



Backgrounder - Restrictions of Liquor Sales During COVID-19 State of Emergency

Northwest Territories Liquor and Cannabis Commission (NTLCC) will continue to seek and follow the advice of the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) and the Department of Health and Social Services throughout the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

All Liquor Stores in the NWT remain open subject to reduced hours and compliance with the requirements of the CPHO.

Liquor Store Hours:

- Yellowknife, Inuvik and Hay River 12:00 p.m. (noon) until 7:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday.
- Fort Smith 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday.
- Fort Simpson 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday.
- Norman Wells 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

All NWT liquor stores are in compliance with the CPHO direction to businesses on how to organize the functioning of their operations to maintain social distance and public safety. This includes increasing sanitization and cleaning practices, installing hand sanitizer at entrances for customer use, seniors' specific shopping times and limiting the number of customers in the store at any one time.

Municipal or band councils can pass a motion requesting that the Minister of Finance make temporary prohibition order (TPO) for their community. Once a motion has been passed, the municipal or band council should send the Minister of Finance a letter requesting that she make a TPO as per the details in their motion. TPOs can be in place for a maximum of ten days, but under the circumstances further orders could be made that would extend the prohibition period beyond 10 days. TPOs make it illegal for people in the community to consume, sell, purchase and/or transport liquor within community boundaries.

Communities that do not currently have an ongoing liquor restriction or prohibition in place can request a plebiscite at any time. Should this be desired, the Department of Finance will work with the community to explore potential appropriate special measures that could be used while social distancing recommendations are in place.