



MAYOR'S OFFICE

NOV 08 2018

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Her Worship Lisa Helps
Mayor of the City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps:

Your letter of September 4, 2018, addressed to the Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, in which you express concerns regarding food primary establishments in Victoria, British Columbia. As the Minister responsible for liquor policy, I am pleased to respond.

During the Liquor Policy Review in 2015, the provincial government announced that food primary licensees can allow patrons to order liquor in restaurants without needing to order food. However, as you know, the licensee is still responsible for keeping the focus on food service at all times by having a fully equipped kitchen open, providing a comprehensive food menu, providing ample tables and chairs, and limiting patron-participation events, such as dancing or karaoke.

To reduce the negative impacts of liquor service on the City, you requested that the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch ("the branch") assign more appropriate licences to food primary establishments that serve more liquor than food during certain hours.

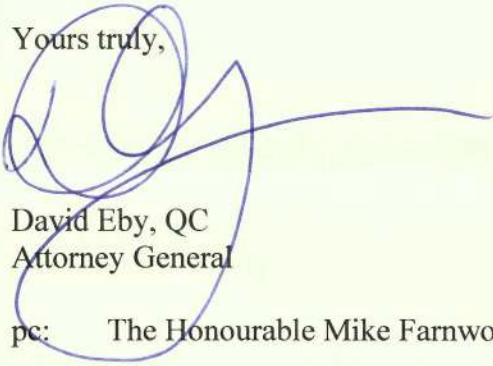
Responsible liquor service is an important priority, and I can assure you the branch takes issues associated with liquor service very seriously. The branch depends on information from their partner agencies and the public to help them assess whether establishments are operating contrary to what their licence allows. I encourage your staff to contact the branch with more specific information on the problematic establishments, so that they may follow up with the licensees. The branch cannot require existing food primary establishments to apply for liquor primary licences. Instead, the branch works to encourage voluntary achieve compliance with the current operating rules.

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Thank you again for taking the time to share your perspective with me. I appreciate the City's commitment to a safe and vibrant downtown core.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

David Eby, QC
Attorney General

pc: The Honourable Mike Farnworth