Index have the following percentages of residents who identify as Indigenous:

- North Battleford – 26.61%



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- Thompson – 45.52%
- Wetaskiwin – 18%
- Yellowknife (Rural) – 24.16%
- Portage la Prairie – 29.1%

This is in no way intended to attribute high crime rates to a specific population; these numbers are merely to suggest that by singling out communities which have a significant number of residents who identify as Indigenous, it creates a stigma which, as a Welcoming and Inclusive Community, North Battleford strives to eliminate by celebrating and embracing all regional cultures.

Take, for instance, the F Division analysis for all RCMP detachments in Saskatchewan. If Statistics Canada removed the population of 10,000 threshold for public reporting, the City of North Battleford (Municipal RCMP Detachment statistics) would rank 16th overall in Saskatchewan for highest Crime Severity Index. Each community from #1-15 in Saskatchewan is a small Indigenous community. These statistics are public and available on the Statistics Canada website, but attention is not drawn to communities of all sizes, arguably because it would inherently infer that crime rates are astronomically high due to a higher prevalence of Indigenous peoples. Because of the 10,000-population threshold, we believe our communities, along with smaller Indigenous communities, are facing systemic discrimination as a direct result of this Statistics Canada ranking release.

In a recent conference call with Statistics Canada, they were unable to identify why the population of 10,000 threshold was identified and how the list they curate is distributed to Canadian media. Statistics Canada maintains this ranking list is only requested by and distributed to police services across the country; our local RCMP detachment has confirmed they do not receive a copy of this list, nor do they utilize it when determining placement of detachment resources.

The North Battleford Experience

North Battleford has spent a significant amount of money in enhanced enforcement efforts, with the largest RCMP detachment in the province, along with Saskatchewan's largest per capita complement of Community Safety Officers. The City has publicly called upon provincial and federal counterparts to add significant resources to assist with the social and public health crises that correlate to occurrences of crime.

The City and our local business community find it harder and harder to attract qualified jobseekers to our community due to the public misconception that North Battleford is "unsafe" due to its high ranking on the Crime Severity Index. This negatively impacts the City's tax base, has caused stagnation in our population growth, and creates significant economic challenges for the region.

Our community also indicated to Statistics Canada that their public listing of populations of 10,000 or more further creates a racial divide in our community. With a large Indigenous population, there is a wrongful assumption that our community's high ranking on the Crime Severity Index correlates to a large Indigenous population in our community.



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P.O. Box 460

North Battleford
Saskatchewan
Canada S9A 2Y6

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FAX: (306) 446-3288

The Issue

While data is vital, provision of this data to public and the media without appropriate context and understanding leaves these federally-issued statistics widely open for interpretation and thus, people are drawing conclusions about our communities that are overtly negative and untrue – overshadowing any positive efforts to rehabilitate a community's image or build pride and spirit within a municipality.

The Conference – February 28th & 29th, 2024

The conference is set for February 28th & 29th, 2024, in Saskatoon. It will begin with a meet and greet on the evening of the 28th, with a full day of sessions on February 29th. Meals will be included. We propose that at the end of our sessions, the Mayors hold a media opportunity to, using a collective front, publicly discuss these issues and challenge this negative narrative and, to an extent, Statistics Canada. While the agenda and speakers are still being determined, experts in sociology, policing, and in First Nations governance have been approached to date. Senior representatives from Statistics Canada have also been invited to attend.

As the host for this event, we ask that you consider contributing \$175 per conference attendee to share in the costs of this conference.

Please confirm your attendance by January 12, 2024, with my Executive Assistant Shirley Stynsky at 306-445-1725 or by email at sstynsky@cityofnb.ca. A block of rooms has been reserved at our host venue, the *Holiday Inn: Saskatoon Downtown*. We encourage early booking to guarantee a preferred rate. [Click this link to secure your reservation today.](#)

I hope you will consider joining us in Saskatoon for this event as we strive to improve the overall public-facing view of our communities in a way that will be mutually beneficial. It would be my pleasure to work collectively with each of you for the betterment of our communities. I look forward to seeing you at this conference.

