

LGA news

On April 1, 2014, the Manitoba Gaming Control Commission and the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission's 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 vendors?

- *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 some important changes for liquor vendors, we are working to make the transition as seamless as possible.
- Liquor vendors will require an LGA sales licence under the new legislation. The LGA will automatically consider you to have a licence that is valid until March 31, 2015. Before that time, we will send you a licensing form to complete and return to the LGA to maintain your licence past March 31, 2015.
- As a licensee, inspectors will begin to routinely monitor your compliance with the legislation and regulation. The LGA will take a risk-based approach to inspections that focuses on high-risk premises and working with licensees to ensure compliance through education and information.
- In 2014/15, the LGA will develop and launch an online social responsibility training program for retail locations, including liquor vendors. We will provide more information about this mandatory program over the course of the year.
- Effective April 1, you will be required to accept the Secure Certificate of Indian Status issued by the Government of Canada as a new valid form of identification. The LGA will send each liquor vendor posters that depict accepted forms of identification.

Will I have more flexibility?

- Liquor can be sold from 8:00 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week. 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 sales.



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What about **occasional permits**?

- Occasional liquor permits will now be called social occasion permits. This is a name change only. Manitobans will continue to be able to apply for permits at the LGA Permit Department, at www.LGManitoba.ca, and at Liquor Marts, specialty wine stores and rural liquor vendors. **Only the LGA will be able to issue permits.**
- Manitobans will continue to be required to apply for a social occasion permit at least three business days before their event. The LGA is planning a communication strategy to remind the public of this requirement.
- The LGA will send you new social occasion permit application forms in late March, along with instructions for how to submit completed forms.

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



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