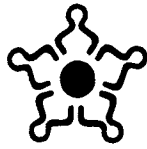


COLLEMBIA'S UNION



BCGEU

B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union

A component of NUPGE (CLC) www.bcgeu.bc.ca

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	DB	
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✓	FA	

0150-01

January 15, 2003

Mayor, Councillors and City Clerk
City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Sir/Madame

I am writing you with regard to the government's plans to close government liquor stores, and to stop handling the distribution of beverage alcohol.

The government, on July 24th, announced its intentions to dismantle the liquor distribution system. All B.C. Liquor Stores will be closed within five years. There is no process to hear from the people, communities and businesses that will be affected.

As Chair of the BC Government and Service Employees' Union, Local 503 Fightback Committee, I am very concerned about the job loss and hardship this will cause for the men and women who work in the LDB distribution centres and liquor stores.

But the changes, closures and uncertainty, as well as the increased proliferation of private liquor outlets, will have a significant impact on communities throughout the province.

Our current liquor distribution system serves us well. In fact, the B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch is B.C.'s largest retailer. In the last five years, the liquor stores we all own have made a profit – over and above taxes – of \$3.1 billion to help pay for public services for families and communities.

I believe B.C. Liquor Stores are a success story. They are efficient, profitable, and socially responsible. From the LDB distribution centres in Vancouver and Kamloops to the local B.C. Liquor Store, we have a proven network that provides good selection at the same price throughout the province, while helping to keep alcohol out of the hands of underage teenagers.

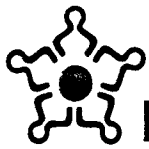
The people who work in B.C. Liquor Stores know how to spot people who are intoxicated, or underage, or who shouldn't have alcohol for some other reason. They have the training, experience and clear direction to refuse service.

Alcohol is an addictive drug that should not be sold like any other retail product. Even with the legal requirement to do so, it is harder for small private retailers to consistently enforce restrictions on alcohol sales. Employees in government liquor stores often hear people who have been refused service say, "I'll just get what I want at the beer and wine store."

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3030 East Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5M 1Z4
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When you look at the number of boys and girls under 19 who smoke, it's disconcerting that the government is moving towards controlling alcohol sales the same way as tobacco. It will be very difficult for a 19 year old private liquor store employee, working part-time for minimum wage and the occasional tip in a jar to help pay for his education, to say "no" to his 17 or 18 year old friends and peers.

As Dr. Norman Giesbrecht, Senior Scientist with the Canadian Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, points out:

"Alcohol is a unique commodity that needs to have unique controls. Government systems have extensive challenge and refusal programs, and other mechanisms, to try to control the problems related to alcohol. I think that can best be done through a government run system rather than through a private system." (Aug. 6, 2002, CBC Radio, Victoria)

In addition, the public system has the resources to support many special programs to encourage the responsible use of alcohol in our communities. These include initiatives to prevent sales to minors, support dry grads, educate people about the dangers of drinking and driving or drinking and boating, fetal alcohol syndrome, and many more.

As a province-wide retailer responsible to the public, B.C. Liquor Stores provide excellent service to customers all over the province – the same wide selection of products at the same price in every community, both large and small.

The B.C. liquor distribution system, with central warehousing and distribution, provides immense efficiencies of scale that can't be matched in a fragmented private system. For example, retailers may have to deal with dozens or hundreds of suppliers instead of one. The need for many deliveries instead of one will drive up shipping costs. The new extra costs will be passed on to customers, and the further people are from Vancouver, the more they will pay.

Government liquor stores are also well designed, and located with respect for their neighbours. In some communities in Alberta – the only province that has turned all liquor sales over to for-profit corporations – loud and garish establishments have brought unwanted noise, late-night traffic and more crime to some neighbourhoods. If liquor becomes a retail commodity like any other, local governments will have to enact and enforce new zoning restrictions if they wish to prevent the sale of alcohol in any location that is currently designated for commercial use.

In addition, the provincial government has indicated that many of the liquor licensing issues that it now deals with will become the responsibility of municipal authorities. With indications that the provincial government also intends to download more policing costs, and to shift some social services to local authorities, the total impact should be of great concern to local governments.

In Edmonton, charges for liquor related offences have more than doubled since the liquor distribution system was privatized, increasing from 1,116 in 1993, to 2,951 in 1999, an increase of 164 percent. By comparison, the number of drug-related offences increased only 7.2 percent in the same period. (Source: Edmonton Police Department, June 13, 2000.)

Calgary Police have reported that in the first year after privatization of liquor, alcohol-related offences increased from 62 to 100.

In Brooks, Alberta, where the number of retail liquor outlets increased from one to 12, robberies increased by 250%, and Liquor Act offences increased from 547 to 974. "A significant change in the availability of liquor can be directly related to the increase in Liquor Act offences," says the Brooks RCMP website.

Criminal Code impaired driving offences per 100,000 population last year were 299 in British Columbia and 475 in Alberta. The Canadian average is 291. (Statistics Canada, CANSIM II, table 252-0013, July 12, 2002.)

Research studies demonstrate that the more liquor stores there are in a community, the more social problems there will be. In Alberta, after privatization, the number of liquor outlets tripled. In addition, experienced workers with the training and commitment to challenge and refuse service to underage boys and girls were replaced by inexperienced, part-time workers in high turn-over jobs that now pay an average of \$7.19 an hour. These are some of the reasons why other provinces, after studying the Alberta experience, have decided that the cost of complete privatization is too high. Even the Ontario government whose platform promised to privatize alcohol sales changed its mind after examining the facts.

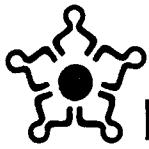
Here's how Trevor Harrison, associate professor in sociology at the University of Lethbridge, described the situation August 4, 2002:

"In 2000/01, (Alberta) government revenues from liquor amounted to only \$468 million, or \$29 million more than in 1992 — a meagre gain over the period in question. Keep in mind the government must pay for increased regulation and enforcement out of this declining revenue. In effect, the Alberta government gave up a cash cow in return for an increasingly emaciated steer.

"The bottom line is that liquor privatization in Alberta has led to higher consumer prices, more stores (but less genuine selection), marginalized workers, a host of social problems, and (in real terms) decreasing government revenues.

"All in all, given Alberta's experience in privatizing liquor, British Columbians might want to give the idea some sober second thought."

I don't claim that our current liquor distribution system is perfect, but I do believe it has served us well for many decades, steadily evolving to meet the changing needs of consumers and the market. It has provided decent-paying jobs for workers who live and pay taxes in your community. It has provided the stability that entrepreneurs in our mixed retailing system require to develop reliable business plans, raise investment capital, and operate profitable businesses.



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In my opinion, our current mix of rural agency stores, privately-operated neighbourhood stores and government liquor stores, all supported by central distribution, is working well for consumers. The system should not be "fixed" without input from the people and communities affected.

I'm hoping the government will take a little time to think through all the impacts, and that it will slow down and listen.

David Knowles, the Secretary/Treasurer of the BCGEU's Retail and Warehouse Component of our Union, would like to appear before Council as part of a delegation at your January 27 council meeting, to present the issues around the privatization of BC Liquor Stores. We are also asking Councillors and Regional Directors to consider adopting a resolution, along the lines of the one enclosed with this letter, and hope you will bring it forward.