Sincerely,

David Gillan,
Mayor
City of North Battleford

c.c. Walter Babicz, City Manager

STAFF REPORT TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: May 13, 2024

TO: STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

NAME AND TITLE: Walter Babicz, City Manager

SUBJECT: Illicit Drug Decriminalization Changes

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Statement from UBCM dated May 8, 2024 titled “Federal Government approves decriminalization changes”
2. Statement from Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health dated May 7, 2024 titled “British Columbia’s exemption will now prohibit possession of controlled substances in public spaces”

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Standing Committee on Public Safety RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated May 13, 2024 from the City Manager titled “Illicit Drug Decriminalization Changes”.

PURPOSE:

This report is submitted for information.

BACKGROUND:

Exemption – January 2023

Effective January 31, 2023, the federal Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health granted an exemption under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) related to personal possession of certain controlled substances in the province of British Columbia. The pilot project was planned to be in effect until January 31, 2026.

Under the original exemption, adults aged 18 years of age and older in BC could not be arrested or charged for the possession of a cumulative amount of up to 2.5 grams of opioids (e.g. heroin, morphine, and fentanyl), cocaine (including crack and powder cocaine), methamphetamine (meth), or MDMA (ecstasy) for personal use. Exceptions to this exemption were included so that it did not apply in places where the provincial and federal government determined that personal possession would create undue public safety concerns (e.g. airports, daycares, schools, etc.).

Amendment – September 2023

In September 2023, at the request of British Columbia, the original exemption was amended to prohibit possession in additional areas designed primarily for youth including, within 15 meters of a public outdoor playground, spray pool or wading pool, or skate park. This came into effect on September 18, 2023.

Amendment – May 2024

Since the exemption came into effect in January 2023, a number of BC municipalities, law enforcement officials, health sector workers, and community members have raised concerns about increasing public drug use and that law enforcement does not have tools to address public drug use.

On April 26, 2024, British Columbia submitted an amendment request to address these concerns. Effective May 7, 2024, the federal Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health granted BC's request to prohibit possession of controlled substances in public spaces.

Exemptions will continue to apply in private residences, healthcare clinics as designated by the province of BC, places where people are lawfully sheltering, and overdose prevention and drug checking sites.

The attached statement from the UBCM, and the attached statement from Minister of Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health provide further details and commentary on these changes.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

This report is provide to the Committee for information and discussion as it relates to the Committee's mandate in its Terms of Reference.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2021/05/21



Federal government approves decriminalization changes

Publishing Date: May 8, 2024

The federal government has **approved** the Province of BC’s request to further control consumption of illicit drugs in public spaces. The change took place immediately as of May 7, 2024. Possession of small amounts of illicit drugs is still permitted.

The Province issued its **request** on April 26, asking Health Canada to make it illegal to use illicit drugs in all public spaces, including inside hospitals, on transit, and in parks. With this change, police now have the ability to ask users to leave an area, seize drugs when necessary, or arrest a person if required.

In its statement about the request, the Province indicated that, “Guidance will be given to police to only arrest for simple possession of illicit drugs in exceptional circumstances.”

The Province also requested that the use of illicit drugs continue to be allowed in private residences, health care clinics that provide outpatient addictions services such as Rapid Access Addictions Clinics, sanctioned overdose prevention sites, including those operated by housing providers, as well as drug checking sites, and to people lawfully sheltering overnight.

Prior to this latest change, the possession of illegal drugs was not allowed near playgrounds, spray pools, wading pools, skate parks; on K-12 school premises, on child care facility premises, in airports, in watercraft, and in motor vehicles.

UBCM members have expressed concerns about the public use of illicit drugs, and endorsed resolution [2023-SR4](#), which asked the provincial government to further regulate the possession and use of illicit drugs in parks, beaches, sports fields, and bus stops where children also gather. More information is available on the [UBCM website](#).

[Home](#) > [About the UBCM](#) > [Latest News](#)

> [Federal government approves decriminalization changes](#)



Government
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Statement from the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health

From: [Health Canada](#)

Statement

British Columbia's exemption will now prohibit possession of controlled substances in public spaces

May 7, 2024 | Ottawa, Ontario | Health Canada

In 2021, the Government of British Columbia requested the launch of a pilot project to help address the overdose crisis that is one of the most serious and unprecedented public health threats in Canada's recent history. BC has asked that we make amendments to its project and we are granting BC's request to prohibit possession of controlled substances in public spaces.

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their communities. Law enforcement also needs to have additional tools to address issues of public safety while continuing to take a compassionate and public health approach to addressing substance use harms.

