



December 3, 2023

Corey Cooper
Planning Technician
City of Courtenay
830 Cliffe Avenue,
Courtenay, BC, V9N 2J7

RE: Kelly & Carlos O'Bryan's Pub and Bar Application to Change Liquor License

We are writing you on behalf of the Comox Valley Substance Use Collaborative (Collaborative) to provide feedback on the above Liquor License application.

The Collaborative is overseeing the work towards implementation of recommendations in the recently released Phase Two Substance Use Strategy. Recommendation # 18 in the Strategy Report is directed towards local governments and states" *Develop or review existing municipal bylaws and policies related to alcohol and cannabis sales and selling establishments to reduce negative impacts to community health, safety, and livability*".

A quick search of Liquor License hours of operation for businesses in Courtenay found 15 establishments with licenses to open past 12AM and all of them are closed by 10PM as evidenced by their posted opening and closing hours. The only establishment that advertises operating hours until midnight is Kelly and Carlos O'Bryan's Pub and Restaurant during the weekdays and advertises until 1AM on Fridays and Saturdays.

While the Provincial Government approves liquor license changes, municipalities can set local by-laws and policies to guide such things as hours of operation, size of establishments and proximity to other liquor-related businesses in consideration of community health. We suggest that the City of Courtenay not approve liquor license approvals or changes on a one-off basis but in alignment with the recommendation and develop by-laws and policies related to liquor and cannabis that apply across the municipality.

Some questions from the Strategy Report that might be asked in developing local by-laws or policies are:

- How many liquor selling or serving establishments need to be in any area?
- How close should liquor and cannabis establishments be to each other?
- What are consistent, reasonable hours for selling and serving liquor?

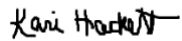
- Are there areas of the region that should not have liquor or cannabis establishments nearby?

In addition, the Province of BC has published a [Local Government Guide to Creating Municipal Alcohol Policy](#) that might be useful for this work.

We also suggest that developing local government alcohol policies could be done through a collaborative approach with the other local governments in the Comox Valley so there is consistency across the region. The Collaborative would be very willing to work with the local governments and businesses to develop policies that are fair to businesses and reduce potential negative effects to health, safety, and livability in our community.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this strategy recommendation.

Kind Regards,



Kari Hackett
Coordinator
CV Substance Use Strategy



Betty Tate
Leadership Team Member
Comox valley Community Health Network

Cc: Councillor Evan Jolicoeur, City of Courtenay Representative, Comox Valley Substance Use Collaborative.