My mailing address is 3030 E. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5M 1Z4, or you can reach me by e-mail at jfmckenna@shaw.ca.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

Jennifer McKenna
Local 503 Committee Chair

JM/hd/ opeiu 378
Richmond City.Mckenna

Encl.

PS Additional information about the impact of closing government liquor stores is available at our website, www.bcgeu.ca.

Sample resolution on beverage alcohol policy changes

Whereas the provincial government has introduced significant changes in liquor licensing policies – including hours of operation, licensing types, and new licensees – that have planning, zoning and regulatory implications for municipalities; and

Whereas the provincial government plans to close government liquor stores and distribution centres and turn over all beverage alcohol sales to for-profit companies; and

Whereas similar changes in policy in Alberta led to a tripling of the number of liquor stores and caused the Calgary and Edmonton police departments to report significant increases in alcohol-related crimes; and

Whereas studies show Alberta's changes have led to higher consumer prices, more stores with less genuine selection, marginalized workers, a host of social problems, and, in real terms, decreasing government revenues; and

Whereas there has been no opportunity for public discussion and community input into these far-reaching changes,

Therefore be it resolved that we urge the provincial government to put a moratorium on its proposed changes to liquor regulations, sales and distribution; and,

Be it further resolved that we ask the provincial government to provide a formal vehicle – perhaps through appointment of a commissioner, a committee of MLAs, or similar means – for public discussion and community input into these issues.

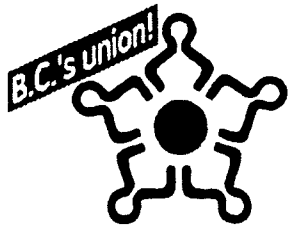
Local governments seek input

The following local governments and school boards have adopted resolutions calling for a moratorium on changes to liquor regulations, sales and distribution.

They have also called on the provincial government to provide a formal vehicle for public discussion and community input into these issues.

1. Ashcroft
2. Burnaby City
3. Burnaby School District
4. Duncan
5. Chetwynd
6. Comox Valley School District
7. Esquimalt
8. Fort Nelson School District
9. Fort St. James
10. Fort St. John
11. Gold River
12. Invermere
13. Kamloops
14. Kelowna
15. Kimberley
16. Kitimat
17. Langley Township
18. North Vancouver City
19. North Vancouver District
20. Port Alberni
21. Port Coquitlam
22. Prince Rupert
23. Rossland
24. Saanich School District
25. Salmon Arm
26. Tofino
27. Vancouver School Board
28. Williams Lake

More municipal governments and school districts are expected to take a stand on the proliferation of liquor stores in coming weeks.



B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union

4911 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C., V5G 3W3

Monday, January 13, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Groups call on government to stop its plan to close government liquor stores

Addiction professionals, health and safety advocates, local governments and thousands of citizens are calling on the provincial government to re-think its plan to close government liquor stores.

At a news conference in Vancouver this morning, representatives of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Kaiser Foundation, the Alcohol-Drug Education Service and the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union called on the government to stop its plan to privatize all liquor sales in B.C.

"Privatization of B.C. government liquor stores will lead to more incidences of impaired driving," said Andrew Murie, Executive Director of Mothers Against Drunk Driving - Canada. "This has proven to be the case in Alberta. If privatization goes through, the focus in selling alcohol products will switch from a social responsibility model to a profit mentality.

"MADD Canada firmly believes the government of British Columbia should stop this process immediately and enter into a consultative dialogue with all stakeholders on this most important issue," he said.

Dan Reist, President of the Kaiser Foundation, said the government's plan to dramatically increase the number of private liquor stores means greater risks of abuse.

"A balanced plan should include actions to proactively address the inherent increased risks," said Reist.

"Local consumer groups, health advocates and local governments should be involved in the decision-making process," he added. "It is critical that the process consider both the social impact on the immediate community, as well as the impact on a broader societal level."

"It will also be critical for the government to collect information on the social impact, including changes in alcohol related criminal offences," said Reist.

Art Steinmann, Executive Director of the Alcohol-Drug Education Service, said the government needs to show leadership in protecting children and young people.

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BACKGROUND

B.C. Liquor Stores are efficient, profitable, and socially responsible

The LDB is one of the largest liquor distribution systems in the world.

It is the largest retailer in British Columbia.

The 225 B.C. Liquor Stores, and the Distribution Centres in Vancouver and Kamloops, are run efficiently, profitably and professionally on behalf of the citizens of B.C.

For more than 75 years, the B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch has provided excellent service to customers all over the province, with the same wide selection of products at the same price no matter where you live.

Over the last five years, B.C. Liquor Stores have contributed a profit of \$3.1 billion, plus sales and excise taxes of \$1.5 billion, to help pay for vital public services like health care and education for our families.

With its size and efficiencies of scale, our public liquor distribution system has the resources to support many special programs to encourage the responsible use of alcohol in our communities. These include initiatives to prevent sales to minors, support dry grads, educate people about the dangers of drinking and driving, drinking and boating, fetal alcohol syndrome, and many more.

Research shows that the best way to responsibly sell alcohol is through liquor stores that are owned and operated by governments. The men and women who work in B.C. Liquor Stores know how to spot people who are intoxicated, or underage, or who shouldn't have alcohol for some other reason. They have the training, experience and clear direction to refuse service.

As one of Canada's leading experts on the issue recently said:

“Government systems have extensive challenge and refusal programs, and other mechanisms, to try to control the problems related to alcohol. I think that can best be done through a government run system rather than through a private system.”

— *Dr. Norman Giesbrecht, Senior Scientist, Canadian Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Aug. 6, 2002, CBC Radio, Victoria*

Winnipeg Free Press

Winnipeg Free Press

Special Section 6, Sunday, August 4, 2002, p. b4

Booze boondoggle in B.C.

TREVOR HARRISON

Maybe it's simply that British Columbia is on the West Coast -- time zones and all that. Maybe it's the weather in Lotusland that slows the pace and makes things seem to run just a little behind the times. Maybe it's those obdurate mountains cutting off word from parts east.

In any case, the British Columbia government last week announced it was going to slowly phase out government liquor stores and privatize warehousing and distribution as well. There seems no compelling reason for the move. The only rationale seems to be ideological and symbolic: the government, still smarting from its own tax cuts and unsure of who it wants to offend next with a referendum, wants to be seen as "doing something."

But the Campbell government's plan comes nearly a decade after a similarly questionable move in Alberta and at a time when ideological arguments in favour of privatization and deregulation are under serious scrutiny. Note, for example, Alberta's problems with deregulating power and Ontario's hasty retreat from the same path. And think about it: would you like to see Enron or WorldCom running your schools or hospitals?

It is argued, of course, that booze is different. "Why should the government be involved in selling liquor?" the rhetoric says. It's maybe time to ask, "Why not?"

The privatizers always use two justifications for selling off government assets. First, that it is "unfair" for governments to compete with the private sector -- that is, to make a profit. By definition, this means that governments get stuck with the "losing" enterprises, including those in the private sector that the government now and then must rescue. Thus, an endless stream of government deficits, followed by private-sector acolytes saying, "See, we told you government can't run anything."

The second justification is that the private sector is more efficient. Health care already proves the spuriousness of this claim, but let's also look at the Alberta liquor case.

