

From: Tiffany Nelson
To: [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 11:23:29 AM

Reporter

Jean Paetkau, Producer
CBC - Victoria
jean.paetkau@cbc.ca
250-414-4704

Deadline Friday, January 19, 2018 2:00 PM

Request

The reporter has questions concerning the raids of establishments serving Scotch Malt Whisky Society. She would like to know:

- 1) Was it just bars that were targeted as part of this recent enforcement?
- 2) Are there different rules for restaurant, bars and private liquor stores?
- 3) Can someone import an exclusive kind of whisky that is not on the liquor distribution list?

Background

Recommendation

From: Liam Butler
To: [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: AG Media Request: Whisky seizures
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 12:52:58 PM

Reporter

Mark Gillespie, Reporter
WhiskyCast
mark@whiskycast.com
856-952-3866

Deadline ASAP**Request**

The reporter is looking to schedule a five minute, pre-taped interview with an LDB/LCLB official to discuss the seizures of whisky from four B.C. establishments. The reporter would like to learn the LDB's official position on the matter and would use the interview in his podcast.

The reporter runs a whisky focused website and podcast. He will run the episode tomorrow and can do interview in person in Victoria or over the phone. He has spoken to Scotch Malt Whisky Society officials already.

Background**Recommendation**

From: [Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: For Review: IN and QA
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 10:32:39 AM
Attachments: [Liquor - LCLB - LDB - Liquor Seizures - IN - 22JAN18 DRAFT.docx](#)
[KM - LCLB Liquor Seizures - 22JAN18 DRAFT.docx](#)
Importance: High

Tiffany –

IN: left tracked changes for your reference. All the deleted questions have been copied into the QA.
Left cannabis here because I think it is a pressing question for this IN.

QA: added all the extra Q's from the IN and more that we discussed. Will need significant additions
from LCLB as I have no idea what the answers are!

I'll clean up tracked changes and resend to you once you're good to go.

Cass

Cassandra Togneri
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Attorney General
Government Communications and Public Engagement
P: 250-953-3196 / C: 778-677-0870

From: [Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Liquor - LCLB - LDB - Liquor Seizures - IN - 19JAN18 DRAFT
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 12:45:07 PM
Attachments: [Liquor - LCLB - LDB - Liquor Seizures - IN - 19JAN18 DRAFT.docx](#)
Importance: High

Tiff – take a first glance before I sent to program as urgent.

From: [Butler, Liam GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FW: AG Media Request: Whisky bar raids
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 11:57:39 AM

Hi Tiffany,

This reporter simply wanted a statement from us. Are we still using the response sent to Justine and Charmaine?

From: Liam Butler [<mailto:Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 11:57 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: AG Media Request: Whisky bar raids

Reporter

Hanna Mclean, Reporter
The Daily Hive
Hanna@dailyhive.com
604-250-4415

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter would like a statement from the Ministry of Attorney General concerning the raids of the four establishments serving Scotch Malt Whisky Society products.

Background

Recommendation

From: [Butler, Liam GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FW: AG Media Request: Whisky seizures
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 2:51:20 PM

Katie De Rosa and Liam Britten still have whisky related requests.

Reporter

Katie DeRosa, Reporter
Times Colonist
kderosa@timescolonist.com
250-380-5343 c: 250-812-1132

Deadline Monday, January 22, 2018 5:00 PM

Request

The reporter would like to schedule a phone interview with Mark Hicken. She would like to discuss his role as liquor policy advisor and how his approach differs from the previous government. The reporter mentioned that she would also ask about the seizure of alcohol from four B.C. businesses last week.

The reporter also would like the following:

- 1) a year-by-year breakdown of government revenues from liquor policy infractions between 2011 and 2017
- 2) Does the NDP government plan to increase liquor enforcement following the more hands off approach taken by the B.C. Liberals?
- 3) An interview with Minister Eby to discuss the NDP's approach to liquor enforcement

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Liam Britten, Reporter
CBC-Vancouver
liam.britten@cbc.ca
604-662-6498

Deadline ASAP

Request

Can the ministry confirm an LCLB liquor inspector told the Victoria Whisky festival it was prohibited from displaying product from the Scotch Malt Whisky Society.

Background

Recommendation

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 2:46 PM
To: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX

Cc: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

Subject: RE: AG Media Request: Whisky seizures

Mike did ask for these. He called. Liam, pls transfer justine's request to hager.

Which outlets are waiting for other specific Qs answered?

Tiffany

250 858-4680

From: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 2:37 PM

To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX <Tiffany.Nelson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: AG Media Request: Whisky seizures

Just to confirm, Justine/Mike didn't ask the two middle questions. Those were from CP on the weekend I believe.

Justine's request in the hub is closed under her name, I will re-open under Mike Hager.

Reporter

Justine Hunter, Reporter

Globe and Mail - BC Bureau

jhunter@globeandmail.com

250-220-2718 c: 250-857-4779

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter is looking for more details on the seizure of whisky from four B.C. establishments, specifically:

- 1) What will happen to the liquor if the establishments cannot meet requirements to reclaim it? Will it be destroyed or auctioned?
- 2) The reporter would like to speak to the person who made the decision to seize. Possibly the GM of enforcement and compliance?

Background

Recommendation – statement sent earlier, provide information on background.

Background

What will happen to the liquor if the establishment cannot meet the requirements to reclaim it?

Will it be destroyed or auctioned?

- LCLB retains seized liquor until all enforcement proceedings, reviews and appeals have concluded.
- If a person fails to establish their claim and right to possess the liquor, the liquor must be destroyed or otherwise disposed of as the general manager may direct pursuant to section 47(6) LCLA.

How frequently does LCLB confiscate/seize liquor from establishments across the province?

- Seizures of unlawful liquor occur approximately 3 – 5 times a year.

How much liquor is confiscated within a given year?

The amount of liquor confiscated within a given year varies depending on the type of establishment where the liquor was removed from (e.g., liquor volumes from a U-Brew or U-Vin establishment will be greater as product is often stored in large containers as opposed to bottles).

- From 2014 – 2017, 18 liquor seizures were made and included bottles of wine, spirits, beer, mixed drinks and bulk wine products.

Where is the liquor being held?

- The seized alcohol is being held a secure location that cannot be disclosed.

From: [Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Scott, Pamela LCLB:EX](#)
Cc: [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#); [Carr, Michelle LCLB:EX](#)
Subject: FW: FOR URGENT REVIEW: Liquor seizure media, IN and QA
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 2:10:09 PM
Attachments: [Liquor - LCLB - LDB - Liquor Seizures - IN - 22JAN18 DRAFT.docx](#)
[QA - LCLB Liquor Seizures - 22JAN18 DRAFT.docx](#)
Importance: High

Hi Pamela –

Can you send back whatever you've got now? Tiffany has to get this up for deadline. Copied her and Michelle so they can jump in if necessary.

Thank you!!!

Cassandra

Cassandra Togneri

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Attorney General

Government Communications and Public Engagement

P: 250-953-3196 / C: 778-677-0870

From: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 12:05 PM
To: Scott, Pamela LCLB:EX
Subject: FOR URGENT REVIEW: Liquor seizure media, IN and QA
Importance: High

Hi Pamela

Attached are the IN and the QA. They have highlights of what needs to be addressed. Also below, we need answers to these remaining questions ASAP. We need the highlighted ones back right away.