Working together, we can continue to adapt and adjust our approach to reflect the evidence and what is actually working on the ground. Going forward, we will continue working hand in hand with all of our partners including provincial

jurisdictions, law enforcement, Indigenous communities, people with lived and living experience, and municipalities across this country every step of the way.

Exemptions will continue to apply in private residences, healthcare clinics as designated by the province of BC, places where people are lawfully sheltering, and overdose prevention and drug checking sites.

Across Canada we must prevent overdoses and save lives, and help people find their way to appropriate treatment and pathways to recovery, while keeping our communities safe and addressing drug trafficking and organized crime.

The Honourable Ya'ara Saks, P.C., M.P.

Associated Links:

- Backgrounder: [Personal possession of small amounts of certain illegal drugs in British Columbia](#)

Contacts

Yuval Daniel

Press Secretary

Office of the Honourable Ya'ara Saks

Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health

819-360-6927

Media Relations

Health Canada

613-957-2983

media@hc-sc.gc.ca

Search for related information by keyword: [Health and Safety](#) | [Health Canada](#) | [British Columbia](#) | [Controlled and illegal drugs](#) | [general public](#) |

statements | Hon. Ya'ara Saks

Date modified:

2024-05-07

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: February 27, 2024

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development

SUBJECT: Liquor Licence Application No. LL100194

APPLICANT: Bernie Scheider for 1436836 B.C. Ltd., Inc. No. 1436836
LOCATION: 1466 3rd Avenue

ATTACHMENT(S): Location and Existing Zoning Map
Letter of Intent
Occupancy Load Confirmation

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT Council:

1. CONFIRMS that its comments on the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch's prescribed considerations are as set out in the report dated February 27, 2024, from Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development for Liquor Licence Application No. LL100194;
2. CONFIRMS the methods used to gather the views of potentially affected property owners were in accordance with Section 4: Statutory Notification and Public Consultation of the City of Prince George Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Policy and that the views of affected residents are as summarized in the minutes of the Council Meeting held on April 8, 2024; and
3. SUPPORTS the approval of the Liquor Licence Application to allow a liquor primary use for Alibis Bar located at 1466 3rd Avenue, for the following reasons:

This application is not expected to have a negative impact on the community or produce any significant negative land use impacts on adjacent properties.

PURPOSE:

The applicant has applied to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) for a new liquor primary licence located at 1466 3rd Avenue (subject property). The applicant has provided a letter of intent, and floor plans outlining the proposed business plan, occupancy, and hours of operation which are attached to this report.

This application will facilitate the operation of a new liquor primary and adult-oriented establishment (Alibis Bar). As the proposed uses are permitted by the current C1I: Downtown zone, a rezoning application is not required.

Background

Site Characteristics

Location	1466 3rd Avenue
Legal Description	Lot 17, Block 46, District Lot 343, Plan 1268
Current Use	Vacant Building (Previously Sonar Comedy & Night Club)
Site Area	306 m ² (0.08 acres)
Zoning	C1I: Downtown

Liquor and Cannabis Licence Policy

Type of Licence	Liquor Primary
Hours of Service	Monday to Sunday: 9 am to 3 am
Proposed Occupant Load	284 persons

Relevant Application(s)

Liquor Licence Application No. LL100142 & Rezoning No. RZ100557, Bylaw No. 8859: On May 15th, 2017, Council approved 3rd Reading of Bylaw No. 8859 following the Public Hearing for LL100142 and Bylaw No. 8859. Final Reading of Bylaw No. 8859 was approved by Council on May 29, 2017. The approval of LL100142 and Bylaw No. 8859 facilitated a liquor primary use for Sonar Comedy & Night Club. Sonar Comedy & Night Club closed in 2020.

POLICY / REGULATORY ANALYSIS:

Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch

The LCRB is the provincial authority for liquor licensing and is regulated by the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* and the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation. All liquor licenses and changes to existing licenses are approved and issued by the LCRB. The LCRB requires that the local government reviews the application, gathers the views of residents that will be affected by the proposal and passes a resolution on the application. The applicant has concurrently applied to the LCRB for a liquor primary licence. Once Council reviews this application, a resolution from Council will be forwarded to the LCRB.