In September 1993, Ralph Klein's government suddenly announced that it was privatizing Alberta's retail liquor operations, while retaining its wholesale monopoly and implementing a liquor tax. Since that time, there have been two studies of this policy. The first was conducted in 1994 by three academic colleagues and myself; the second by a University of Alberta economist, Dr. Douglas West, the following year. Give or take some emphases, the findings in both studies are actually quite similar.

Price: Both studies found that the average retail price of liquor rose immediately after privatization, even considering inflation. That situation remains pretty much the same

problems, and (in real terms) decreasing government revenues.

All in all, given Alberta's experience in privatizing liquor, British Columbians might want to give the idea some sober second thought.

Trevor Harrison is an associate professor in sociology at the University of Lethbridge and research director of the Parkland Institute, an Alberta think-tank.

Category: National and International Politics

Uniform subject(s): Public administration and finances; Regional politics and governments; Taxation and income tax

Length: Long, 822 words

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PERGAMON

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ACCIDENT
ANALYSIS
&
PREVENTION

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The relationship between liquor outlet density and injury and violence in New Mexico

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Abstract

This study used an ecologic design based on data from 1990 to 1994 gathered from forensic, vital statistic, census, law enforcement and liquor licensing agencies to assess the relationship between liquor outlet density and alcohol-related health outcomes in New Mexico. Linear regression models show that suicide, alcohol-related crash, and alcohol-related crash fatality (adjusted for age, sex, and minority status) are significantly associated with liquor outlet density. Data also show that, compared with the first tertile, suicide and alcohol-related crash rates increase about 50% and the alcohol-related crash fatality rate two-fold with the third tertile of liquor outlet density. Greater availability of liquor outlets is associated with higher rates of suicide, alcohol-related crash, and alcohol-related crash fatality. Published by Elsevier Science Ltd.

Keywords: Alcohol; Injury; Crash; Suicide; Homicide

1. Introduction

In the United States, it is well established that injury represents a substantial burden in terms of morbidity, disability, premature death, and medical care expenditures (Committee on Trauma Research, 1985). Injury is the leading cause of death through age 35 years (Committee on Trauma Research, 1985) and the second leading cause for direct medical care expenditures (Harlan et al., 1990). Intentional injury, principally firearm-related homicide and suicide, has grown into a large epidemic among young people (Ventura et al., 1997). The economic costs associated with care of injury victims is minuscule compared with costs associated with rehabilitation, psychological trauma, and lost wages from future earnings (National Safety Council, 1997).

Although no one factor alone can fully explain the occurrence of injury, alcohol use figures prominently. Slightly less than one-half of all deaths that result from car crashes are known to be alcohol-related (US Department of Transportation, 1996). About 25% of

work-related injuries involve alcohol use (Stallones and Kraus, 1993). People who seek treatment for injuries in emergency rooms are more likely than non-injured persons to report recent drinking (Cherpitel, 1993). Burns, falls, drowning, and boating fatalities frequently result from alcohol use in amounts associated with impairment of cognitive, perceptual, and motor function (Hingson and Howland, 1993; Howland et al., 1993). Although it is not entirely clear how alcohol use is involved in the chain of events that results in injury, relationships between alcohol use and alcohol availability and between alcohol use and injury (both traffic- and non-traffic-related) are very possibly key components of a causal chain.

Industry marketing and promotion of alcohol beverages are designed to reach selected population subgroups (Alaniz and Wilkes, 1998). In New Mexico and elsewhere, product availability may be central to the industry's ongoing marketing strategy. Accordingly, to design alcohol and injury prevention programs with the community as the focal point, data about liquor outlet density are needed (Scribner et al., 1995, 1999; Rose, 1985; Susser and Susser, 1996). In this report, we describe an assessment of the relationship between liquor outlet density and indicators of alcohol-related

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health outcomes, using county-specific data from New Mexico.

2. Methods

2.1. Project conceptual framework

This investigation, part of a larger project entitled the 'New Mexico Social Indicator Project', sought to assess indicators of alcohol use. Criteria to identify indicators was adapted from other projects (Stinson et al., 1994) and based on whether indicators were valid, reliable, relevant, and causally related to alcohol use. Data about social-demographic characteristics (age, sex, minority status, and median family income) and indicators of alcohol use (suicide, homicide, liquor outlets, alcohol- and drug-related deaths, arrests for driving while intoxicated, alcohol-related traffic crashes, and alcohol-related crash fatalities) were gathered for all 33 New Mexico Counties. New Mexico is a relatively small State in the Southwestern US with a population of 1 515 069 people in 1990 and nearly equal percentages of White and Minority (Hispanic and Native American, and fewer numbers of African American) persons.

2.2. Data sources and definitions

Data gathered for this study originate from state agencies that have assessment, regulatory, or law-enforcement functions. Data-gathering procedures that were implemented were based on official reports while adhering to established criteria set forth by expert bodies, particularly concerning use of injury and cause of death data. Where appropriate, as with alcohol-related crashes, data from various sources were used to develop uniform definitions.

Data about liquor outlets originate from the Alcohol and Gaming Division of the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department. The Traffic Safety Bureau of the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department collects data about arrests for drinking and driving; the agency also investigates alcohol-related crashes. The State Office of the Medical Investigator uses forensic procedures to investigate deaths that result from violence; for example, suicide and those that are car crash, drug, and alcohol related. In 1994, the Office of the Medical Investigator reported measurement of alcohol levels greater than or equal to 0.01 g% in 85% of crash-related death victims, 69% of non-crash-related injury deaths, 96% of suicide death victims, and 95% of homicide victims (Office of the Medical Investigator, 1994). Forensic diagnoses are reported to the New Mexico Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics of the New Mexico Department of Health. This Bureau gathers data about these and all other deaths occurring in the state.

Data about arrests for driving while intoxicated were based on reports prepared by county law-enforcement officers. Alcohol-related crashes were incidents in which a citation for driving while intoxicated was issued, alcohol was a contributing factor in the crash, or a driver or pedestrian involved had been drinking. Alcohol-related crash fatalities were deaths that resulted from an alcohol-related crash and finding of alcohol in a driver's biologic fluid. Deaths were determined by forensic staff to be suicide if death resulted from the purposeful attempt of a person to end his/her life and homicide if death resulted from intentional harm of one person by another. Liquor outlets represent establishments licensed to sell beer and wine by the drink, drink and package, and package only.

Alcohol- and drug-related deaths follow International Classification of Diseases version 9 rubrics and represent deaths for which the primary cause was alcohol or drugs, respectively. Alcohol-related deaths include alcoholic psychoses, alcohol dependence syndrome, non-dependent abuse of alcohol, alcoholic neuropathy, alcoholic cardiomyopathy, alcoholic gastritis, alcoholic fatty liver, acute alcoholic hepatitis, alcoholic cirrhosis of liver, other alcoholic-related liver toxicity, and overdose by ethyl alcohol. The term 'alcohol-related' that we use throughout this report refers to an event that occurs in relation to alcohol use, for which there is a reasonably strong likelihood that alcohol played an important role in the outcome.