Thanks,

Cassandra

Remaining questions

Please see highlights in attached QA

CP

How frequently does LCLB confiscate/seize liquor from establishments across the province?

How much liquor is confiscated within a given year?

Globe and Mail

What will happen to the liquor if the establishment cannot meet the requirements to reclaim it?

Will it be destroyed or auctioned?

Times Colonist

Can LCLB provide a year by year breakdown of liquor policy infractions between 2011 and 2017?

How does Mark Hicken's role as policy advisory differs from the previous government's approach?

- Government has retained Mark Hicken, a long-time wine industry lawyer and expert, as a liquor policy advisor to liaise with industry stakeholders and provide recommendations to government on ways to support B.C.'s industry.
- Reporting through the Ministry of Attorney General, Mr. Hicken will lead outreach to B.C.'s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the B.C. liquor manufacturing, retail and hospitality sectors, to gather input on areas of interest.

- He will also advise government on the creation of a B.C. beer, wine, and spirits panel – a government platform commitment to support a sector that employs thousands of British Columbians.
- The panel will provide government with recommendations for technical policy and legislative reform that are trade compliant, treat stakeholders equitably, and consider health and financial impacts.
- Additionally, the newly appointed Liquor Policy Advisor has been tasked with meeting with health experts as well as industry to discuss options for government to consider for increased and meaningful social responsibility initiatives.

News 1130

Why has enforcement changed in respect to restaurants purchasing liquor from private liquor stores? It is the reporter's understanding that this has been happening for a long time and inspectors turned a blind eye?

Cassandra Togneri
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Attorney General
Government Communications and Public Engagement
P: 250-953-3196 / C: 778-677-0870

**Liquor – LCLB January Liquor Seizures
Questions & Answers**

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) is responsible for enforcing the Liquor Control and Licensing Act to ensure that licensed establishments comply with provincial legal requirements, including not selling unlawful liquor.
- As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments.
- LCLB follows up on all complaints whether the complaint is made directly to staff or made through LCLB's formal complaints process. This is to ensure fairness to all licensees, and to prevent law-abiding businesses from being put at a disadvantage by businesses that do not follow legal requirements.
- Seizures are the result of careful investigations when, in the opinion of liquor inspectors, liquor is possessed or kept contrary to the Liquor Control and Licensing Act (LCLA) and regulations.
- Licensees who have had their liquor seized may apply to LCLB to have their liquor returned or to be compensated for destroyed liquor provided they can demonstrate they were legally entitled to possess the liquor.
- Mr. Hicken is engaging now with industry stakeholder associations, and government expects to receive recommendations from him before March 31, 2018. Hicken's focus is to hear from stakeholders about the important issues facing the industry, and to advise government on ways to further strengthen it.

IS THE NEW GOVERNMENT ENFORCING LAWS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY NOT ENFORCED?:

- The LCLB operates independently when making licensing and enforcement decisions, and is mandated to oversee compliance and enforcement of the legislation and regulations in place for licensees.
- The Attorney General provides direction on general policy, while the general manager of LCLB is responsible for supervising licensees and enforcing the Act.
- While this government is committed to creating liquor policies that support real growth and opportunity in the industry, it is important that establishments continue to follow the rules as they are laid out in the LCLA, regulations, and the terms and conditions for their licence class.
- The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC's beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality

industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.

WHEN DO LIQUOR SEIZURES TYPICALLY HAPPEN?:

- For logistical purposes, liquor seizures occur during an establishment's business hours. Inspectors make best efforts to seize during time periods where the public is not present (e.g., outside of opening hours).

IS THE LCLB TARGETING SMALL BUSINESSES?

- The LCLB responds to complaints and performs random inspections throughout the year.
- The LCLB is committed to working with licensees to ensure that they understand the rules of compliance.
- The LCLB recently created the Licensee Education Program – an in-person, free of charge seminar for licensees province-wide that reviews updates to liquor policy, tips for safe and responsible liquor service and retail, and maintaining a safe and compliant establishment. Where liquor can be lawfully purchased by licensees for their establishments is discussed at these seminars. The program is ongoing.

ARE THERE DIFFERENT RULES FOR PRIVATE LIQUOR STORES, RESTAURANTS, AND BARS?

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment's liquor register, this includes liquor transfers.
- Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or from an authorized manufacturer via direct delivery. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register.
- Hospitality customers pay retail price for their products whereas wholesale customers (liquor retailers, like private liquor stores) pay wholesale price.
- The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- Private liquor stores can purchase their inventory from the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre or through authorized liquor manufacturers via direct delivery.

CAN LICENSEES IMPORT EXCLUSIVE PRODUCTS THAT ARE NOT REGISTERED WITH THE LDB?

- Yes. For products that are not registered with the LDB, the LDB can act as an agent to import the product for either the general public or wholesale customers.

WHAT DOES THE LCLB DO WITH SEIZED PRODUCT? IS IT DESTROYED? SOLD AT AUCTION?

- Once all legal recourse is exhausted by the licensee, the seized product will be destroyed by the branch.

THE AFFECTED BUSINESSES CLAIM THAT LIQUOR INSPECTORS HAD BEEN TO THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS BEFORE, SAW THE PRODUCT IN QUESTION ON SHELVES AND SAID NOTHING. IS THAT TRUE?

- XX

WHY DIDN'T THE LCLB OFFER A WARNING TO THESE BUSINESSES BEFORE PERFORMING SUCH AND EXTREME RAID?

- These raids were a result of complaints made to the Branch and may not have been detected during previous inspections.
- Licensee are warned when they acquire their licences and during every inspection that they are expected to be following compliance rules to the best of their ability.

IF GOVERNMENT COLLECTED TAXES ON ALL LIQUOR SOLD IN THE PROVINCE, WHAT IS THE REAL HARM CAUSED BY RESTAURANTS PURCHASING LIQUOR FROM GROUPS LIKE THE SCOTCH MALT WHISKEY ASSOCIATION?

- The LCLB must ensure fairness to all licensees and prevent law-abiding businesses from being put at a disadvantage by businesses that do not follow legal requirements.
- Liquor licensees are given a guidebook of rules that come with their acquiring a licence. Licensees are expected to follow these rules to the best of their ability.
- The LCLB is available to licensees to answer questions about compliance issues.

LCLB – LDB – Liquor Seizures

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) is responsible for enforcing the Liquor Control and Licensing Act to ensure that licensed establishments comply with provincial legal requirements, including not selling unlawful liquor.
- As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments.
- LCLB follows up on all complaints whether the complaint is made directly to staff or made through LCLB's formal complaints process. This is to ensure fairness to all licensees, and to prevent law-abiding businesses from being put at a disadvantage by businesses that do not follow legal requirements.
- LCLB cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments and does not release private information about any licensee.
- Unlawful liquor may include liquor not purchased through an authorized source, homemade products, and products obtained on the black-market.
- An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained.
- Seizures are the result of careful investigations when, in the opinion of liquor inspectors, liquor is possessed or kept contrary to the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* (LCLA) and regulations.
- Licensees who have had their liquor seized may apply to LCLB to have their liquor returned or to be compensated for destroyed liquor provided they can demonstrate they were legally entitled to possess the liquor.
- In 2017, LCLB received and followed up on 9 complaints of unlawful sale and purchases of liquor.
- Mr. Hicken is engaging now with industry stakeholder associations, and government expects to receive recommendations from him before March 31, 2018. Hicken's focus is to hear from stakeholders about the important issues facing the industry, and to advise government on ways to further strengthen it.