City of Prince George Liquor and Cannabis Licence Policy

The [City of Prince George Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Policy](#) (LCLP) establishes guidelines for the operation of licensed liquor establishments and cannabis retail stores within the City. The LCLP provides guidelines on hours of operation and location. Staff have evaluated the criteria outlined in the LCLP and have considered their relevance to this application, as noted below.

Hours of Liquor Service

The LCLP guidelines allow for liquor primary licenses within the C1: Downtown zone to have hours of liquor service between 9 am and 3 am. The applicant has applied to the LCRB for a liquor primary licence for liquor service from Monday to Sunday from 9 am to 3 am.

Administration is supportive of this application as the proposed hours of liquor service are consistent with the LCLP.

Occupant Load

The LCLP guidelines allow primary liquor licenses within the downtown to have an occupant load no greater than 400. The applicant's proposed occupancy of 284 persons (184 persons main floor and 100 persons basement) was determined by a qualified professional and is consistent with the LCLP.

Location of Establishment

As indicated previously, the subject property is located within the downtown area. The Official Community Plan (OCP) states that the downtown should be the primary entertainment and cultural center of the City. Administration has considered potential community impacts regarding noise, parking and traffic below.

Surrounding Land Uses

North	Laneway; City Owned Parking Lot (hourly paid parking)
South	3 rd Avenue; Retail; Restaurant; Office Space
East	Private Parking Lot; CIBC Branch
West	Office Building; Hwy 16

The surrounding land uses include a mix of commercial uses such as office space, restaurants, and retail. The subject property is currently zoned C1I: Downtown which permits a liquor primary establishment. There are currently no other C1I zoned properties within 100m.

This application is consistent with OCP policy direction and is typical of other uses occurring within the downtown area.

Community Impacts

Administration has considered typical land use impacts associated with the proposed increase in occupancy to the existing liquor primary established including proliferation, noise, parking and traffic.

Proliferation of Uses

The OCP identifies the downtown as the primary entertainment centre of the city, and so centralizing uses such as the proposed liquor primary establishment within the downtown is consistent with OCP policy direction. Currently, there is not an over proliferation of liquor primary uses within the area surrounding the subject property. There are only two other properties zoned C1I: Downtown within 200 m of the subject property (1380 2nd Avenue and 425 Brunswick Street). Of these, only one has an active liquor primary licence (425 Brunswick Street Senior Activity Centre).

Administration does not believe there is an over proliferation of liquor primary uses within the area surrounding the subject property and is supportive of this application.

Noise

The subject property is bordered by 3rd Avenue to the south, a laneway and surface parking to the north, and a surface parking lot to the east. These uses provide a physical buffer between the subject property and surrounding uses (commercial retail and restaurant). The peak hours for the proposed use are anticipated to be in the evening and thus will be outside of the typical downtown commercial uses of 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. This will limit the impact of the proposed club on the adjacent office building (to the west) and the surrounding commercial uses. It is not anticipated that liquor primary use will significantly disrupt surrounding uses through increased noise and public nuisances.

Parking and Traffic

The location provides flexibility for parking and traffic circulation along Victoria Street and 3rd Avenue, has the capacity for on-street parking, is near multiple surface parking lots and is along an active transit route. In addition to this, the proposed peak hours will be off set from peak hours for commercial retail uses along 3rd Avenue.

Administration supports this application as the proposed liquor licence is consistent with LCLP direction and is not expected to significantly impact the surrounding uses.

Referrals

This application was referred to internal City divisions and external agencies for comments.

RCMP

The RCMP was not supportive of this application and the proposed uses (liquor primary and adult-oriented entertainment establishment).

Property Title

As the owner of the subject property is a registered company, a BC Company Search has been conducted to provide the names of the company directors. The following is provided for Council's information:

Incorporation Number	BC1436836
Name of Company	1436836 B.C. LTD.
Director Information (Last Name, First Name)	Smetaniuk, TerryIn Ann

A review of the legal title of the subject property indicated no encumbrances or restrictions that would affect this application.

