



Why should you join ABLE?

It might be hard to predict what the future will bring for our industry, but whatever challenges may come our way, we will continue to push forward and assist you in sustaining your businesses' bottom line. Keeping your concerns and operational struggles on government's radar is imperative. Seeking out and implementing bigger and better membership benefit programs are a must to help you save money.

Join the momentum. Join your industry association. Together we will drive our industry forward.

Support

As we continue to experience challenging times within our industry, it is particularly important that our association sustains support during these difficult times in order to maintain the strength and momentum required to bridge this current downturn and position our sector for long term growth.

Strength in Numbers

We have shown government and other key industry players that our association's voice carries the weight of the industry behind it. As we move forward we want to be able to show not only that our association is strong but that our strength is growing with an increasing percentage of our businesses are supporting the voice of our industry.

Success

A good example of why our numbers matter pertains to the new drinking and driving legislation. When government, key industry players and the media all turned to ABLE BC to learn how the new penalties were affecting businesses, we were able to survey our members and show that business was down 20-30% across the province.

ABLE BC has been successful in a number of areas affecting your liquor related issues this past fiscal year. Here is a review of what ABLE BC has done for you since September 2010:

- We made sure government understood the implications an increase in minimum wage would have upon our industry and they responded by staggering the wage increase and implementing a gratuity wage differential for liquor servers
- We raised concerns with LCLB that the use of minors for enforcement should be used equally in both government and independent liquor stores and on February 1, 2011 such a policy (operational bulletin No: 11-01) was implemented by LCLB
- We helped members, staff and especially your customers get in touch with their local MLAs by providing messaging, template letters and contact information in order to help MLAs understand how the new drinking and driving penalties are affecting our industry
- We continue to work closely with government towards implementing creative solutions in which to mitigate the effects these new laws have had upon our industry

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- We elevated concerns of police presence in and around LPs and LRSs and continue to work closely with the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles and the Integrated Road Safety Unit
- We implemented and led a Riot Review Task Force to provide an industry perspective of the Stanley Cup Riot on June 15th and submitted recommendations to the Provincial and City of Vancouver reviews which were taken into consideration and included in the final Vancouver Riot Review
- We have been consulted in the development of policies stemming from legislative changes to Tied House and Trade Practices and continue to work closely with LCLB on the development of regulations
- We surveyed members to find out if you supported the 1km separation between LRS locations and communicated the resounding 'yes' response we received to LCLB stating its importance to our industry
- We communicated to LCLB our support of the government's goal to ensure that there is a clear and transparent minimum price policy at the LDB and reiterated we do not support any changes to our current pricing structure or 16% discount
- We have distributed over 3,500 "I ask for 2 pieces of ID" buttons to LRSs across the province in an attempt to increase our compliance rates. (*We can even send you the design if you want to get it printed on t-shirts like some operators have done*)
- We worked for many years with WorkSafeBC to solidify the late night working alone hours now successfully defined as 11pm to 6am and towards the implementation of a violence prevention program (procedures, policies, panic buttons etc) to ensure worker's safety during late night hours
- We worked with go2, the BCRFA and the CRFA to develop Blood Alcohol Content Tent Cards to help educate your customers with respect to alcohol consumption and corresponding BAC levels
- We received a number of member complaints of restaurants acting like bars and forwarded those concerns to the LCLB in order for liquor inspectors to investigate specific restaurants of concern
- We ran radio ads to counter the BCGEU's ads promoting the advantages of shopping in local independent liquor stores
- We served as intervenors during the Copyright Board of Canada's review of implementing Re:Sound (previously NRCC) Tariff No.6 – Use of Recorded Music to Accompany Dance. ABLE BC surveyed members and provided evidence in opposition of the proposed dance tariff. As a result of ABLE's submissions Re:Sound lowered the rate to \$0.21 per person, per day which meant that venues would only be charged on days when recording music was used for dancing.

Updated: October 2011