2.3. Indicator rates and statistical analysis

Because availability of data varied by year, agency and county, and several counties are sparsely populated, data for the period from 1990 to 1994 were selected (and in some instances aggregated) because these provided stable indicator rates and a reasonably complete profile for each county. Numerator data gathered was divided by the appropriate population figure to generate rates. The number of liquor outlets from 1990 to 1994 was averaged and divided by the 1993 population aged 20 years and older (see Table 1). The number of arrests for driving while intoxicated for persons 16–79 years of age, the age group at highest risk, was averaged from 1992 to 1994 and divided by the 1993 population in this same age group. The number of alcohol-related crashes among people aged 16–79 years, the age group at highest risk, was aggregated from 1992 to 1994 and divided by the 1993 population of the same age group. The number of alcohol-related crash deaths was aggregated from 1991 to 1994 and divided by the total 1993 population. Similarly, suicide, homicide, drug-related, and alcohol-related deaths were aggregated from 1990 to 1994 and divided by the 1993 population. The percent median family income was available by county for 1993. Use of the term 'cumula-

tive' applies to rates with numerator data that were aggregated; no such term was used for rates in which counts were averaged.

Indicator rates for alcohol use for counties in the state are not presented in this report because of the large amount of data. Because the distributions of county-specific rates were skewed, medians and ranges are presented as measures of central tendency.

We assessed Pearson correlation and linear regression model coefficients between liquor outlet rate and county-specific indicator rates. Linear regression models were created with liquor outlet as the independent variable and alcohol-related indicator variables as the outcome variable. Models were created with and without social-demographic variables (age, sex, and minority status) to provide adjusted and unadjusted coefficients.

To more clearly depict changes in indicator rates with increasing liquor outlet density, alcohol-related indicator rates were calculated by tertile of liquor outlet density. Liquor outlet density rates for each county were ranked from lowest to highest and counties were divided into three groups, low, middle and high.

3. Results

Arrests for drinking and driving show the highest incidence of any alcohol-related indicator, and those that involve death the lowest (Table 1). In general, the distribution of county-specific rates is skewed toward the higher range of values, as indicated by the low value of the median. The range of alcohol-related indicator

values, i.e. the magnitude of the difference from the lowest to the highest, is about tenfold. Suicide and alcohol-related crash fatality are correlated with liquor outlet density at statistically significant levels, whereas family median income, alcohol-related crash, and alcohol-related death are of borderline significance.

When we examine simple linear regression model data with liquor outlet density as the independent variable, we find associations with suicide and alcohol-related crash fatality that are statistically significant (Table 2). These associations continue to be statistically significant when we consider the effects of age, sex, and minority status. The association between liquor outlet density and alcohol-related crash, which had been of borderline statistical significance when unadjusted, becomes statistically significant when effects of social-demographic variables are adjusted. Although median family income is associated with liquor outlet density, the association does not reach statistical significance when effects of age, sex, and minority status are considered.

As liquor outlet density increases, so do rates for those alcohol-related indicators that reach statistical significance (Table 2). With one unit increase in the rate of liquor outlet density, the rate of suicide (deaths per 1000 population) increases by 0.23, the rate for alcohol-related crash (crashes per 1000 population) by 2.4, and the rate for alcohol-related crash fatality (deaths per 1000 population) by 0.22.

When absolute rates are examined in relation to the tertile of liquor outlet density, increases in suicide, alcohol-related crash, and alcohol-related crash fatality rates are evident (Table 3). The suicide rates observed

Table 1
County-specific alcohol use indicators by time period, median rate and range, and correlation coefficient between indicators and liquor outlet density, New Mexico, 1990–1994

Indicator	Counts, population and time period	County-specific median rate ^a (range)	Correlation coefficient ^b (P value)
Liquor license outlets	Average outlets, 1990–1994 per 1000 population, age 20+ years	2.2 (0.7–5.4)	–
Median family income	Family income, 1993	\$23 653 (\$15 505–\$60 796)	–0.3 (0.06)
Drinking driving arrests	Average arrests, 1992–1994 per 1000 population, age 16–79 years	180.3 (43.0–441.4)	0.1 (0.7)
Suicide	Cumulative deaths per 1000 population	0.9 (0.3–3.0)	0.40 (0.02)
Homicide	Cumulative deaths per 1000 population	0.4 (0.0–1.3)	0.13 (0.46)
Drug-related mortality	Cumulative deaths per 1000 population	0.2 (0.0–0.5)	0.08 (0.65)
Alcohol-related mortality	Cumulative deaths per 1000 population	0.7 (0.0–2.0)	0.33 (0.06)
Alcohol-related crash	Cumulative events, 1992–1994 per 1000 population, age 16–79 years	12.4 (2.4–27.7)	0.32 (0.07)
Alcohol-related crash fatality	Cumulative deaths, 1991–1994 per 1000 population	0.7 (0.0–2.1)	0.46 (0.008)

^a Unless otherwise stated, the incident period is years 1990–1994 and the population denominator is the year 1993.

^b Pearson correlation coefficient between liquor outlet density and alcohol use indicator, including median family income.

Table 2
Relationship between liquor outlet density and selected indicator outcomes, New Mexico, 1990–1994

County-specific indicator	Regression coefficient (<i>P</i> value)	
	Unadjusted ^a	Adjusted ^{a,b}
Suicide	0.21 (0.006)	0.23 (0.03)
Homicide	0.05 (0.26)	0.06 (0.26)
Drinking driving arrests	1.94 (0.86)	6.75 (0.56)
Drug-related mortality	0.01 (0.57)	0.01 (0.71)
Alcohol-related mortality	0.10 (0.13)	0.04 (0.51)
Alcohol-related crash	1.42 (0.06)	2.40 (0.01)
Alcohol-related crash fatality	0.23 (0.004)	0.22 (0.03)
Median family income	-2149 (0.05)	-1724 (0.16)

^a According to these coefficients, with one unit increase in the rate of liquor outlet density, the adjusted rate of, for example, suicide (deaths per 1000 population) increases by 0.23. With one unit increase in the rate of liquor outlet density, median family income declines by \$2149.

^b Adjusted by age, sex, and minority status.

for the second and third tertiles is 80 and 60% higher, respectively, compared with the first tertile. This increase resembles the rate of increase by tertile for alcohol-related crashes. A greater than twofold increase in alcohol-related crash fatality rates with higher tertiles of liquor outlet density is the largest of any indicator. Although homicide and alcohol-related deaths are not significantly associated with liquor outlet density when these data are modeled using correlation or regression analyses, absolute rates observed for higher tertiles are appreciably higher compared with rates for the first tertile.

Table 3
Alcohol-related health indicator rates^a (and rate ratios) by liquor outlet density tertile, New Mexico counties, 1990–1994

Liquor outlet density tertiles ^b	Suicide	Homicide	Drinking driving arrests	Drug-related death	Alcohol-related		Alcohol-related crash fatality
					Death	Crash	
First (referent)	0.8	0.5	18.2	0.3	0.9	12.2	0.5
Second	1.4 (1.8)	0.5 (1.0)	23.7 (1.3)	0.2 (0.7)	1.5 (1.7)	15.9 (1.3)	1.0 (2.0)
Third	1.3 (1.6)	0.7 (1.4)	23.9 (1.3)	0.3 (1.0)	1.9 (2.1)	18.0 (1.5)	1.2 (2.4)

^a Rates represent counts per 1000 population for the 11 counties in each tertile. Target groups are the same as presented in Table 1, namely 1000 total population for suicide, homicide, drug- and alcohol-related mortality, and alcohol-related crash fatality; and 1000 population ages 16–79 years for drinking and driving arrests and alcohol-related crashes.