IF ASKED IF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS ENFORCING LAWS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY NOT ENFORCED:

- The LCLB operates independently when making licensing and enforcement decisions, and is mandated to oversee compliance and enforcement of the legislation and regulations in place for licensees.
- The Attorney General provides direction on general policy, while the general manager of LCLB is responsible for supervising licensees and enforcing the Act.
- While this government is committed to creating liquor policies that support real growth and opportunity in the industry, it is important that establishments continue to follow the rules as they are laid out in the LCLA, regulations, and the terms and conditions for their licence class.
- ~~• The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC's beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.~~

IF ASKED WHEN LIQUOR SEIZURES TYPICALLY HAPPEN:

- ~~• For logistical purposes, liquor seizures occur during an establishment's business hours. Inspectors make best efforts to seize during time periods where the public is not present (e.g., outside of opening hours).~~

IF ASKED IF THIS IS TARGETING SMALL BUSINESSES:

- ~~• The LCLB responds to complaints and performs random inspections throughout the year.~~
- ~~• The LCLB is committed to working with licensees to ensure that they understand the rules of compliance.~~
- ~~• The LCLB recently created the Licensee Education Program — an in-person, free of charge seminar for licensees province-wide that reviews updates to liquor policy, tips for safe and responsible liquor service and retail, and maintaining a safe and compliant establishment. Where liquor can be lawfully purchased by licensees for their establishments is discussed at these seminars. The program is ongoing.~~

IF ASKED WHAT THE PENALTIES ARE FOR NON-COMPLIANT LIQUOR FOUND IN AN ESTABLISHMENT:

- Purchasing liquor from an unauthorized source is a serious contravention of the LCLA, regulations, and rules specified in the term and conditions for liquor licensees.

ISSUE NOTE: Attorney General 2018-01-22

- Inspectors may seize and destroy unauthorized liquor. In addition, a licensee can receive a monetary penalty of \$7,500-\$10,000 or a 10 - 15 day licence suspension for a first contravention.
- Licensees who have had their liquor seized may apply to LCLB to have their liquor returned or to be compensated for destroyed liquor provided they can demonstrate they were legally entitled to possess the liquor.
- If LCLB recommends enforcement action be taken in relation to unauthorized liquor, the licensee will receive a Notice of Enforcement Action (NOEA) outlining the proposed enforcement action (i.e., monetary penalty or licence suspension) and the facts on which the alleged contravention and proposed enforcement action are based.
- After receiving the NOEA, licensees can either sign a waiver (i.e., accepting responsibility for the contravention and the proposed penalty) or go to a hearing. If the licensee is not satisfied with the enforcement order made at the conclusion of the hearing, they may apply for a reconsideration of that order provided the application meets certain criteria (e.g., error of law).
- If the licensee is not satisfied with the reconsideration order, they may apply for judicial review within 30 days of receiving the reconsideration order.

ARE THERE DIFFERENT RULES FOR PRIVATE LIQUOR STORES, RESTAURANTS, AND BARS?

- ~~All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment's liquor register, this includes liquor transfers.~~
- ~~Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or from an authorized manufacturer via direct delivery. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register.~~
- ~~Hospitality customers pay retail price for their products whereas wholesale customers (liquor retailers, like private liquor stores) pay wholesale price.~~
- ~~The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.~~
- ~~Private liquor stores can purchase their inventory from the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre or through authorized liquor manufacturers via direct delivery.~~

CAN LICENSEES IMPORT EXCLUSIVE PRODUCTS THAT ARE NOT REGISTERED WITH THE LDB?

- ~~Yes. For products that are not registered with the LDB, the LDB can act as an agent to~~

~~import the product for either the general public or wholesale customers.~~

HOW CAN THE PROVINCE JUSTIFY ALLOWING CANNABIS SHOPS TO FUNCTION WITH IMPUNITY WHILE LICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS ARE RAIDED LIKE THIS?

- The province takes enforcement action when it identifies potential non-compliance with provincial liquor regulations that are in place. This ensures that licensees that spend the time and money to follow the rules are not penalized by those licensees that choose not to follow the rules.
- Let me be very clear that once regulations are in place for the sale of cannabis in B.C., this government will be very present in ensuring that compliance is enforced and that product is lawful and kept out of the hands of minors.
- While industry suggests that some practices such as “back shelf stock” may be common practice, it is illegal and if an establishment is caught there will be penalties.

Comment [1]:
Confirm wording with the cannabis secretariat

- **KEY #'S:**
- **There are over 10,200 liquor establishments in B.C. that are subject to random inspections.**
- **There are 35 liquor inspectors located throughout the province.**
- **In 2017, the LCLB performed over 15,000 inspections .**
- **Licensees eligible for inspection include all 10,200 licensees as well as the over 25,000 annual Special Event Permit holders.**

Comment [2]:
Please confirm with Ray

Comment [3]:
I don't think that we keep separate numbers for non-MAP inspections.

CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND:

s.13,s.15

s.13,s.15 Coincidentally, the Canadian Whiskey Awards was held the following weekend in conjunction with the Victoria Whiskey Festival. Media has taken an interest in the seizures, calling them prohibition-style raids.

s.13,s.15

ISSUE NOTE: Attorney General 2018-01-22

The number of inspections has gone up in 2017. This is due to several factors. After an internal review of processes, the deputy general manager and regional managers implemented new rules and procedures for the province's liquor inspectors. New software for data entry has also encouraged more frequent and detailed inspection data collection. The LCLB has also hired new inspectors and is still hiring to fill positions.

Program Area	Deputy / ADM	GCPE
LCLB - X. XX – XX/18 LDB -	LCLB - M. Carr – Jan. 21/18 LDB –	C. Togneri – Jan 22 ¹⁹ /18 T. Nelson – XX/18 M. Harris – XX/18

From: [Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Butler, Liam GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 10:36:28 AM

On it. I'll need to talk to LDB and LCLB to confirm some more complex details here. Will get back to you ASAP

Cassandra Togneri
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Attorney General
Government Communications and Public Engagement
P: 250-953-3196 / C: 778-677-0870

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 10:33 AM
To: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Hi Cass – another one here. Can you drop in your thoughts, plus the BK you were working on for past Charmaine request, then let's chat pre-program?

Tiffany
250 858-4680

From: Liam Butler [<mailto:Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 10:29 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX <Tiffany.Nelson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Reporter

Jean Paetkau, Producer
CBC - Victoria
jean.paetkau@cbc.ca
250-414-4704

Deadline Friday, January 19, 2018 2:00 PM

Request

The reporter has questions concerning the raids of establishments serving Scotch Malt Whisky Society. She would like to know:

- 1) Was it just bars that were targeted as part of this recent enforcement?
- 2) Are there different rules for restaurant, bars and private liquor stores?
- 3) Can someone import an exclusive kind of whisky that is not on the liquor distribution list?