Statutory Notification and Public Consultation

Members of the public wanting to provide comment on the application may submit written correspondence to Council. As per the requirements set out in the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, the City of Prince George will mail or otherwise deliver a public notice to property owners and tenants whose interests may be affected by this application. Written submissions received in response to the public notice for this application will be provided to Council for their consideration at the time the application and granting of the permit is being considered. Submissions received after the Council meeting agenda has been published will be provided to Council as a handout on the day of the Council meeting for consideration during deliberations on the application.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the resolution
2. Approve the resolution as amended
3. Refuse the resolution
4. Defer or otherwise deal with the resolution

Administration recommends that Council approve the resolution as written in the recommendation.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The applicant has applied for a liquor primary licence for the subject property located at 1466 3rd Avenue. Administration recommends that Council approve the recommendation and forward it to the LCRB as the application is consistent with the OCP and LCLP.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

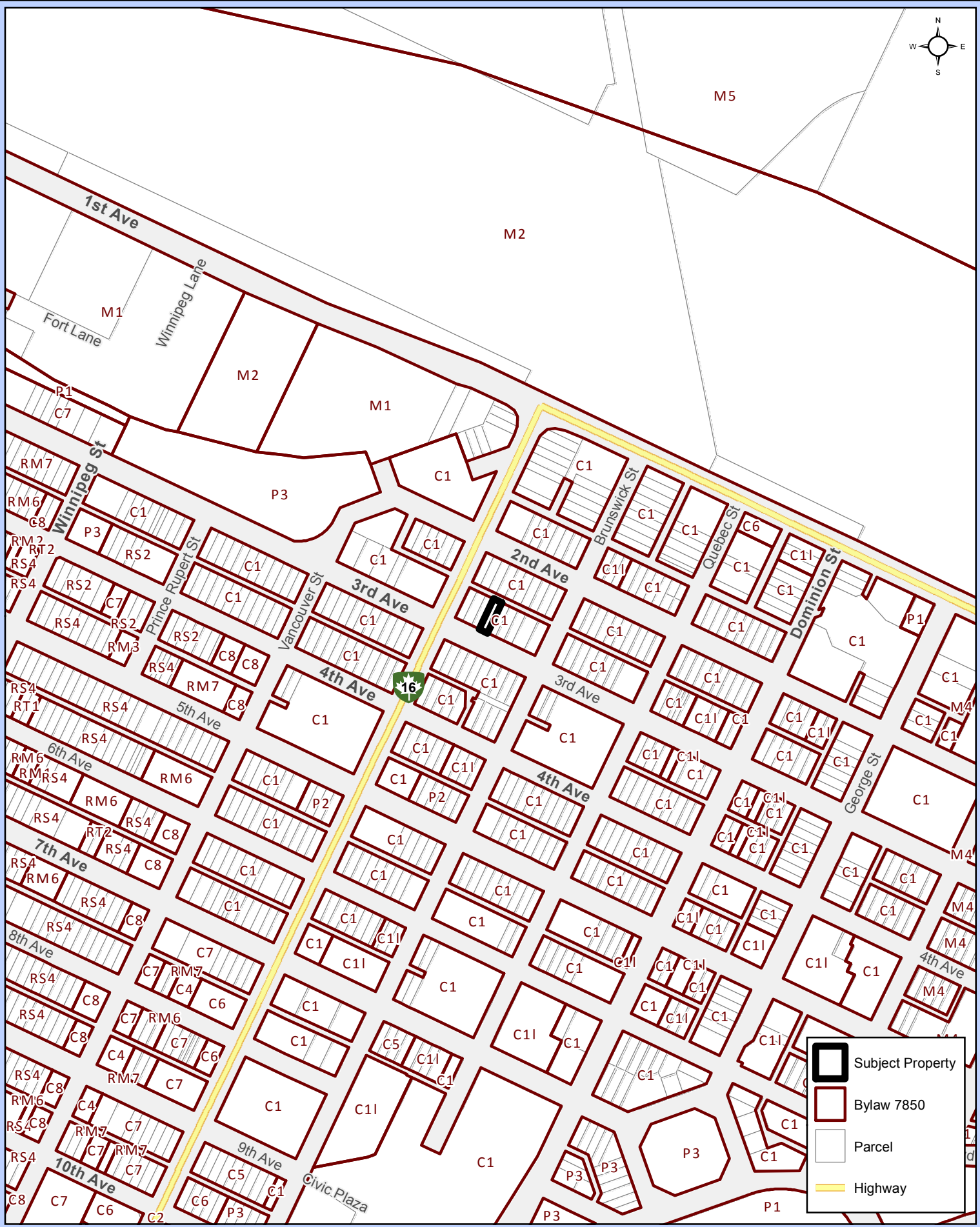
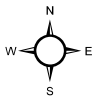
Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development