^b Range of values as outlets per 1000 population for first tertile is from 0.7 to 1.5, for the second from 1.6 to 2.9, and for the third from 2.9 to 5.4.

4. Discussion

In New Mexico, increased availability of liquor outlets is associated with increased rates of suicide, alcohol-related crashes, and alcohol-related crash fatalities. Associations between liquor outlet density and other health and injury outcomes examined in this study were not statistically significant. An association between liquor outlet density and drinking and driving may be obscured by a greater effect of enforcement activities on drinking and driving arrests. Associations with the most serious outcomes of drunk driving suggest that consumption of larger amounts of alcohol underlies traffic-related injury risks. Other factors such as driving distance and recreational and occupational activities may help explain differences in injury outcomes associated with liquor outlet density. In New Mexico, a large percentage of persons reside in rural areas, and generally drive longer distances, and so the likelihood of traffic-related injury in the state would be higher than in other areas where driving distances are shorter. In Los Angeles and New Orleans, association of liquor outlets with high rates of motor vehicle crash, homicides, and assaults (Scribner et al., 1995, 1999) have been reported. In a population with large population density and wide variety of occupational and recreational activities, there may be greater opportunities for alcohol availability to exert its natural effects.

In the United States, suicide is a leading cause of death (National Center for Health Statistics, 1995) particularly common in the elderly but with increasing frequency among young people (Brent et al., 1987). Alcohol is known to be a prominent risk factor for old and young alike (Brent et al., 1987; Cornelius et al., 1996; Suokas and Lonnquist, 1995). A relationship between suicide and liquor outlet density has not yet been reported in the medical literature. These findings provide hypotheses for further research into a possible causal role for retail alcohol outlets in the occurrence of

suicide. Alcohol consumption elevates suicide risks dramatically for people with mental illness (Cornelius et al., 1996; Suokas and Lonnquist, 1995) and for people with access to firearms (Brent et al., 1987). In addition, the ease of purchases made from liquor and convenience stores, where alcohol is available in amounts to fit any budget, as well as the relative anonymity offered by 'drive thru windows', may well increase the suicide risk for persons who are experiencing temporary emotional turmoil (Cornelius et al., 1996; Suokas and Lonnquist, 1995). In the future, stricter policies regulating retail liquor outlets may complement other suicide prevention strategies, especially in light of research that has established a strong temporal relationship between drinking and driving and crash-related fatalities (Nathens et al., 2000).

Ecologic studies that are based on distinct and stable units over time, like that described in this report, have helped improve our understanding of health and disease (Morgenstern, 1998). Nonetheless, data from this study should not be used to conclude that persons who consumed alcohol that they purchased from a retail outlet subsequently sustained an adverse outcome in that same locale. Intervening variables such as patterns of alcohol use and other co-morbidities may play a role, and the manner in which availability of alcohol retail outlets exert its influence may vary depending on type of injury outcome. Research is needed that seeks to understand how availability of alcohol products influences the likelihood of injury by relying on the person as the unit of analysis.

It is possible that health outcomes we observed in relation to retail alcohol outlets represent independent health effects. Clustering of injury outcomes may result if a large number of outlets are found in areas known to have large numbers of persons travelling through the state, who then sustain traffic-related injury. However, liquor outlets density was greater in rural and sparsely populated counties compared with more populated counties. It is unlikely that non-residents travelling through rural and sparsely populated counties of the state could have sufficiently elevated alcohol-related injury rates that we observed.

With the exception of suicide, homicide, and drug-related deaths, health outcomes examined in this study are based on mentions of alcohol use. Although persons whose deaths are drug-related often have alcohol in their body (Escobedo et al., 1991), forensic diagnostic procedures help distinguish whether cause of death is alcohol- or drug-related. Alcohol use may not have played a role in many drug-related deaths, and this view concurs with lack of an association between drug-related deaths and alcohol availability that we found. Except for a few conditions, such as alcohol overdose, non-injury alcohol-related deaths generally result from conditions associated with alcohol use in the distant

past, e.g. alcoholic cirrhosis or other organ system dysfunction caused by long-term alcohol use. Associations between current geographic patterns of alcohol availability and deaths associated with chronic alcohol use would not be expected to hold. Alcohol-related hospital admissions associated with liquor outlet density reported in San Diego County, California (Tatlow et al., 2000) likely reflect patterns of alcohol-related conditions found in that community, which very possibly include a large percentage of injuries.

In New Mexico, counties with lower median family income tend to have higher liquor outlet density. Programs to reduce alcohol-related injury by reducing availability of alcohol in communities where many of its residents are of low socio-economic status should be implemented. Success of these programs depends on collective partnerships between policy-makers and public health officials, with participation of communities at risk.

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**The government's plan to close
B.C. Liquor Stores is
bad for consumers, bad for workers,
and bad for communities.**

Important information from the
women and men who work for the
B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch

A government service owned and operated by
the people of British Columbia

August, 2002

B.C. Government and
Service Employees' Union 

Privatizing liquor sales is risky for families, workers and our communities.

Introduction

For decades, the B.C. LDB has provided excellent service to customers all over the province – the same excellent service and the same wide selection of products at the same price, no matter where you live in B.C., no matter whether you live in a large city or a small town.

The LDB is one of the largest liquor distribution systems in the world, and we run it efficiently, profitably and professionally on behalf of the people of B.C. The LDB isn't perfect. But it's worth keeping, and it's better than the alternative. Responsible control of alcohol is best done through government liquor stores.

Advantages of our current system

It minimizes social costs

- Liquor is a drug, not a product to be sold like any other. Abuse of alcohol can cause serious problems for families and communities. Government liquor stores give us real control, and help keep alcohol out of the hands of under-age teenagers.
- B.C. Liquor Stores are well-designed and located, not loud and garish private establishments that bring unwanted noise and traffic to residential areas.
- A province-wide government system has the resources to provide public education on responsible use of alcohol, to prevent sales to minors, to promote alternatives like dry grads, to encourage recycling, and to support services to reduce, treat and prevent alcohol abuse.

It maximizes benefits to consumers and communities

- Publicly-owned liquor stores are operated in the best interests of our community. Serving the needs and welfare of our customers, and our cities and towns, is our prime commitment.
- Through volume purchases and distribution, the Liquor Distribution Branch ensures that everyone, in every town, has access to the same wide selection of alcoholic beverages at the same price.
- The experienced employees of the LDB have extensive product knowledge to assist consumers.
- LDB employees' years of experience also enable them to readily spot individuals who may be under age or intoxicated.

It treats workers with respect

- Workers in the B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch are members of the BCGEU who are paid a living wage that allows them to support their families. Workers in private liquor stores are often short-term, part-time, minimum wage employees.

The flawed decision-making process

Behind closed doors, with no public input

- There has been no public input into the government's decision to allow private corporations to take over alcohol sales in B.C. The decision was made by cabinet, entirely behind closed doors, as part of their so-called core review process.
- Communities have not, and will not be consulted.
- Public health and safety experts have not been asked for their opinion. This may be because the government knows scientific studies of the social costs do not support expanding private sales of alcohol.