Background

Recommendation

From: [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Carr, Michelle LCLB:EX](#)
Cc: [Vale, Elaine LCLB:EX](#); [Tetzel, Raymond LCLB:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Confidential: whiskey seizure tomorrow
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 6:32:00 PM

Thanks Michelle. I have a few process questions I will call Elaine or Ray about in the morning.

Tiffany

250 858-4680

From: Carr, Michelle LCLB:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 5:52 PM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Cc: Vale, Elaine LCLB:EX; Tetzel, Raymond LCLB:EX
Subject: FW: Confidential: whiskey seizure tomorrow

Hi, Tiffany. Please see item below. If you have any questions please connect with Elaine or Ray. Note that this is confidential in nature.

Michelle Carr | Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager
Liquor Control and Licensing Branch
Ministry of Attorney General
Phone: 250-952-5777

On Jan 17, 2018, at 5:42 PM, Carr, Michelle LCLB:EX <Michelle.Carr@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi, Richard.

I wanted to give you a heads up that ^{s.13,s.15}

^{s.13,s.15}

^{s.13,s.15}

, and as the Canadian whisky awards are being held in conjunction with the Victoria Whiskey Festival this weekend, we may receive calls about this.

Highlights are below. Please let me know of any questions.

^{s.13,s.15}

Michelle

Michelle Carr | Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager
Liquor Control and Licensing Branch
Ministry of Attorney General
Phone: 250-952-5777

From: [Butler, Liam GCPE:EX](#)
To: ["kari.coles@oakbaynews.com"](mailto:kari.coles@oakbaynews.com)
Cc: [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 4:14:43 PM

Hi Keri,

Thank you for your patience. The following information can be used on background or with attribution to "the Ministry of Attorney General:"

Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

"The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager's supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

"The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC's beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector."

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment's liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB's agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Thank you,

Liam Butler

Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Attorney General

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Media Line: 778 678-1572

From: [Butler, Liam GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Whisky raids
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 11:11:35 AM

s.15

Media:

<http://scoutmagazine.ca/2018/01/19/prohibition-style-raid-goes-down-at-fets-whisky-kitchen-on-commercial-drive/>

Fets Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/whiskykitchen/>

Video of raid: https://twitter.com/j_mcelroy/status/954425164883681280

From: [Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Turner, Caeli LDB:EX](#); [Vale, Elaine LCLB:EX](#)
Cc: [Tam, Dixon LDB:EX](#); [Rowsell, Terry N LCLB:EX](#); [Zanocco, Viviana LDB:EX](#)
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Liquor - LCLB - LDB - Liquor Seizures - IN - 19JAN18 DRAFT
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 4:32:11 PM
Attachments: [Liquor - LCLB - LDB - Liquor Seizures - IN - 19JAN18 DRAFT.docx](#)

Hi All –

Don't worry, I am aware that it is extremely bogus to send a doc out for review on Friday. But we don't need it back today! Attached is the IN for the whiskey issue. I think I have captured all your edits throughout the day. But please review and provide edits and comments as you see fit. It would be great if we could finalize this by Monday afternoon.

Thanks for your help and responsiveness today, it's so much appreciated. Have a great weekend!

Cassandra

From: [Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FW: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whiskey Society seizures
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 10:14:00 AM

Tiff – just saw you approved response go out – but wanted to run this by you before it goes to LDB and LCLB (we will likely get more calls). The 5th bullet is to provide background on the work the LCLB has been trying to do to work with stakeholders to ensure that they have an open line of communication with the branch. That has been a priority over the last year or so. Also a detail about one of seizures that I should mention. I'll come by.

Reporter

Charmaine De Silva, Reporter
CKNW AM 980
Charmaine.DeSilva@corusent.com
604-230-8025

Deadline Friday, January 19, 2018 5:00 PM

Request

The reporter would like more details on the raids of establishments serving Scotch Malt Whiskey Society. The reporter has heard that the practice of buying liquor from private liquor stores for "back shelf" use in restaurants and bars has gone on for a long time, but regulators have long turned a blind eye. The reporter would like to know if there has been a shift in policy.

s.13,s.15

Recommendation – provide background

Has there been a change in policy? Didn't the branch turn a blind eye to the practice of "back shelf" buying from private liquor stores?

- As part of its operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained. The LCLB does not release private

information about any licensee.

- All liquor products sold at an establishment must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment's liquor register, this includes liquor transfers.
- Some manufacturers are allowed to direct-deliver products to hospitality customers. Those products must be non-listed (not available in BC Liquor Stores), direct-delivered only, and priced according to the LDB's minimum price rules. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register.
- The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The LCLB recently created the Licensee Education Program – an in-person, free of charge seminar for licensees province-wide that reviews updates to liquor policy, tips for safe and responsible liquor service and retail, and maintaining a safe and compliant establishment.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments.

From: [Turner, Caeli LDB:EX](#)
To: [Zanocco, Viviana LDB:EX](#); [Tam, Dixon LDB:EX](#); [Shum, Karen LDB:EX](#); [Jensen, Cindy LDB:EX](#); [Rowsell, Terry N LCLB:EX](#); [Scott, Pamela LCLB:EX](#); [Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX](#); [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Fw: Industry Update: Recent whisky confiscations
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 4:24:14 PM

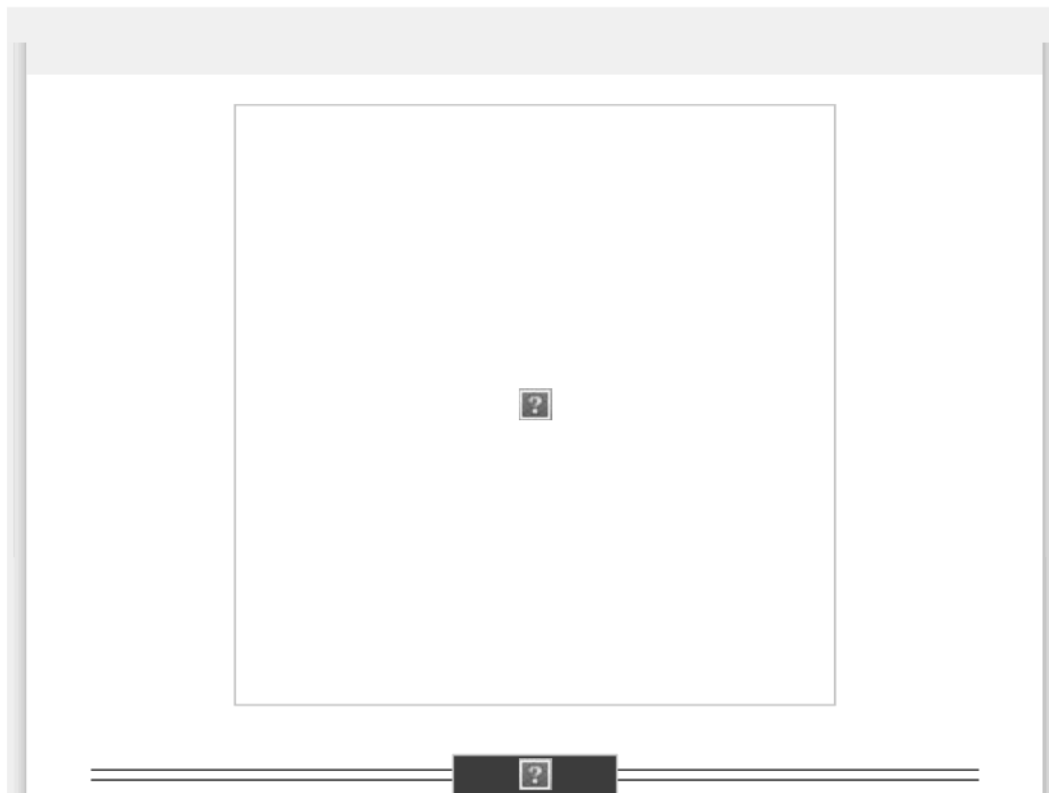
FYI.