PREPARED BY: Bryce Deveau, Planner 1

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2024/04/08



	Subject Property
	Bylaw 7850
	Parcel
	Highway

0 20 40 80 120 160 Meters
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
1:5000



Alibis Bar 2.0 Business Model (Letter of Intent)

Mission Statement

Our mission is to create a high-end nightclub experience that exceeds clients' expectations by offering exceptional levels of service, entertainment and social activities in a safe, comfortable and relaxed atmosphere.

Owner and Management Staff

The Owner of Alibis has been successful in this industry for well over a decade in Prince George, Surrey and White Rock. A strong management team will be in place to oversee the daily operation while working closely with the owner to ensure this business model is properly applied and maintained.

Vision

Our vision is to become the preeminent lounge, nightclub and entertainment centre in Prince George.

To attain this vision, we will provide:

- A high-end sound system, high-end lighting system, Full time DJ, exceptional customer service and entertainment.
- We also understand the importance of Customer and Employee safety therefor we have installed a security camera system throughout the building both inside and outside. We will also install an identification (ID) scanner at the entrance point of the club to be certain that those entering the club are of age and that they meet the scrutiny level we desire for the safety of all.
- Our vision will only be attained if we expect the best from our staff and management team therefor, we will consistently conduct training for staff and management, recognizing we are responsible and accountable for the image we portray to the community and our guests.

Target Market

We do not view Alibis as the general definition of a "Gentleman's Club." Or "Strip Club". We view it as an Entertainment Venue with a focus on all genders in the 25 to 60+ year age group. We will be offering our patrons a high energy, safe environment to socialize, dance and be entertained. Currently no other establishment in Prince George offers this level of entertainment to this core customer group. It is our belief that Alibis will fill a void that has been lacking in Downtown Prince George for some time.

Security

- Alibis will conduct ID checks on all customers at the main entrance utilizing our Electronic ID scanner during all operating hours.
- A dress code will be in effect
- Security Staff will be stationed at front door
- Security Staff will be stationed on main floor
- Security Staff will be stationed on the bottom floor (when operational)
- A Security Manager will be floating during peak hours

Liquor Sales and Certificates

- Alibis will not promote hugely discounted alcoholic beverages.
- All Servers, Bartenders, Security Staff and Management will have SIR certificates, as well additional liquor service training beyond SIR will be conducted.
- There will be two (2) liquor service bars 1) Main floor main service bar - Monday to Saturday with a Shooter Bar operating – Thursday to Saturday and/or for special events as required. 2) Liquor Service Bar bottom floor operating – Thursday to Saturday and/or for special events as required.

Adult entertainment

- Professional Exotic Dancers will provide entertainment.
- Management will provide and brief the dancers on Alibis house policy regarding performances and to reinforce the no contact rule with patrons.
- Dancers will perform as required during business hours and/or for special events as required.

Other entertainment

Alibis on occasion may host live bands for special events such as: New Year's Eve, St Patrick's Day, Alibis Yearly Anniversary etc.

Food Service

Alibis will have available a variety of hot or cold snacks and non-alcoholic beverages during all hours of operation.

