

Public Meeting Information

As part of the Liquor Control Review, “Committee of the Whole Meetings” have been chosen as the most efficient way to receive public input and discuss the issues surrounding liquor control and entertainment districts. As per Council Procedures Bylaw 9200, these are considered a Special Meetings of Council, where information can be received and staff can be directed to review and report back with recommendations at a future Council meeting. Council may not make any formal decisions at these meetings.

Invitations have been sent to a variety of stakeholders and special interest groups, including:

- Kelowna RCMP
- Liquor Control and Licensing Branch
- Liquor Primary Establishment operators
- BC Restaurant & Food Services Association
- Downtown Kelowna Association
- Uptown Rutland BIA
- Kelowna South-Central Association of Neighbourhoods
- North-End Residents Association
- Okanagan College Student’s Union
- UBC Okanagan Student’s Union
- Kelowna Chamber of Commerce
- Kelowna Taxi Cab Companies
- Tourism Kelowna
- National Alcohol Strategy
- Urban Development Institute

The meetings will be open to the general public should anyone from the community at-large wish to speak to the issues at hand. Background information has been provided to each invitee to assist in their presentations and discussion with Council.

Issues, Challenges and Opportunities to be discussed include:

- Council Policy #315 - Liquor Licensing Procedures (Liquor Primary and Retail Liquor Sales), specifically:
 - *No new, expanded or relocated Liquor Primary Establishment shall be permitted with a person capacity of greater than 500 persons.*
 - *Any new, expanded or relocated Liquor Primary License application with a person capacity of 350 persons or more shall not be located closer than 300 m (shortest travel distance) to an existing Liquor Primary Establishment with a person capacity of greater than 350 persons and no closer than 100 m (shortest travel distance) to another Liquor Primary Establishment with a person capacity between 150 and 350 person capacity and not abutting or adjacent to another Liquor Primary Establishment with a person capacity of less than 150 persons.*
 - *Any new, expanded or relocated Liquor Primary License application with a person capacity of between 150 and 350 persons shall not be located closer than 100 m (shortest travel distance) to an existing Liquor Primary Establishment with a person capacity greater than 150 persons and shall not be located abutting or adjacent to another Liquor Primary Establishment with a person capacity of less than 150 persons.*
 - *Any new, expanded or relocated Liquor Primary License application with a person capacity of less than 150 persons shall not be located adjacent or abutting an existing Liquor Primary Establishment.*
 - *No additional Liquor Primary establishment shall be considered within the Yellow Area identified by the Downtown Plan*
 - *No additional capacity for existing Liquor Primary Establishments shall be considered within the Yellow Area identified by the Downtown Plan*

- Hours of sale and the current 2:00am maximum.
- “Soft closings” - allowing establishments to remain open a full hour after liquor sales have ended, where 30mins is currently allowed by the LCLB.
- Existing policing capacity and enforcement issues.
- “Barflush” disorder and options for mitigation.
- The use of patron identification systems (i.e. Treoscope).
- Late-night transportation availability, including: public transit, taxi cab service, overnight parking, etc.
- Availability of alternative night-time entertainment facilities.
- Lower Mainland’s “Barwatch” program and implementation options for Kelowna.
- The use of Good Neighbour Agreements.
- Business License fees and enforcement options.

Local Government’s Role in BC Liquor Licensing:

- All establishments wishing to serve alcohol must obtain a liquor license from the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch in Victoria. There are two primary license categories: Liquor Primary (e.g. bars, pubs, cabarets) and Food Primary (e.g. restaurant).
- Local governments are referred on all applications for a new Liquor Primary establishments, as well as proposed changes to existing terms and conditions (e.g. hours of sale, capacity, etc).
- Food Primary applications are only referred to local governments when the proposal includes hours of sale past midnight and/or an entertainment endorsement.

Liquor Licensing Statistics:

The City of Kelowna has a total capacity over 50,000 for licensed “liquor seats” including all categories of Food and Liquor Primary establishments (restaurants, pubs, cabarets, hotels, private clubs, gaming facilities, theatres, stadiums, recreational facilities, etc).

The Downtown Urban Centre holds the highest concentration of licensed establishments in the City. There are 72 licensed establishments Downtown, comprising a total capacity of 13648 (Figure 1). Downtown also includes half of the total Liquor Primary seats within the City. This concentration is particularly evident during weekend “barflush” - after 2:00am. At this time, a group of pubs and cabarets close and a total person capacity of over 2700 liquor seats leave these establishments (Figure 3).

Figure 1: Liquor Licenses and Licensed Capacity in City of Kelowna

Type of License	Number of Licenses		% Downtown	Licensed Capacity		% Downtown
	Downtown ¹	City		Downtown	City	
Food Primary	55	135	41%	8650	22247	39%
Liquor Primary ²	17	43	40%	4998	10027	50%
Total	72	178	40%	13648	32274	42%

*Statistics do not include golf courses, private clubs, stadiums or sports facilities.

Figure 2: Saturday Closing Times for Kelowna Liquor Establishments

	12:00am (or earlier)	1:00am	1:30am	2:00am
Liquor Primary (Citywide)	4	21	1	17
Downtown Liquor Primary	1	6	1	9
Downtown Food Primary	27	26	2	0

*Statistics do not include golf courses, private clubs, stadiums or sports facilities.

¹ Downtown Urban Centre boundary as defined within Kelowna’s Official Community Plan.

² Includes Kelowna Community Theatre (1144 seats), Chances Gaming (1064 seats) and Lake City Casinos (600 seats).

Figure 3: “Downtown Barflush”: LP’s Closing at 2:00am in the Downtown

Establishment Name	Capacity
Cheetah’s	232
Liquid Zoo*	301
Level	464
The Blue Gator	102
Flashback’s	490
Gotcha	473
Tonics	163
Rose’s Waterfront Pub	321
Doc Willoughby’s Pub	180
Total	2726

*License currently suspended.

Further information on the Liquor Control Review can be obtained from the Land Use Management Department. Please contact Luke Turri at 250-469-8482 or lturri@kelowna.ca.