From: Caeli Turner
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 4:04 PM
To: Turner, Caeli LDB:EX
Subject: Fwd: Industry Update: Recent whisky confiscations

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Alliance of Beverage Licensees (ABLE BC)" <info@ablebc.ca>
Date: January 23, 2018 at 3:43:24 PM PST
To: s.22
Subject: Industry Update: Recent whisky confiscations
Reply-To: info@ablebc.ca



Dear ABLE BC Members,

As you may know, last Thursday, **BC liquor inspectors seized thousands of dollars of whisky** from establishments on Vancouver Island and in Vancouver in what has been dubbed by media a "Prohibition-style raid."

To be clear, in British Columbia, liquor products sold by bars and restaurants must be bought through the LDB or BC Liquor Stores and recorded in a liquor register. Unfortunately, the LDB only distributes Scotch Malt Whisky Society products to private stores, so they are not available for sale to bars and restaurants.

ABLE BC encourages members to abide by all liquor laws, even when those laws need to change. We understand that this is deeply frustrating for businesses as well as customers. In our opinion, the policy that led to nearly \$100,000 worth of whisky being seized from four licensed, tax-paying establishments, is outdated, illogical, and not in the best interests of consumers.

Since the incident, ABLE BC has in regular contact with the LCLB. We are also working with the Ministry of Attorney General and other senior officials to ensure they understand the severity of this issue and the importance of resolving it for the industry.

ABLE BC also recently met with Mark Hicken, the government-appointed liquor policy advisor, to discuss several needed policy changes. As part of our submission to Hicken, we strongly encouraged government to allow restaurants and bars to buy directly from the private sector.

ABLE BC also joined a group of representatives from restaurants, wineries, craft breweries, distilleries, and agents to submit a joint report to Hicken, outlining our collective industry priorities.

It is our hope that this industry-wide collaboration will assist our government partners in moving quickly to address our concerns on this issue. We will provide updates as they become available.

SIGN THE PETITION: help move the issue of allowing licensee sales forward

An online petition has been launched by a third party to "Free the Whisky": <https://www.change.org/p/free-the-whisky-british-columbia>.

The petition asks government to reconsider and reverse the recent confiscation of whisky from the above-mentioned establishments. It also asks for a **reconsideration and reversal of the policies** that prevent small businesses from procuring legal liquor from private retail stores within British Columbia - i.e. by allowing licensee sales.

We encourage members to **sign the petition** and share with your staff to help move forward the issue of allowing licensee sales.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Jeff Guignard (ABLE BC Executive Director) at 604-688-5560 or jeff@ablebc.ca.

BC Liquor Inspectors

LCLB inspections are complaint driven. When a complaint is received, the branch is legally obliged to follow-up:

"LCLB follows up on all complaints whether the complaint is made directly to staff or made through LCLB's formal complaints process. This is to ensure fairness to all licensees, and to prevent law-abiding businesses from being put at a disadvantage by businesses that do not follow legal requirements."

ABLE BC has learned that some industry members have posted on social media, threatening the safety of liquor inspectors. While we understand the frustration of inspections and outdated laws, this response is offensive, inappropriate, and against the law.

ABLE BC is proud to work in partnership with the Ministry of Attorney General, LCLB, LDB, and other government officials to resolve issues in a respectful and productive way.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Jeff Guignard (ABLE BC Executive Director) at 604-688-5560 or jeff@ablebc.ca.

Strengthen our voice: refer a new member to

ABLE BC

Our Alliance is only as strong as the size of our collective voice. Our solid membership base of over 1,000 licenses lends strength, credibility, and weight to our advocacy efforts with government and other stakeholders.

Do you know a licensee who is not yet a member of the Alliance? Forward them this email and ask them to join ABLE BC today. Licensees can **sign-up for a membership instantly at ABLEBC.ca** .

With your help, ABLE BC will continue to work on behalf of a united liquor industry to advance private sector liquor opportunities in the year ahead.

For more information about ABLE BC membership and exclusive benefit programs: please download our Member Handbook or contact Danielle Leroux (Manager of Membership and Communications) at 604-688-5560 or danielle@ablebc.ca.



ABLE BC, 200 - 948 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 1N9 Canada

[SafeUnsubscribe™ s.22](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@ablebc.ca in collaboration with

Constant Contact



Try it free today

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Liam Butler <Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 10:22 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Reporter

Jean Paetkau, Producer
CBC - Victoria
jean.paetkau@cbc.ca
250-414-4704

Deadline Friday, January 19, 2018 2:00 PM

Request

The reporter would like a statement from the ministry concerning the raids of establishments serving Scotch Malt Whisky Society.

Background

Recommendation

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 10:36 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Cc: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

On it. I'll need to talk to LDB and LCLB to confirm some more complex details here. Will get back to you ASAP

Cassandra Togneri
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Attorney General
Government Communications and Public Engagement
P: 250-953-3196 / C: 778-677-0870

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 10:33 AM
To: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Hi Cass – another one here. Can you drop in your thoughts, plus the BK you were working on for past Charmaine request, then let's chat pre-program?

Tiffany
250 858-4680

From: Liam Butler [<mailto:Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 10:29 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX <Tiffany.Nelson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Reporter

Jean Paetkau, Producer
CBC - Victoria
jean.paetkau@cbc.ca
250-414-4704

Deadline Friday, January 19, 2018 2:00 PM

Request

The reporter has questions concerning the raids of establishments serving Scotch Malt Whisky Society. She would like to know:

- 1) Was it just bars that were targeted as part of this recent enforcement?
- 2) Are there different rules for restaurant, bars and private liquor stores?
- 3) Can someone import an exclusive kind of whisky that is not on the liquor distribution list?

Background

Recommendation

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 12:27 PM
To: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX; Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Whisky raid media requests

Importance: High

Thanks Liam. Cass can you drop the approved statement into those looking only for that, or whose Qs can't be addressed because of it?

Tiffany
250 858-4680

From: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 12:25 PM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX <Tiffany.Nelson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Whisky raid media requests

6 requests:

- News 1130 – pre-taped interview
- Oak Bay News – background
- The Daily Hive – statement
- CKNW – live or pre-taped interview
- TSN 1040 – statement
- CBC Victoria - background

Reporter

Lasia Kretzel, Reporter
News 1130
lasia.kretzel@rci.rogers.com
604-877-4400

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter would like to schedule a pre-taped interview with a ministry representative to discuss the seizure of whisky from four B.C. establishments yesterday. The reporter would like to know:

- 1) What happened,
- 2) What are B.C.'s liquor policies on seizing liquor

The interview would be with the reporter for approximately five minutes. The reporter is available for the interview all day but would like to record ASAP.