Potential problems with expanding for-profit private sales

Worse for families and communities

- Since profit is their main goal, private liquor stores are more likely to sell to people who shouldn't have alcohol, like teenagers and people who are intoxicated.
- If you look at the number of teenagers who are able to buy cigarettes with no questions asked, it's pretty clear that minors would also find it easier to get alcohol from private liquor stores.
- After privatization in Alberta, an Edmonton TV station sent a group of teenagers into private liquor stores to try to buy alcohol. In three of four stores, they were served with no questions asked.
- Health and safety studies agree the more liquor stores there are, the more tragedies there will be from underage drinking and driving.

Worse for consumers – higher prices, less selection

- The government has said the new private stores must charge as much or more than government liquor stores do.
- Compared to private liquor stores in Alberta, B.C. LDB stores carry a much wider selection of products.

- On many products, prices in B.C. LDB stores are lower than in private Alberta stores, even though Alberta taxes are lower.
- The B.C. LDB's efficiencies of scale help keep prices down and provide a wide selection of products in stores throughout the province.
- Central warehousing in the government system provides large efficiencies of scale. A private system is more expensive for suppliers who will have to deal with hundreds of customers instead of one. Shipping costs will also increase for the same reason. These new extra costs will be passed on to customers. The further you are from Vancouver, the more you will pay.
- Overall, the Campbell government seems to be more concerned about profits for a few private owners than it is about consumers and local communities.

Worse for workers

- Gordon Campbell has already cut the minimum wage for young workers and torn up several legal union contracts. Shifting liquor sales to private stores is one more way the government is driving down wages – and that's bad for all workers.
- Their plan will cut wages and hurt ordinary workers in order to give profits to private bosses.
- It just seems the government is more concerned about increasing profits for a few than it is about protecting the wages and jobs of ordinary people.

Some lessons from Alberta

- Since Alberta privatized liquor sales almost ten years ago, every other province that has looked at the idea has rejected it. This is one more area where Gordon Campbell is moving too fast. He hasn't really thought through – or doesn't care about – the social costs of encouraging more private profit from alcohol.
- Since Alberta's liquor sales were turned over to for-profit companies, the number of charges for alcohol-related offences has doubled in Calgary, and increased by 164% in Edmonton. That will likely happen here too.

A better way to move ahead and modernize

- If the government is going to change the way we sell a drug like alcohol, which can cause so many problems if it's abused, the decision should not be made behind closed doors.
- The government should stop any changes to the way alcohol is sold and make sure there's an opportunity for real public input and debate.
- Rather than throwing the system wide open to for-profit, privately run corporations, the government should consider modernizing the existing government stores: extend hours, install coolers, open Sundays.

The story in numbers

The liquor distribution system in B.C.

Government stores	224
Licensed Retail Stores (beer and wine stores, now selling spirits)	290
Manufacturer outlets	98
Agency stores	151
Total	763
Government warehouses	2
Private bonded warehouses	8

Financial contribution

(2001-2002 BCLDB annual report)

The LDB contributes almost \$1 billion a year to public services provided by federal, provincial and municipal governments.

Federal government

Customs duties, excise tax, GST \$227 million

Provincial government

Social services tax \$105 million

Net income \$636 million

Sub-total \$741 million

Municipalities

Property tax \$4.7 million

Total \$972.7 million

The \$636 million net income – not taxes – that the LDB contributes to the province is the equivalent of a \$316.31 tax break for every working woman and man in B.C.

Liquor distribution in Alberta

Before privatization (1993)

Government operated stores	202
Wine boutiques	23
Beer stores	30
Agency stores	49
Total outlets	304

After privatization (2001)

Retail outlets	907
General merchandise	81
Total outlets	988

Product selection in stores

Before privatization	1,000 to 1,200 each store
Before privatization	over 2,000 in specialty stores
After privatization	average 400 items per store

Prices, July 2002

Many popular products are more expensive in Alberta, despite lower taxes in that province. Very high-end products are cheaper.

	Alberta	BCLDB
Canadian Club Rye	\$22.99 to \$23.99	\$20.95
Smirnoff Vodka	\$22.45 to \$24.99	\$20.45
Bacardi White Rum	\$22.45 to \$24.99	\$20.45
Kahlua	\$27.39 to \$28.99	\$26.45
Kokanee (12 pack)	\$18.30 to \$18.69	\$17.55
Budweiser (12 pack)	\$19.19	\$17.55
John Labatt Classic	\$19.60	\$17.95
Chivas Regal scotch	\$38.49	\$43.95
Glenlivet 18 year scotch	\$83.95	\$89.95

Alberta prices are from Alberta Spirits, Canmore; Liquor Store #1, NW Calgary; Montgomery #1, NW Calgary; and the Liquor Barn, NW Calgary. BC beer prices include container deposit.

Responsible alcohol sales — 7

Increase in liquor related offences in Alberta

Province-wide

Before privatization, robberies of liquor stores averaged one per year.

There were 11 robberies in the first six months after privatization.

Edmonton

Charges for liquor related offences have more than doubled since the liquor distribution system was privatized.

Year	Charges
1993	1,116
1994	1,568
1995	1,993
1996	2,017
1997	2,498
1998	2,662
1999	2,951

Total increase: 164.4%

By comparison, the number of charges in drug-related offences increased only 7.2% in the same period.

Source: Edmonton Police Department, June 13, 2000

Calgary

In the first year after privatization of liquor, offences increased from 62 to 100.

Source: Calgary Police

Brooks

When the number of liquor retail outlets increased from one to 12, robberies increased by 250%, and liquor act offences increased from 547 to 974.

"A significant change in the availability of liquor can be directly related to the increase in Liquor Act offences," says the Brooks RCMP.

Source: Brooks RCMP

Impaired driving rates

Criminal Code impaired driving offences per 100,000 population, 2001

Canada 291.0

British Columbia 299.2

Alberta 475.0

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM II, table 252-0013, July 12, 2002

What others are saying

Public safety

- In 2000, 1,689 deaths were directly or indirectly related to alcohol.

— *Annual Report of the B. C. Vital Statistics Agency, released July 20, 2001*

- “(Alberta’s) impaired driving rates are almost double those of B.C.”

— *James Chase, Executive Director, B.C. and Yukon Hotel Association, Kamloops Daily News, April 19, 2002*

- “There is, from the evidence, a risk that the increased consumption will occur predominantly in less mature drinkers and will exacerbate the trends of increased risky drinking that have been evidenced in youth and younger drinking cohorts. If that were to occur, there could be a significant increase in net social harms....”

— *P.R.W. Kendall, B.C. Provincial Health Officer, May 2002*

- “I don’t think the drug alcohol should be handled like any other commodity, any other products. It’s a unique commodity that needs to have unique controls. Government systems have extensive challenge and refusal programs, and other mechanisms, to try to control the problems related to alcohol. I think that can best be done through a government run system rather than through a private system.”

— *Norman Giesbrecht, Senior Scientist, Canadian Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Aug. 6, 2002, CBC Radio, Victoria*

The minister, before the election

- “I’m with the official opposition. Privatization of liquor distribution branch is not on our agenda. I am the critic. I have spent 30 years in the beverage alcohol business, on the brewery side and in the British Columbia wine industry. I know (LDB General Manager) Jay (Chambers) and many other people down there. It’s not on the agenda.”

