

**DATE:** July 8, 2021

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

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

**SUBJECT:** Liquor Primary and Manufacturer Establishment(s) Temporary Service Area Expansion

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch Policy Directive 21-09

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

THAT Council PRE-APPROVES a Temporary Expanded Service Area Authorization to permit the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch to issue, on application, liquor primary and manufacturer licenses a temporary expansion of their service areas until June 1, 2022, in accordance with Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch Policy Directive No. 21-09.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) Policy Directive No. 21-09 (see attached), and to seek Council's support for a Temporary Expanded Service Area Authorization. This would allow the LCRB to facilitate the temporary expansion of licensed service areas directly with a licensee, and would not require local government sign off.

**BACKGROUND:**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Provincial Health Officer has provided protocols for residents and businesses to consider and/or implement. Physical distancing continues to be recommended and has an effect on the number of patrons an establishment, such as a restaurant or pub, may have. Therefore, the LCRB has provided an opportunity for a licensee to temporarily expand their existing service area

**POLICY/REGULATORY ANALYSIS:**

LCRB Policy Directive No. 21-09 (see attached) allows a licensee to temporarily expand their existing service area until June 1, 2022; however, it does not allow a licensee to exceed their currently approved person/patron capacities or occupant loads.

Additional space is being achieved by the creation of patio space. The additional space permitted under this LCRB directive will allow businesses to increase their footprint to meet their occupant load, while safely serving patrons under the protocols set by the Provincial Health Officer.

In order for a licensee to gain approval from the LCRB for the temporary expansion of their licensed area, the licensee must submit an application to the LCRB by October 31, 2021. The GM will also not be able to accept new TESA applications after October 31, 2021.

Typically, an expansion of a licensed area is a more involved process with the need for sign off from the local government. Administration recommends that Council provide pre-approval for all liquor primary and manufacturer establishments within Prince George to apply for an expanded service area, and allow the LCRB to facilitate the application and approval of the issuance of the temporary expanded service area.

It is important to note that an applicant may still need to seek local government approval should the expanded space involve City land (i.e. sidewalks, streets, etc.) or involve a structural alteration.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

Administration recommends that Council pre-approves a Temporary Expanded Service Area Authorization to permit the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch to issue, on application, liquor primary and manufacturer licensees a temporary expansion of their service areas until June 1, 2022, in accordance with Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch Policy Directive No. 21-09.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Deanna Wasnik, Acting Director of Planning and Development Services

**PREPARED BY:** Mandy Stanker, Supervisor of Land Use Planning

**APPROVED:**

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2021/07/26