Neighbourhood and Noise

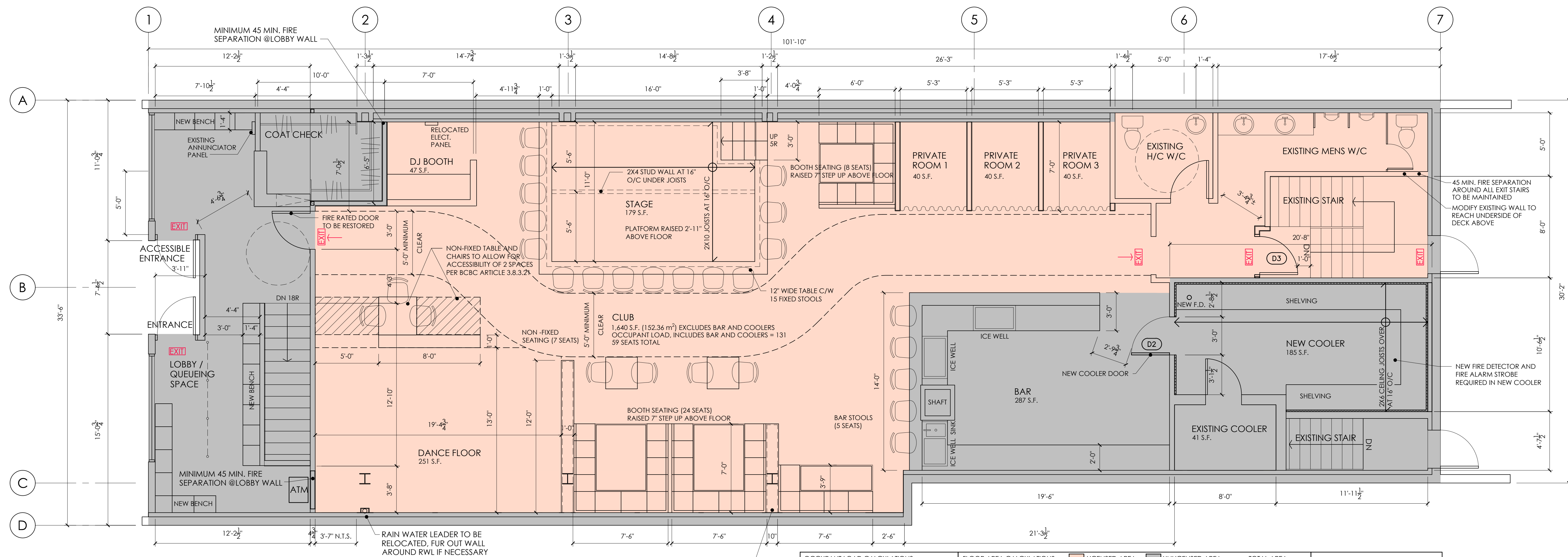
Alibis is located in a commercial neighborhood consisting of banks, restaurants and small businesses. We will have a designated Taxi Zone out front of our building for customer ease and safety. The taxi zone will assist in a quick exit at the end of the night for our patrons' which will minimize noise, traffic congestion and people congregating.



LL100194 Notification Map

1: 1000

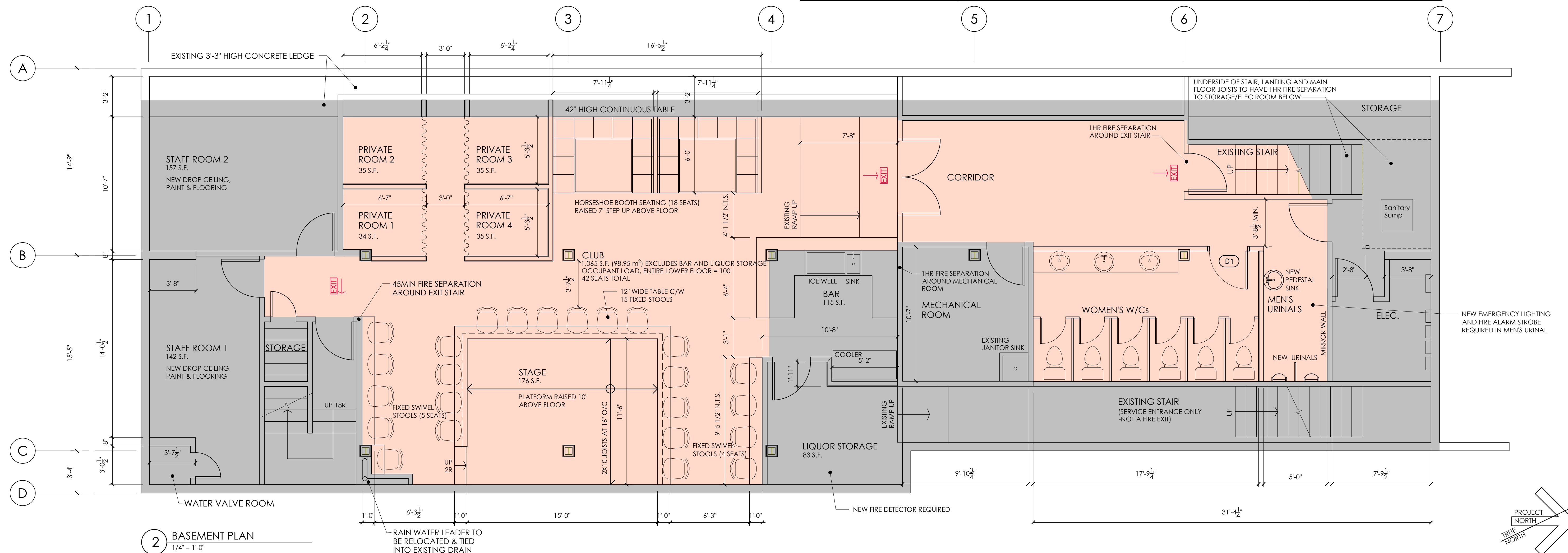
This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.