— *Rick Thorpe, now minister responsible for the B.C. LDB, as reported in the Minutes of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, Nov. 14, 2000, Prince George Civic Centre.*

A former minister responsible for the LDB

- “There are deep social concerns here. We ‘liberals’ want greater public access to what is the most dangerous and abused drug in the world, always blithely assuming that someone else is the problem.

“Yet every study ever done on the subject tell us the wider the distribution and the easier the access, the greater the problem with alcoholism.

“Alcohol, a legitimate pleasure for many, is also a health and law enforcement problem of huge proportions. Mr. Thorpe and the Liberal government evidently don’t care.”

— *Rafe Mair, “B.C.ers should be wary of liquor privatization,” Aldergrove Star, Aug. 1, 2002.*

Small businesses squeezed

- “When it goes private, we could get squeezed out by the big breweries taking up 99 per cent of the space. Private enterprise may not be obligated at all to carry our products.”

— *Brad Williams, General Manager of Sailor Hagar’s brewpub, North Vancouver, Vancouver Sun, July 29, 2002*

- “(The big breweries and wineries) are going to be giving away barbecues and mountain bikes and T-shirts and Indy week stuff. So it’s going to be tough for the little guys, for sure.”

— *Robert Simpson, General Manager for Liberty Wine Merchants, Vancouver Sun, July 29, 2002.*

Where will the profits go?

- “Booze firms eye B.C. – Alberta’s liquor chains plan to open stores in B.C. with province’s privatization push.”

— *Aug. 6, 2002, Business in Vancouver*

Small towns would lose selection

- “In 1978 – and I doubt the numbers are much different today – only 46 products of over 1,200 carried yielded 65% of revenues. A further 112 yielded another 23%. Only 12% of revenues came from almost 1,100 listings! That reality would likely result in much less choice in rural B.C. in a privatized system.”

— *Tex Enemark, former B.C. Deputy Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, June 25, 1997*

Alcohol is already too available

- “B.C. is grossly over-licensed right now.”

— *Brenda Locke, now a Liberal MLA, told the Vancouver Sun, Nov. 23, 1998 that if B.C. had the same liquor regulations as California, there would be two-thirds fewer liquor licenses in the province.*

CEP 467 – opeiu 378



Private Liquor stores in Edmonton, 2002

If the government closes B.C. Liquor Stores, will we end up with stores like these?

FROM: _____

Dear Minister,

As B.C.'s largest retailer, B.C. Liquor Stores and distribution centres offer a wide selection at the same price throughout B.C. In the last five years, \$3.1 billion in profits (over and above taxes) have helped to pay for vital public services like Medicare, education and child care.

And BCL Stores are socially responsible, refusing to sell to underage drivers and others who shouldn't have alcohol.

I urge you -- don't hand this efficient, profitable, publicly-owned business to private corporations.

*Return to
canvasser
for posting
or place
stamp here*

Hon. Rick Thorpe,
Minister responsible for
the B.C. Liquor
Distribution Branch,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4



SIGNATURE

Campbell's plan will mean smaller stores, less selection, and higher prices for you.

The government's plan to close government liquor stores and turn over all liquor sales to private companies will mean higher prices and less selection for consumers.

The B.C. liquor distribution system provides immense efficiencies of scale in purchases and distribution that can't be matched in a fragmented private system.



A private liquor store in Edmonton, August 2002

In Alberta – the only province where all alcohol sales are private – most stores sell far fewer products, stocking only items that have a high turnover. Despite that, and even though some Alberta stores only pay their workers the minimum wage of \$5.90 an hour, prices on popular products are typically several dollars higher.

- "...there is a very good chance that free enterprise and open competition could lead to a paradoxical increase in prices." — *Les Leyne, Victoria Times-Colonist Thursday July 25, 2002*
- "Victoria will allow private operators to enter the retail market, but they won't be allowed to sell any products for less than a government store." — *Vancouver Sun Monday July 29, 2002*

GOOD SERVICE. GOOD PRICE. GOOD SELECTION.

B.C. Liquor Stores are efficient, socially responsible and profitable

In the last five years, B.C. Liquor Stores have returned a profit – over and above taxes – of \$3.1 billion to taxpayers

The liquor stores that we all own are British Columbia's largest retailer. They are a success story. They are efficient, profitable, and socially responsible.

From the LDB distribution centre to the B.C. Liquor Store in your community, we have a proven network that provides good selection at a good price, while helping to keep alcohol out of the hands of underage drivers.

A wide selection in every community in B.C.

For decades, B.C. Liquor Stores have provided excellent service to customers all over the province – the same excellent service and the same wide selection of products in every community, whether it's large or small.

Respect for your neighbourhood.

Government Liquor Stores in B.C. are well designed and located in some communities in Alberta – the only province that has turned liquor sales over to for-profit corporations – loud and garish establishments have brought unwanted noise,



Bring 'em back alive.

Liquor is not a product to be sold like any other. The experienced staff at B.C. Liquor Stores are proud to carefully check IDs – so young people looking for a good time won't find tragedy instead.

Unlike private liquor stores, the

B.C. LDB has the resources to provide public education on responsible use of alcohol, prevent sales to minors, promote alternatives like dry grads, encourage recycling, and support services to reduce, treat and prevent alcohol abuse.

late-night traffic and crime to residential areas.

Efficiencies of scale that keep down prices.

Central warehousing in the government system provides large efficiencies of scale. A private distri-

bution system is more expensive because retailers have to deal with hundreds of suppliers instead of one. Shipping costs will increase for the same reason.

These new extra costs will be passed on to customers. And the further you are from Vancouver, the more you will pay.



More for beer.

Many popular items are more expensive in private liquor stores in Alberta, even though liquor taxes are lower and the minimum wage is just \$5.90 in that province. Some high-end products are cheaper.

	Alberta	B.C. LDB
Canadian Club Rye	\$22.99 to \$23.99	\$20.95
Smirnoff Vodka	\$22.45 to \$24.99	\$20.45
Bacardi White Rum	\$22.45 to \$24.99	\$20.45
Chalua	\$27.39 to \$28.99	\$26.45
Kokanee (12 pack)	\$18.30 to \$18.69	\$17.55
Kudweiser (12 pack)	\$19.19	\$17.55
John Labatt Classic	\$19.60	\$17.95
Benetton 18 year Scotch	\$83.95	\$89.95

Prices are July 2002, from Alberta Spirits, Canmore; Liquor Store #1, NW Calgary; Montgomery #1, NW Calgary; and the Liquor Barn, NW Calgary. B.C. beer prices include container deposit.

Higher prices. Lower wages.

Who benefits from that?

B.C. Liquor Stores
are worth keeping.

Selection

"Government's impending move toward privatization... you can say goodbye to any interesting wines made by small innovative wineries."

— Anthony Gismonoli
Vancouver Sun Wine Columnist
Sept. 2002

"When it goes private we could get squeezed out by big breweries taking up 99 percent of the space. Private enterprise may not be obligated at all to carry our products."

— Brad Williams, General Manager
Sailor Hagar's brew-pub, North Vancouver
Vancouver Sun, July 2, 2002

Higher prices

"The bottom line is that liquor privatization in Alberta has led to higher consumer prices, more stores (but less genuine selection), marginalized workers, a host of social problems, and (in real terms) decreasing government revenues."

— Trevor Harrison
Associate Professor of Sociology,
University of Lethbridge, August 4, 2002

More tragedies on the road

"(Alberta's) impaired driving rates are almost double those of B.C."

