



ALLIANCE OF BEVERAGE LICENSEES

FOR A RESPONSIBLE LIQUOR INDUSTRY

Industry Fact Sheet

Independent liquor stores support local communities and customers

- 662 independent liquor stores employ thousands of full and part time jobs in BC communities.
- Independent liquor stores are predominantly small family owned businesses offering chilled wines and beers and tailored selection at competitive prices to customers right in their neighbourhood.
- Independent liquor stores sponsor local sports teams, charities, and community activities.

Independent liquor stores pay for health care and education

- Independent liquor stores account for 41.3% of government revenues from liquor sales in 2008/09. Government liquor stores account for less, at 40.7% of government revenues.
- The BC government generates more revenue on products sold at independent liquor stores than at the government stores. This is because operating cost at government stores exceed 17% of sales, compared to 16% at independent liquor stores.
- Costly operating expenses, inefficiencies and capital projects at government liquor stores diminish potential revenues from liquor sales that could support health care and education.

Independent liquor stores are gaining market share

- Independent liquor store sales increased by 45% from 2002/03 to 2008/09.
- Over the same period, government liquor store sales decreased by 28%.
- Customers of government liquor store declined by nearly 1 million from 2006-07 to 2007-08.

About ABLE BC

The Alliance of Beverage Licensees (ABLE BC) is the industry advocate for pubs, bars and independent liquor stores throughout the province. ABLE BC works with industry stakeholders and members to ensure a responsible liquor industry.

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