

LGA news

On April 1, 2014, the Manitoba Gaming Control Commission and the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission's (MLCC) Regulatory Services Division will combine to become a single regulatory agency: the **Liquor and Gaming Authority of Manitoba (LGA)**.

What does this mean for liquor licensees?

The Liquor and Gaming Control Act will modernize Manitoba's current liquor laws, which have been in place since 1956. While this will lead to important changes for liquor licensees, we are working to make the transition as seamless as possible.

What will happen to my current liquor licence(s)?

- Effective April 1, your existing MLCC liquor licence(s) will be considered an LGA licence and will remain in effect until its expiry date.
- There will now be six categories of liquor service licences:
 1. **Dining Room:** The food to liquor ratio for dining rooms has been eliminated. Dining rooms may serve liquor without food service, as long as half of their seating is available for food service or occupied by customers who have ordered or been served a meal.
 2. **Dining Room/Lounge:** This has become a single category for licensees who currently have both a dining room licence and a cocktail lounge licence.
 3. **Beverage Room:** Beverage rooms will have the option to remain age-prohibited or to apply for a family-friendly authorization that permits them to operate as a dining room under certain conditions.
 4. **Entertainment Facility:** This category brings together the current cabaret and spectator activity licence categories. Effective April 1, the requirement to have a full-service, on-site kitchen will be removed for current cabaret licensees; however, food service must still be available for all entertainment facility licensees.



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5. **Customer/Member Service:** This brings together the current sports facility, transportation, canteen and private club licence categories, as well as personal services providers.
 6. **Unique Hospitality Experience:** These special licences will not be routinely available, but will give the LGA flexibility to license businesses that do not fit within other licence categories.
- The licensee field manual is being revised to reflect these changes. The new manual will be available on April 1 at www.LGAmanitoba.ca.
 - Your licence fees will not change for the next two years while we work with an industry advisory group to review the fee structure and develop a new model. Liquor licences will continue to be valid for three years.
 - Effective April 1, the Liquor Licensing Board will be eliminated and replaced with a quicker and more responsive administrative process. Licences will be approved and issued by LGA employees, as has been done with gaming licences for many years. The executive director will have the power to direct remedies, issue fines, or suspend or revoke licences. Any such orders may be appealed to the LGA's board.
 - Effective April 1, licensees will be required to accept the Secure Certificate of Indian Status issued by the Government of Canada as a new valid form of identification.
 - Inspectors will continue to monitor your compliance with legislation and regulations. The LGA will take a risk-based approach to inspections to focus on high-risk premises and working with licensees to ensure compliance through education and information.

Will I be able to advertise?

- Our new approach to advertising and marketing levels the field for all licensees.
- The LGA believes that self-monitoring is an effective and modern way to regulate advertising. As a licensee, you will be responsible to ensure your advertising meets the Canadian Code of Advertising Standards.
- All licensees will also be required to include a tagline about responsible alcohol consumption in all liquor advertising and marketing.
- The LGA is preparing a toolkit to guide licensees in interpreting and applying these advertising and marketing requirements. This will be available at www.LGAmanitoba.ca on April 1.



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What about **server training and minimum pricing**?

- Server training will continue as a requirement. The LGA will update and refine the Serving it Safe program in 2014/15.
- Minimum pricing will remain at \$2.25 per drink.

Will I have more **flexibility**?

- Hours for liquor service will be consistent across all licence categories, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. As a licensee, you may determine your operating hours within this period.
- Restrictions on Sunday and holiday hours have been eliminated, with the exception of restrictions on Remembrance Day.
- Municipalities will still have the local option to reduce or prohibit liquor service.

Special Authorizations for the Year of Music

As part of Manitoba's Year of Music and our commitment to increase flexibility for licensees, we are pleased to announce that liquor licensees will be able to apply for a special authorization to operate as live entertainment venues up to 12 times during 2014.

An LGA authorization application form will be available on April 1 at www.LGAmnitoba.ca for this LGA Year of Music Program. Licensees may apply anytime during 2014. Licensees who are granted the authorization may operate under terms and conditions similar to an entertainment facility licence up to 12 times between the time the authorization issued and December 31, 2014. Conditions will include:

- The authorization will be effective beginning at 8:00 p.m. on up to 12 evenings.
- A live musical performance must take place for a minimum of two hours each evening.
- Licensees may select any 12 evenings to participate in the Year of Music Program.
- Licensees must display a poster in their window on the 12 evenings they are participating in the Year of Music Program.
- Full meal service is not required, but food must be available.
- There is no cost for this special authorization.

Questions? Please visit www.manitobamusic.com to learn more about the 2014 Year of Music.



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Will there still be a **public notice requirement**?

- New licence applications will continue to require the posting of public notices at the proposed site, in the local paper and in any other form designated by the LGA. There will not be a public notice requirement when your current licence becomes an LGA licence on April 1.
- There will continue to be avenues for dispute resolution and mediation for existing licensed premises linked to disturbances, traffic congestion and noise complaints.

What will happen to my **VLT siteholder registration**?

- VLT siteholder registrations will now be called VLT siteholder licences. This is a name change only. If you currently have VLTs, your existing registration will be considered a VLT siteholder licence and will remain in effect until its expiry date.
- When it comes time to renew your registration, the LGA will issue a VLT siteholder licence in place of a registration. Eventually, the LGA will coordinate liquor and VLT licence expiry dates to streamline your renewal process.
- All current VLT Siteholder Terms and Conditions will continue to apply to your licence. Compliance with these terms and conditions is required to maintain your licence in good standing. Inspectors will continue to monitor compliance as usual.
- Minor revisions have been made to our VLT Siteholder Terms and Conditions. The revised terms and conditions will be available at www.LGAmnitoba.ca on April 1 and will apply to all new licences issued by the LGA.
- Minors are prohibited from playing VLTs or redeeming VLT payout vouchers under the new legislation. This change enshrines in legislation what has been a longstanding policy in Manitoba.

Questions?

Contact us at 204-474-5619, toll-free at 1-888-898-6522, or liquorlicence@LGAmnitoba.ca for questions about liquor licensing.

Contact us at 204-954-9400, toll-free at 1-800-782-0363, or gaminglicence@LGAmnitoba.ca for questions about VLT siteholder licensing.