

Public Special Event Policy Review

Discussion Guide

September 2018



Introduction

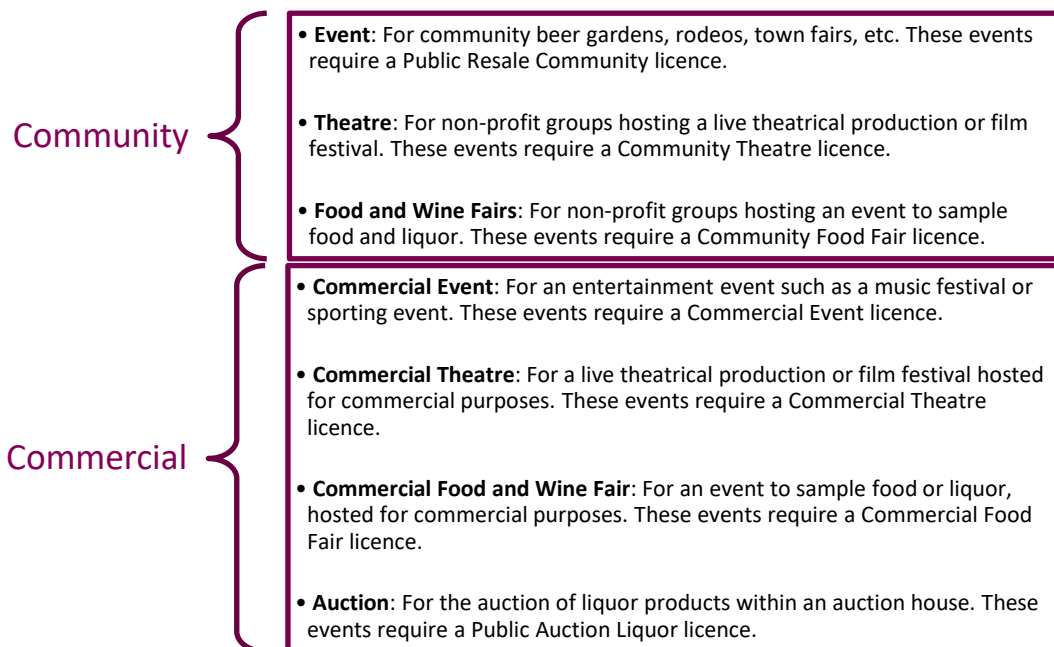
Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) is responsible for licensing, regulating, and monitoring liquor activities in Alberta. Specifically, AGLC administers the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act*, the Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation, and related policy governing the manufacture, importation, sale, purchase, possession, storage, transportation, use, and consumption of liquor in Alberta.

Over the past few years, AGLC has reviewed a number of liquor policies to ensure they remain relevant, effective, and responsive to the needs of Albertans. As AGLC continues to review and modernize liquor policies, its Public Resale Special Event Licensing (SEL) Policies and Guidelines have been identified for review and consultation.

Current Situation

Current AGLC Board policy categorizes special events into two broad categories: public special events and private special events. Private special events are only open to members and invited guests. Public special events are open to the general public. These two broad categories are further broken into subcategories that outline each type of event eligible for licensing in Alberta. For the purposes of this review, this discussion guide will focus on public resale special events and associated subcategories:

Public Resale Events



In recent years, many public events have been found ineligible for a licence because they did not fit neatly into the categories listed above. AGLC has increasingly received requests to license public events that do not fit within the current SEL categories. Some examples of these requests include:

- An event conducted by an art gallery in a small venue.
- An event selling full-sized beverages and offering liquor tasting stations.
- A grand opening party for a business that is open to the public.
- A public fundraiser hosted by an individual, not held at a major entertainment venue.

Many of these public special events are not deemed high-risk events and AGLC has made event-specific exceptions to license these events. Reaction to these exceptions has been very positive.

The current Public SEL policy is being reviewed with the objective of providing the flexibility Albertans need, while maintaining safe and responsible liquor service at public special events.

Modernizing Current Public SEL Policy

To create greater flexibility for Albertans, AGLC is recommending an update to the current policy structure and licensing eligibility requirements.

In particular, AGLC is proposing to combine the Community Public Resale and the Commercial Resale Policies and Guidelines and to move away from specific event categories. This would enable AGLC to license public resale special events based on the event's assessed risk rather than the type of event being held.

New Special Event Licensing Eligibility

Event licensing eligibility could be based on the health, safety, fire, and public risk factors posed by an individual event, rather than the current eligibility-based system.

This would mean that the service and sale of liquor would be permitted at all public events, as long as sufficient documentation is submitted to AGLC detailing how organizers would ensure that the event is safe for participants and how liquor would be served responsibly.

New Licensing Process

High risk events would be subjected to more robust policy requirements, while low risk events would be subjected to simplified requirements.

Such a risk-based approach would ensure a broader range of public resale special events could be licensed, while continuing to ensure participant safety.

Key Questions

AGLC would like to hear from its stakeholders regarding the proposed risk-based approach. A few key questions are outlined below. Discussion will not be limited to these questions; however, they are meant as a starting point.

1. Do you feel that it would be beneficial to combine community public resale and commercial resale policies?
2. Is the proposed risk-based approach beneficial? Could the risk-based approach be aligned with the number of event attendees? Is there a certain number of attendees that you would consider higher risk or lower risk?
3. Are there other changes you would suggest?
4. What risks may be associated with these considered changes or other changes to SEL?
5. Is there a way these risks could be mitigated?

Conclusion

AGLC is looking forward to discussing potential policy changes with our valued stakeholders. AGLC will be reaching out to its contacts in policing and municipalities (Edmonton and Calgary, as well as the provincial associations) to schedule interviews either in-person in St. Albert or Calgary, or over the phone. AGLC will also be conducting interviews with several individuals and organizations who have recently worked with AGLC representatives regarding public special events. Any other stakeholders are welcome to share their views with AGLC by contacting policy@aglc.ca by September 28, 2018.

Thank you for your time and participation in AGLC's review of SELs.