

Have your say!

Bill 83: Liquor Act

OVERVIEW

You're invited to provide input on Bill 83: *Liquor Act*.

- [Bill 83](#) replaces the existing [Liquor Act](#) with an updated version.
- Bill 83 follows a two-year [Liquor Legislation Review](#) that made [66 recommendations](#) to improve the *Liquor Act*.

Bill 83 has many changes that can be summarized in four goals:

1. Streamline how the industry is regulated.
2. Ensure safe public access to liquor.
3. Increase community control over liquor.
4. Improve liquor enforcement.

More details on these changes can be found in a [plain language summary](#) for Bill 83.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations, a group of regular MLAs, (Committee) is welcoming any input on Bill 83. Discussion questions are included on [page #2](#) of this guide. More generally, Committee would like to hear your views on liquor [laws](#), [regulations](#), [community control](#), [licensing & permitting](#), [manufacturing](#), [education & enforcement](#), and [distribution & sales](#).

DEADLINE FOR INPUT

Please provide your thoughts and concerns on or before Friday, June 30, 2023, at 5:00pm MT. Please send your written submissions to committees@ntassembly.ca.

NEXT STEPS

Committee will consider all input received. Your input will help Committee make changes to strengthen Bill 83.

ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS

Opening questions

1. What do you think about the proposed changes?
2. How will the changes impact you, your business, or your community?

Continued:

Streamline how the industry is regulated

3. What should be done to improve licensing and permitting?
4. What do you think of changing the Liquor Licensing Board into an Appeals Board, and transferring its licensing and penalty functions to a Registrar, a type of administrative body?
5. Do you support the move away from compliance hearings and towards fines to deal with violations of the Liquor Act?
6. Are the proposed fines and maximum amounts appropriate?
7. How can the law and regulations better support liquor manufacturers?

Ensure safe public access to liquor

8. Should the GNWT allow different types of retail liquor outlets besides full-service liquor stores? (e.g., specialty outlets, outlets within another store)
9. Should special purpose permits, like those used for managed alcohol programs, be allowed in communities with a prohibition/ban?
10. Should local liquor delivery be allowed? If so, with what conditions?
11. Should the prohibition/ban on drinking liquor in public places continue?
12. Should the GNWT set a minimum price for standard drinks?
13. Do you think liquor sales should be allowed on Sundays, holidays, and election days?

Enhance community control over liquor

14. Who should make decisions about community control of liquor? (e.g., the current two-council approach vs. a single local authority designated by the Minister)
15. Should the GNWT get rid of the “committee” liquor system option?
16. Should communities be given more powers about liquor sales, like to initiate or close retail liquor sales?
17. Should community and Indigenous governments be allowed to own and operate liquor retail outlets?
18. How should decisions about allowing a liquor licence in a community for the first time be made? By the elected leaders? Or a public vote?
19. How can the GNWT improve rules around temporary prohibition orders?

Improve liquor enforcement

20. Do inspectors, investigators, and peace officers need stronger powers to properly enforce liquor rules?
21. Do you support removing mandatory minimum fines for bootlegging?

Closing question

22. Are there any other changes that could strengthen the liquor laws?