



May 8, 2020

Hon. David Eby  
Room 232 Parliament Buildings  
501 Belleville St.  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Eby:

**RE: Supporting Businesses by Making Liquor Licensing More Flexible**

As Mayor of the City of North Vancouver I want to start by thanking you for the work you have done to serve British Columbians.

I appreciate how quickly your government has responded to the needs of people and businesses. This pandemic has highlighted, among other things, the agility and speed of our public service when they are needed urgently.

It is with that same urgency I ask you to consider examining how we can increase flexibility in outdoor seating and liquor licensing in support of our businesses.

I have been hosting business round tables to learn about the unique needs of our business sectors. From these conversations I have learned of a few actions that could be taken immediately to ensure restaurants, pubs, and breweries can be resilient businesses as we begin to re-open gradually.

As you are aware, the current liquor licensing regulations for pubs, breweries and restaurants requires only permanent changes when adding potential capacity such as increased outdoor patio space.

Our City is in the process of revising our outdoor dining process to allow these businesses to expand their patio areas on a temporary basis as we begin BC's restart plan. This will assist these businesses to be able to serve customers on their premises while meeting safe distancing requirements.

My understanding is that the current provincial licensing requirements will not permit temporary changes, therefore I am concerned this will negatively impact these businesses and discourage many from being able to open up to serve the public on their premises.

Changing this model to allow greater flexibility could be the difference in countless businesses being able to keep their doors open and expanding their service from their current significantly reduced levels.

We have seen new challenges like never before, and your government has acted swiftly to deliver results. I urge you to consider what I have detailed to you in this letter. We now know

changes can happen quickly when they are needed, and these changes are needed immediately to support our food and liquor industry.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda C. Buchanan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and "B".

**Linda Buchanan**  
**Mayor of the City of North Vancouver**

c.c. All B.C. municipal governments  
Bowinn Ma, MLA for North Vancouver-Lonsdale  
BC Restaurant & Food Services Association  
Alliance of Beverage Licensees  
BC Craft Brewer's Guild  
North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce  
Lower Lonsdale Business Improvement Association