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Keri Coles, Reporter
Oak Bay News
keri.coles@oakbaynews.com
250-480-3239

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter would like background information on the four whisky bar raids, specifically:

- 1) What was taken?
- 2) What was the value of the products seized?
- 3) What led to the seizures?
- 4) What time did the raids take place?

Background**Recommendation****Reporter**

Hanna Mclean, Reporter
The Daily Hive
Hanna@dailyhive.com
604-250-4415

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter would like a statement from the Ministry of Attorney General concerning the raids of the four establishments serving Scotch Malt Whisky Society products.

Background**Recommendation****Reporter**

Sara Hyde, Producer
CKNW AM 980
Sara.hyde@corusent.com
604-725-0810

Deadline Friday, January 19, 2018 1:30 PM

Request

The reporter would like to schedule a radio interview to discuss the four whisky bar raids. The reporter is specifically interested in:

- 1) Clarification on why these raids happened,
- 2) More details on the rules of raiding liquor businesses,
- 3) The reporter believes it is common practice for liquor specialty stores to not buy products through the LCB. Is it?
- 4) Why were these specific bars/products targeted?

The interview could be pre-taped between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. or could be live at 2:15 or 5:15 p.m. The interview would

be six minutes with hosts Lynda Steele and John Daly,

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Joe Leary, Reporter
24 Hours / Sun Media
joeleary@telus.net
604-710-1601

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter wrote to Minister Eby informing him of a government raid on Fets Whisky Kitchen in Vancouver. The reporter records one of his radio shows at the restaurant. The owners of the restaurant and others gave interviews to CBC blaming the NDP government for targeting small businesses through arcane liquor laws that have previously not been enforced. The reporter compared the raid to an "Elliot Ness-style" investigation.

Ron Orr, the CFO of Granville Entertainment Group who was cc'd on the email, wrote back, complaining that illegal marijuana stores are opening up without any repercussions. Orr proceeded to question the logic and priorities of the city of Vancouver and the Province. He wants the Liquor Revision Act to be reviewed so that its impact on small businesses can be addressed.

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Jean Paetkau, Producer
CBC - Victoria
jean.paetkau@cbc.ca
250-414-4704

Deadline Friday, January 19, 2018 2:00 PM

Request

The reporter has questions concerning the raids of establishments serving Scotch Malt Whisky Society. She would like to know:

- 1) Was it just bars that were targeted as part of this recent enforcement?
- 2) Are there different rules for restaurant, bars and private liquor stores?
- 3) Can someone import an exclusive kind of whisky that is not on the liquor distribution list?

Background

Recommendation

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Liam Butler <Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 12:53 PM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: AG Media Request: Whisky seizures

Reporter

Mark Gillespie, Reporter
WhiskyCast
mark@whiskycast.com
856-952-3866

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter is looking to schedule a five minute, pre-taped interview with an LDB/LCLB official to discuss the seizures of whisky from four B.C. establishments. The reporter would like to learn the LDB's official position on the matter and would use the interview in his podcast.

The reporter runs a whisky focused website and podcast. He will run the episode tomorrow and can do interview in person in Victoria or over the phone. He has spoken to Scotch Malt Whisky Society officials already.

Background

Recommendation

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Milne, Gala AG:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 4:10 PM
To: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX; Smith, George AG:EX
Cc: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Whisky raid media requests as of 3:10 p.m.

Hi everyone – good to go with the below.

Thanks for your help.

Gala

From: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 3:59 PM
To: Milne, Gala AG:EX; Smith, George AG:EX
Cc: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Whisky raid media requests as of 3:10 p.m.

Hi Gala – yes I have confirmed with LCLB that the independence line is accurate.

Cassandra Togneri
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Attorney General
Government Communications and Public Engagement
P: 250-953-3196 / C: 778-677-0870

From: Milne, Gala AG:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 3:53 PM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Smith, George AG:EX
Cc: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX; Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Whisky raid media requests as of 3:10 p.m.

Hi Liam/Tiffany/Cass
Please see below for edits. Can you confirm the LCLB independence line?

Thanks
G

Recommendation – Provide statement and background (this goes for all requests)

Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

"The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC's beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector."

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment's liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB's agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Gala

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 3:14 PM
To: Milne, Gala AG:EX; Godfrey, Sam AG:EX; Smith, George AG:EX
Cc: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Whisky raid media requests as of 3:10 p.m.

As a note, we've declined all interview requests.

The branch has not yet approved the independence line, but need to keep this moving given where we're at.

I will be unavailable from 4-5pm so need to ask that you work direct with Liam on edits to responses.

Thanks

Tiffany
250 858-4680

From: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 3:11 PM
To: Milne, Gala AG:EX <Gala.Milne@gov.bc.ca>; Godfrey, Sam AG:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, George AG:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX <Tiffany.Nelson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Whisky raid media requests as of 3:10 p.m.

12 requests:

- News 1130 – pre-taped interview

- Oak Bay News – background
- The Daily Hive – statement
- CKNW – live or pre-taped interview
- TSN 1040 – statement
- CBC Victoria – background
- WhiskyCast – interview
- CTV VI – statement
- NanaimoNewsNOW – statement
- Global BC – statement
- Times Colonist – statement
- The Province - statement

Reporter

Lasia Kretzel, Reporter

News 1130

lasia.kretzel@rci.rogers.com

604-877-4400

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter would like to schedule a pre-taped interview with a ministry representative to discuss the seizure of whisky from four B.C. establishments yesterday. The reporter would like to know:

- 1) What happened,
- 2) What are B.C.'s liquor policies on seizing liquor

The interview would be with the reporter for approximately five minutes. The reporter is available for the interview all day but would like to record ASAP.

Background

Recommendation – Provide statement and background (this goes for all requests)

Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB’s Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.

- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB's agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Reporter

Keri Coles, Reporter
Oak Bay News
keri.coles@oakbaynews.com
250-480-3239

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter would like background information on the four whisky bar raids, specifically:

- 1) What was taken?
- 2) What was the value of the products seized?
- 3) What led to the seizures?
- 4) What time did the raids take place?

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Hanna Mclean, Reporter
The Daily Hive
Hanna@dailyhive.com
604-250-4415

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter would like a statement from the Ministry of Attorney General concerning the raids of the four establishments serving Scotch Malt Whisky Society products.

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Sara Hyde, Producer
CKNW AM 980

Sara.hyde@corusent.com

604-725-0810

Deadline Friday, January 19, 2018 1:30 PM

Request

The reporter would like to schedule a radio interview to discuss the four whisky bar raids. The reporter is specifically interested in:

- 1) Clarification on why these raids happened,
- 2) More details on the rules of raiding liquor businesses,
- 3) The reporter believes it is common practice for liquor specialty stores to not buy products through the LCB. Is it?
- 4) Why were these specific bars/products targeted?

