

## **‘Patio Hours’ policy change – Questions and Answers**

### **Why was the time limit on ‘patio hours’ in place?**

These policies have been in effect for at least 20 years and were implemented to alleviate possible noise concerns.

The policy stated liquor service on patios must end by midnight followed by a one hour consumption period and any extension of these hours must have the written approval of the municipality.

In addition, the policy restricted entertainment on patios by stating recorded music must be kept at low volume; the DJ booth must not be connected to outdoor speakers; and live entertainment on a permanent basis may only be considered with the written approval of the municipality.

### **Why did the AGLC remove the midnight limit on ‘patio hours’?**

The policy was originally implemented to alleviate noise concerns; however, the authority to deal with noise issues falls under the municipality. Representatives from the municipalities of Edmonton and Calgary advised at meetings with the AGLC that noise issues are currently dealt with through their business licensing process and noise bylaw enforcement.

Municipalities that do not have business licences or noise bylaws can make a request to the AGLC to impose conditions on a licence restricting patio hours.

Removal of this policy promotes regulatory innovation and encourages current and future business opportunities. We also heard from licensees that removing these restrictions would assist them in managing occupancy levels during peak hours.

### **What does the new policy for ‘patio hours’ say?**

Liquor service on patios will now be the same as licensed premise hours. Patios will no longer be required to end by midnight followed by a one-hour consumption period. The AGLC will no longer mandate restrictions with regard to recorded music, DJ booths, and live entertainment.

Municipalities, municipal districts, or counties that do not have business licences or noise bylaws can make a request to the AGLC to impose conditions on a liquor licence restricting patio hours where circumstances warrant.

### **Will this change lead to more issues and noise concerns from patio areas?**

The authority to deal with noise issues falls under the municipality or county. Recent conversations with several municipalities indicated that these issues are already governed by bylaws and business licensing processes. If the public has concerns with noise in their communities, they should contact their municipality directly.

Municipalities, municipal districts, or counties that do not have business licences or noise bylaws can make a request to the AGLC to impose conditions on a liquor licence restricting patio hours where circumstances warrant.

### **Will this change lead to more heavy drinking and/or violence in liquor licensed venues?**

In keeping with its promise to provide choices Albertans can trust, the AGLC strives to make sure all of its policies are effective in supporting safe and responsible drinking environments.

Excessive alcohol consumption is an ongoing concern. The AGLC continues to work with industry and community partners on reducing liquor-related harm and enabling Albertans to make healthy choices through moderation. To this end, the AGLC continues to invest in public awareness campaigns to encourage a culture of moderation and address high-risk drinking behaviours like binge drinking and pre-drinking. The main goal is to make young people more aware of the merits of having fun and, at the same time, keep their drinking within personal limits.

In addition to awareness campaigns, the AGLC has a number of programs in place to promote responsible liquor service and consumption, including regulated minimum drink prices and training programs for servers and security staff in licensed venues.

At all times during operating hours, liquor licensees and their staff are expected to follow all requirements for responsible liquor service. Albertans are reminded to know their limit when drinking and to make responsible drinking choices while they are out having fun.

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