

February 25, 2022



The Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
P.O. Box 9010 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Email: PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Re: LCRB Expanded Service Area Authorizations

Dear Minister Farnworth,

I write to you regarding your Ministry's decision to transition the temporary expanded service area (TESA) authorization process into a permanent option for businesses. Consistent with a recommendation from the Local Government Working Group on Liquor Policy, the UBCM Executive has approved a motion requesting that the Province extend the June 1, 2022 transition deadline by a minimum of four months.

As you are aware, this provincial decision places the onus on local governments to implement any desired restrictions on outdoor patios, or alternatively allow them to operate year-round. The primary reason for UBCM's request is to provide local governments with adequate time to conduct necessary research, building code work, and update relevant bylaws, policies and permits.

It is also our understanding that as of February 1, 2022, less than 10% of licensees that received a TESA authorization had applied for a permanent outdoor patio or structural change. Extending the transition deadline could provide additional time to businesses that have not yet submitted their applications, as well as provincial staff tasked with processing applications before TESA authorizations expire.

This change is being implemented at a time when local governments are still dealing with the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, and to ensure a smooth transition to a permanent expanded service area process, UBCM is requesting that local governments be given an additional four months or more to sufficiently prepare.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LA Roodenburg", written in a cursive style.

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg
UBCM President

cc: *Jillian Rousselle, A/Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager, LCRB*