The interview could be pre-taped between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. or could be live at 2:15 or 5:15 p.m. The interview would be six minutes with hosts Lynda Steele and John Daly,

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Joe Leary, Reporter

24 Hours / Sun Media

joeleary@telus.net

604-710-1601

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter wrote to Minister Eby informing him of a government raid on Fets Whisky Kitchen in Vancouver. The reporter records one of his radio shows at the restaurant. The owners of the restaurant and others gave interviews to CBC blaming the NDP government for targeting small businesses through arcane liquor laws that have previously not been enforced. The reporter compared the raid to an "Elliot Ness-style" investigation.

Ron Orr, the CFO of Granville Entertainment Group who was cc'd on the email, wrote back, complaining that illegal marijuana stores are opening up without any repercussions. Orr proceeded to question the logic and priorities of the city of Vancouver and the Province. He wants the Liquor Revision Act to be reviewed so that its impact on small businesses can be addressed.

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Jean Paetkau, Producer

CBC - Victoria

jean.paetkau@cbc.ca

250-414-4704

Deadline Friday, January 19, 2018 2:00 PM

Request

The reporter has questions concerning the raids of establishments serving Scotch Malt Whisky Society. She would like to know:

- 1) Was it just bars that were targeted as part of this recent enforcement?
- 2) Are there different rules for restaurant, bars and private liquor stores?
- 3) Can someone import an exclusive kind of whisky that is not on the liquor distribution list?

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Mike MacDonald, Producer

Global TV | BC

mike.macdonald@globalnews.ca

604-422-6494 c: 778-945-9375

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter would like a statement from the ministry on the seizures of whisky from four B.C. establishments.

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Spencer Stewart, Reporter

NanaimoNewsNOW.com

spencer@nanaimonewsnw.com

250-758-2467

Deadline Friday, January 19, 2018 5:00 PM

Request

The reporter would like to schedule a pre-taped radio interview with an LCB official to discuss the recent liquor seizure at four different B.C. establishments. The interview would focus on why the raids happened and how common seizures are. The interview would be 7-8 minutes with the reporter.

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Jason Hallman, Editor

CTV Vancouver Island - Victoria

Jason.Hallman@bellmedia.ca

250-414-6510 c: 250-883-6746

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter is working on a story about the whisky seizures and would like a copy of the statement that was provided

to the CBC.

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Mark Gillespie, Reporter
WhiskyCast
mark@whiskycast.com
856-952-3866

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter is looking to schedule a five minute, pre-taped interview with an LDB/LCLB official to discuss the seizures of whisky from four B.C. establishments. The reporter would like to learn the LDB's official position on the matter and would use the interview in his podcast.

The reporter runs a whisky focused website and podcast. He will run the episode tomorrow and can do interview in person in Victoria or over the phone. He has spoken to Scotch Malt Whisky Society officials already.

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Jeff Bell, Reporter
Times Colonist
jwbell@timescolonist.com
250-380-5371

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter would like a copy of the Ministry of Attorney General's statement concerning the seizure of whisky from four BC establishments.

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Nick Eagland, Reporter
Province
neagland@postmedia.com
604-605-2237 c: 604-551-8579

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter would like a copy of the statement from the Ministry of Attorney General regarding the seizure of alcohol

at the Fets Whisky Kitchen.

Background

Recommendation

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Liam Butler <Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 4:54 PM
Subject: AG: End of Day Media Request Report

Sam Cooper - Province
ISSUE: River Rock employee gaming worker registration cancellation
STATUS: With GCPE

Amanda Jerome - The Lawyer's Daily
ISSUE: Pivot Legal Society
STATUS: With Program Area

Ian Mulgrew - Vancouver Sun
ISSUE: Justice Summits
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Bob Mackin - Freelancer
ISSUE: CSB leadership conference
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Katie Dangerfield - Global
ISSUE: Protection orders
STATUS: With GCPE

Joel Schlesinger - Vancouver Sun
ISSUE: Gambling addiction and debt
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Bob Mackin - Freelancer
ISSUE: ISA suspension
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Roberto Rocha - CBC Radio Canada - Montreal
ISSUE: Jordan applications
STATUS: With Program Area

Laura Lynch - CBC - Victoria
ISSUE: Jordan applications
STATUS: With Program Area

Sam Cooper - Province
ISSUE: GPEB 'ride-along'
STATUS: With Program Area

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB’s Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB’s agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this

includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.

- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB's agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Ian Bailey - Globe and Mail - BC Bureau

ISSUE: Legal options in response to new NEB policy on resolving permit

STATUS: Referred to Third Party

- Referred to ENV.

Nick Eagland - Province

ISSUE: Whisky seizures

STATUS: Provided Statement

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

"The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager's supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

"The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC's beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector."

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment's liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB's agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Jeff Bell - Times Colonist
ISSUE: Whiskey seizures
STATUS: Provided Statement

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB’s Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB’s agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Paul Johnson - Global TV | BC
ISSUE: Whiskey seizures
STATUS: Provided Statement

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this

includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.

- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB's agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Mike MacDonald - Global TV | BC

ISSUE: Whisky seizures

STATUS: Provided Statement

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

"The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager's supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

"The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC's beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector."

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment's liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB's agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Spencer Stewart - NanaimoNewsNOW.com

ISSUE: Whisky seizures

STATUS: Provided Statement

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB’s Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB’s agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Jason Hallman - CTV Vancouver Island - Victoria

ISSUE: Whiskey seizures

STATUS: Provided Statement

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB’s Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB’s agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.

- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Mark Gillespie - WhiskyCast

ISSUE: Whisky seizures

STATUS: Provided Statement

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB’s Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB’s agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Lasia Kretzel - News 1130

ISSUE: Liquor seizures

STATUS: Provided Statement

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an

industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB’s Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB’s agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Keri Coles - Oak Bay News

ISSUE: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

STATUS: Provided Background

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB’s Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB’s agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Hanna Mclean - The Daily Hive

ISSUE: Whisky bar raids

STATUS: Provided Statement

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB’s Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB’s agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Sara Hyde - CKNW AM 980

ISSUE: Whisky bar raids

STATUS: Provided Statement

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this

includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.

- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB's agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Joe Leary - 24 Hours / Sun Media

ISSUE: Fets Whisky Kitchen raid

STATUS: Provided Statement

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

"The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager's supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

"The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC's beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector."

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment's liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB's agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Jean Paetkau - CBC - Victoria

ISSUE: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

STATUS: Provided Statement

- Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB’s Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB’s agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Charmaine De Silva - CKNW AM 980

ISSUE: Scotch Malt Whiskey Society seizures

STATUS: Provided Background

- “The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.”

Justin McElroy - CBC - Vancouver

ISSUE: Bar raids

STATUS: Provided Background

- “The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.”

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 11:58 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Cc: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: AG Media Request: Whisky bar raids

Hi Tiffany,

This reporter simply wanted a statement from us. Are we still using the response sent to Justine and Charmaine?

From: Liam Butler [<mailto:Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 11:57 AM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: AG Media Request: Whisky bar raids

Reporter

Hanna Mclean, Reporter
The Daily Hive
Hanna@dailyhive.com
604-250-4415

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter would like a statement from the Ministry of Attorney General concerning the raids of the four establishments serving Scotch Malt Whisky Society products.