1 MAIN FLOOR PLAN
1/4" = 1'-0"

OCCUPANT LOAD CALCULATIONS		FLOOR AREA CALCULATIONS		LICENSED AREA		UNLICENSED AREA		TOTAL AREA	
MAIN FLOOR TOTAL	184 PEOPLE	MAIN FLOOR	1,946 S.F.	180.8 m ²	1,297 S.F.	120.5 m ²	3,243 S.F.	301.3 m ²	
BASEMENT TOTAL	100 PEOPLE	BASEMENT	1,627 S.F.	151.2 m ²	1,402 S.F.	130.2 m ²	3,029 S.F.	281.4 m ²	
TOTAL OCCUPANT LOAD	284 PEOPLE	TOTAL FLOOR AREA	3,573 S.F.	332.0 m ²	2,699 S.F.	250.7 m ²	6,272 S.F.	582.7 m ²	

NOTE: DIMENSIONS OF EXISTING CONDITIONS SHALL BE CONFIRMED ON SITE PRIOR TO COMMENCING WORK. ALL MAJOR DISCREPANCIES SHALL BE REPORTED TO THE ARCHITECT.



2 BASEMENT PLAN
1/4" = 1'-0"

2 20.03.2024 RE-ISSUED FOR LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION
1 21.12.2023 ISSUED FOR LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

PROJECT TITLE
NIGHT CLUB RENOVATION
1466 - 3RD AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.

NOTES
©Copyright reserved. This plan and design is and at all times remains the exclusive property of Chernoff Thompson Architects North and cannot be used without the architect's consent.
All dimensions on the project must be checked by the contractor.
This drawing must not be used for construction purposes until here countersigned.
date: _____



SHEET TITLE
AS PROPOSED FLOOR PLANS (LICENSED VS. UNLICENSED AREA)

PROJECT No. 642-23
DRAWN DK
CHECKED TB
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"
DATE 08 MAY 2023
PRINTED 20 MAR 2024

REVISION No.
DRAWING No.

A-1.1

CHERNOFF THOMPSON ARCHITECTS NORTH
230 - 177 VICTORIA ST., PRINCE GEORGE, BC V2L 5R8
PHONE (250) 564-7285, FAX (250) 564-7286
E-MAIL bct@telus.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE MAY 13: The event will now commence at 2 p.m not 4 p.m to give people extra time for the open house portion of the Town Hall.

ORIGINAL RELEASE

Prince George B.C – Prince George residents are invited to attend a Community Safety Town Hall on Tuesday, May 28th at the Civic Centre.

The event will go from 4 p.m to 8 p.m and is open to anyone who would like to learn and comment on safety concerns in Prince George.

The format of the event will go as follows:

- 2 p.m: open house with information panels around the room and a chance to chat with members of council and staff.
- 5 p.m to 6 p.m: panel presentations. Panel to include the city manager, fire chief and the RCMP superintendent (NB: Some details are still being confirmed and this may change).
- 6 p.m to 8 p.m: questions and answer segment managed by a facilitator.

Attendees will also be given the option to submit questions or feedback using paper form at the event, or by contacting the City via email at getinvolved@princegeorge.ca

The goal of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for community members, business owners, and other interested parties to share their concerns, ask questions, and share ideas with key City staff and members of Council to address encampments and complex social issues throughout Prince George.

There is no registration required to attend.

Following the town hall meeting there will be a council workshop to review the feedback and a public report to Council on findings and actionable items.

- 30 -

Media contact:

Claire Thwaites, senior communications advisor

Mobile: 778-349-1386

Email: media@princegeorge.ca