

Planning & Development Services Report to  
Executive Committee  
2025 September 08

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
EC2025-0839

## Aligning Business Licence Bylaw with Provincial Cannabis Guidelines

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to amend the City of Calgary's *Business Licence Bylaw* to align with changes to the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) Retail Cannabis Store Handbook (the AGLC Handbook) to allow sales of cannabis products at all-ages festivals.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

On 2025 April 29, Council approved an amendment to the City of Calgary's *Business Licence Bylaw* to enable temporary cannabis sales at events where minors are prohibited.

### RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Executive Committee recommend that Council:

1. Give three readings to the *Business Licence Bylaw* 32M98 amendment as proposed in Attachment 2.

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

General Manager Deb Hamilton concurs with the recommendations of this which brings the Business Licence Bylaw into alignment with provincial policy and provides more flexibility for cannabis store operators in Calgary

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On 2025 July 16, AGLC expanded Section 4.17 of the AGLC Handbook to permit temporary cannabis retail sales at all-ages events.
- Cannabis sales at all ages events may occur only at the site authorized on the AGLC licence where minors are prohibited.
- The proposed recommendation aligns Calgary's rules with the Province, avoiding confusion and ensuring enforcement clarity.
- The proposed amendment supports harm reduction by discouraging unsafe, unregulated cannabis sales at events.
- Expands opportunities for Calgary retailers to participate in major festivals, supporting local business.
- Creates fairness and consistency for operators enabling one set of rules, governed provincially.

### DISCUSSION

Originally, once a cannabis store operator was licensed by the AGLC and The City of Calgary, they could sell cannabis only from their approved retail location. However, as of January 2024, the AGLC allowed retailers to apply for a temporary extension to sell cannabis at minors-prohibited events. On 2025 April 29 the City of Calgary's *Business Licence Bylaw* was updated to align with this change. In July 2025, this flexibility was extended further by AGLC to allow sales at events open to all ages at the site authorized on the AGLC licence where minors are prohibited.

## Aligning Business Licence Bylaw with Provincial Cannabis Guidelines

Administration recommends that Council approve the proposed amendments to the *Business Licence Bylaw* to ensure alignment with the AGLC Handbook. Further, local operators will not be disadvantaged compared to retailers in other Alberta cities where provincial policy already applies. AGLC will oversee the inspection and enforcement of the temporary extensions of Cannabis sales. City processes for event approval, consumption zones, and temporary occupancy cards remain unchanged.

### EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

Administration engaged the internal and external agencies as listed. Internal agencies support aligning the *Business Licence Bylaw* with provincial direction.

#### Internal agencies

- Arts & Culture – Interdepartmental Events Team
- Community Standards – Community Safety
- Community Standards – Business Safety
- Calgary Fire – Inspections
- Law
- Customer Service & Communications

#### External agencies

- Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC)
- Alberta Health Services (AHS)

In a meeting on 2025 August 19, AHS discussed with Administration the health concerns and potential strategies to mitigate the risks related to cannabis sales at events. Administration continues to recommend AHS engage with AGLC on health concerns and harm reduction and advocate for event permit conditions to support compliance and enforcement. After the meeting AHS followed up by submitting a letter (Attachment 5).

### IMPLICATIONS

#### Social

The *Business Licence Bylaw* amendment supports safe, regulated cannabis sales at events. While more flexible than the previous amendment, protection of minors will occur through the AGLC approved zones that are minors-prohibited at the festival.

#### Environmental

Not Applicable.

#### Economic

Events and festivals make Calgary a vibrant place to live and an attractive city to visit, contributing to Calgary's economy. The bylaw amendment supports the Eventful City Strategy,

Planning & Development Services Report to  
Executive Committee  
2025 September 08

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
EC2025-0839

### Aligning Business Licence Bylaw with Provincial Cannabis Guidelines

business-friendly initiatives, and provides business growth opportunities for existing cannabis retailers located in Calgary.

#### **Service and Financial Implications**

No anticipated financial impact

#### **RISK**

The proposed amendment lowers the risk of unregulated cannabis sales at events. If this amendment is not approved, the City regulations will not be being consistent with provincial guidelines which may cause confusion for retail operators.

#### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. Proposed Business Licence Bylaw 32M98 Amendment
3. Red Line of Bylaw 32M98 Amendment
4. Presentation
5. AHS Letter

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Debra Hamilton	Planning and Development Services	Approve
Katie Black	Community Services	Inform

Author: Mel Bishoff, Development, Business and Building Services