— James Chase, Executive Director
B.C. and Yukon Hotel
April 2002

"...there could be a significant increase in social harms."

— Dr. Perry Kempster
B.C. Provincial Health Officer
May 2002

Distributed by the women and men who work for the

B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch

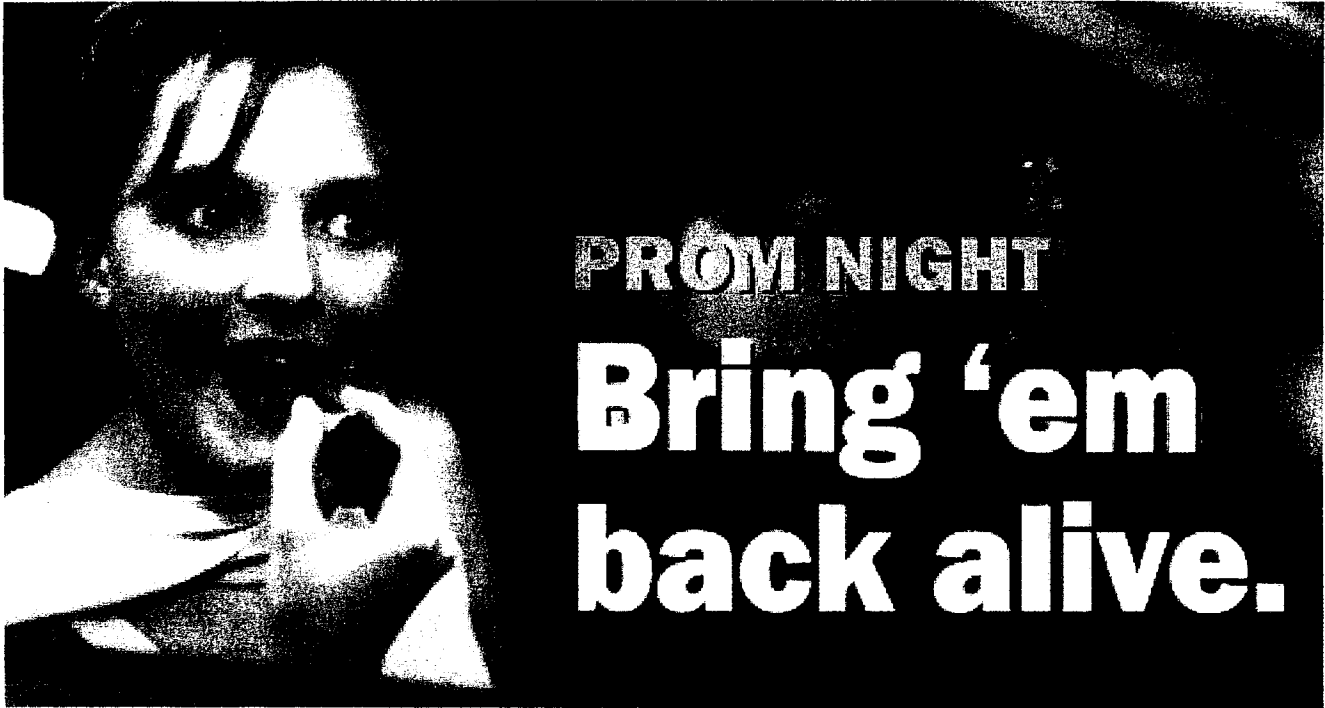
An efficient and profitable government service owned and operated by the people of B.C.



BCGEU



Soon closing forever?



PROM NIGHT

**Bring 'em
back alive.**

Keep liquor under **REAL CONTROL**

KIDS AND LIQUOR DON'T MIX — on prom night or any other night. That's why we always check teenage IDs carefully. We're glad to be able to do it. Refusing to sell liquor to people who shouldn't have it is the most important part of our job.

If profit were all that mattered, it would be tempting to sell to anyone who has the money. We don't, because liquor is not a product to be sold like any other.

Our job includes giving British Columbians real control over who gets liquor. That's good for everyone, and especially for our kids.

Publicly-owned liquor stores benefit our communities in many other ways:

- The Liquor Distribution Branch contributed \$637 million in profits (over and above taxes) to

help pay for vital public services last year — that's like a \$326.17 tax break for every working man and woman in B.C. Over the last five years, the profits to taxpayers total \$3.1 billion.

- The LDB supports recycling, dry grad activities, and services to treat and prevent abuse.
- Through volume purchases and distribution, the LDB ensures that all British Columbians — regardless of where they live — have access to the same selection of beverages at the same price.

Talk to your MLA about alcohol

Write, telephone or e-mail your MLA today. Tell your MLA you want the Premier to maintain an efficient, province-wide system of publicly-owned and controlled liquor sales and distribution.

A message from the women and men who work for the

British Columbia Liquor Distribution Branch

A government service owned and operated by the people of British Columbia

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OUR CONTINUING GOAL: **Socially responsible, quality service**

Social responsibility

Alcohol is not a product that can be sold like any other. We take extra care to check the IDs of young people. We also undertake many special programs to promote responsible use of alcohol, and to support our communities. These initiatives include:

Don't Buy for Minors. We remind customers that young people, cars and alcohol can be a deadly combination. Our goal is to keep alcohol out of the hands of minors.

Dry Grad Campaign. With the support of customers' purchase of bookmarks, more than \$110,000 was raised this year to support safe, alcohol-free grad celebrations at some 270 high schools.

Safe Ride Home. At beer and wine tasting festivals throughout the year, the LDB helped provide more than 2,000 transit tickets and taxi vouchers to festival patrons.

Anti-Drinking and Boating. The LDB and its employees remind customers that the dangers of drinking and boating are as great as the dangers of drinking and driving.

Preventing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). LDB brochures and posters, widely distributed to the public and health care professionals, help inform women that drinking while pregnant can harm their baby.

Community Support. LDB employees contributed more than \$100,000 to community services last year through their donations to the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund.

24-Hour Relay for Kids. Every June for the last six years, the LDB "Beer-o-crats" have put on their running shoes to raise funds for kids. This year, they raised more than \$8,000 for the Lions Society's Easter Seal Camps which are specially equipped for children with disabilities.

Twin Bear Program. In November and December, customers are invited to buy twin grizzly bear stuffed animals for \$10. One twin went home with the customer, the other joined 22,000 bears given to needy children. Thanks to generous customers, more than 169,000 bears have been given to kids since 1989.

Protecting our environment. Last year, the LDB recycled about 90 million containers. This helps protect our environment by diverting more than 35 million kilograms of waste from B.C. landfills.

Customer service

We are proud to feature and support:

- The Buy BC program, which identifies and promotes B.C. products.
- Seasonal Stores offering a wide selection of gift ideas in large malls from mid-November through December.
- Matters of Taste – a magazine free to all customers, featuring food and drink recipes, entertainment suggestions and articles by expert product consultants.
- Matters of Taste on-line at www.bcliquorstores.com
- Special free Spice up Your Life recipes.
- Fine VQA products.
- Wine festivals.
- A wide assortment of products and special listings.
- Bonus packs and limited time offers.
- Knowledgeable staff.
- Special occasion permits.
- Product consultants at selected stores
- The BCLDB wine line: call 604.660.9463 (604.660.WINE) or toll free: 1.800.667.9463 (800.667.WINE).