Background

Recommendation

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 12:06 PM
To: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Another one, Cass.

From: Liam Butler [<mailto:Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 12:06 PM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Reporter

Keri Coles, Reporter
Oak Bay News
keri.coles@oakbaynews.com
250-480-3239

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter would like background information on the four whisky bar raids, specifically:

- 1) What was taken?
- 2) What was the value of the products seized?
- 3) What led to the seizures?
- 4) What time did the raids take place?

Background

Recommendation

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 1:00 PM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Whisky raid media requests

Importance: High

Hi Tiffany,

Three requests that asked for statements. The TSN request didn't really ask for anything but I think we should send them something.

3 requests:

- CTV VI - statement
- The Daily Hive – statement
- TSN 1040 – statement

Reporter

Jason Hallman, Editor
CTV Vancouver Island - Victoria
Jason.Hallman@bellmedia.ca
250-414-6510 c: 250-883-6746

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter is working on a story about the whisky seizures and would like a copy of the statement that was provided to the CBC.

Background

Recommendation – provide statement

“The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.”

Reporter

Hanna Mclean, Reporter
The Daily Hive
Hanna@dailyhive.com
604-250-4415

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter would like a statement from the Ministry of Attorney General concerning the raids of the four

establishments serving Scotch Malt Whisky Society products.

Background

Recommendation – provide statement

“The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.”

Reporter

Joe Leary, Reporter
24 Hours / Sun Media
joeleary@telus.net
604-710-1601

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter wrote to Minister Eby informing him of a government raid on Fets Whisky Kitchen in Vancouver. The reporter records one of his radio shows at the restaurant. The owners of the restaurant and others gave interviews to CBC blaming the NDP government for targeting small businesses through arcane liquor laws that have previously not been enforced. The reporter compared the raid to an "Elliot Ness-style" investigation.

Ron Orr, the CFO of Granville Entertainment Group who was cc'd on the email, wrote back, complaining that illegal marijuana stores are opening up without any repercussions. Orr proceeded to question the logic and priorities of the city of Vancouver and the Province. He wants the Liquor Revision Act to be reviewed so that its impact on small businesses can be addressed.

Background

Recommendation – provide statement

“The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.”

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 4:10 PM
To: 'jean.paetkau@cbc.ca'
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Hi Jean,

Thanks so much for your patience. Please see the following statement from Attorney General David Eby:

Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

"The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager's supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

"The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC's beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector."

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment's liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB's agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Thank you,

Liam Butler
Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Attorney General
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Email: Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca
Phone: 778 584-2433

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 4:15 PM
To: 'keri.coles@oakbaynews.com'
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Hi Keri,

Thank you for your patience. The following information can be used on background or with attribution to “the Ministry of Attorney General:”

Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB’s Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB’s agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Thank you,

Liam Butler
Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Attorney General
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Media Line: 778 678-1572

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 5:08 PM
To: GCPE JAG Media Wrap
Cc: Smith, George AG:EX; Godfrey, Sam AG:EX; Milne, Gala AG:EX; Zdravec, Don GCPE:EX; McGregor, Cara GCPE:EX; Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX; Sherlock, Stephanie GCPE:EX; Zanolco, Viviana LDB:EX; Turner, Caeli LDB:EX; Tam, Dixon LDB:EX
Subject: AG media wrap - Jan. 19, 2018

AG media calls

Ongoing:

Joel Schlesinger - Vancouver Sun
ISSUE: Gambling addiction and debt
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Bob Mackin - Freelancer
ISSUE: ISA suspension
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Ian Mulgrew - Vancouver Sun
ISSUE: Justice Summits
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Bob Mackin - Freelancer
ISSUE: CSB leadership conference
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Sam Cooper - Province
ISSUE: River Rock employee gaming worker registration cancellation
STATUS: With GCPE

Katie Dangerfield - Global
ISSUE: Protection orders
STATUS: With GCPE

Amanda Jerome - The Lawyer's Daily
ISSUE: Pivot Legal Society
STATUS: With Program Area

Roberto Rocha - CBC Radio Canada - Montreal
ISSUE: Jordan applications
STATUS: With Program Area

Laura Lynch - CBC - Victoria
ISSUE: Jordan applications
STATUS: With Program Area

Sam Cooper - Province
ISSUE: GPEB 'ride-along'
STATUS: With Program Area

Completed:

Ian Bailey - Globe and Mail - BC Bureau
ISSUE: Legal options in response to new NEB policy on resolving permit
STATUS: Referred to ENV

Charmaine De Silva - CKNW AM 980
ISSUE: Scotch Malt Whiskey Society seizures
STATUS: Provided Background

- “The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.”

Justin McElroy - CBC - Vancouver
ISSUE: Bar raids
STATUS: Provided Background

- “The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.”

The following media outlets received this statement from the Ministry of Attorney General:

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment's liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB's Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB's agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Breanna Karstens-Smith - CTV News (BC)

ISSUE: Whisky seizure

STATUS: Provided Statement

Ted Field - Global TV | BC

ISSUE: Whisky Seizure

STATUS: Provided Statement

Lasia Kretzel - News 1130

ISSUE: Liquor seizures

STATUS: Provided Statement

Mike Gillespie – WhiskyCast

ISSUE: Liquor seizures

STATUS: Provided Statement

Mike MacDonald - Global

ISSUE: Liquor seizures

STATUS: Provided Statement

Jason Hallman – CTV VI

ISSUE: Liquor seizures

STATUS: Provided Statement

Paul Johnson - Global

ISSUE: Liquor seizures

STATUS: Provided Statement

Keri Coles - Oak Bay News

ISSUE: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

STATUS: Provided Statement

Hanna Mclean - The Daily Hive

ISSUE: Whisky bar raids

STATUS: Provided Statement

Sara Hyde - CKNW AM 980
ISSUE: Whisky bar raids
STATUS: Provided Statement

Joe Leary - 24 Hours / Sun Media
ISSUE: Fets Whisky Kitchen raid
STATUS: Provided Statement

Jean Paetkau - CBC - Victoria
ISSUE: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures
STATUS: Provided Statement

Nick Eagland - Province
ISSUE: Liquor seizures
STATUS: Provided Statement

Jeff Bell – Times Colonist
ISSUE: Liquor seizures
STATUS: Provided Statement

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 5:31 PM
To: jean.paetkau@cbc.ca
Subject: Re: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Hi Jean,

Just a correction that this statement is from the Ministry of Attorney General, not the AG himself.

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 19, 2018, at 4:10 PM, Butler, Liam GCPE:EX <Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Jean,

Thanks so much for your patience. Please see the following statement from Attorney General David Eby:

Statement from the Ministry of Attorney General -

“The LCLB operates independently in terms of the General Manager’s supervision of licensees, and enforcement decisions cannot be directed by the Attorney General.

“The government has appointed Mark Hicken as a liquor policy advisor, to reach out to BC’s beer, wine and spirits stakeholders, including the manufacturing, retail and hospitality industry. Mr. Hicken is meeting with these stakeholders to gather input and will be putting forward recommendations to an industry panel for policy advice to government, to continue supporting this important sector.”

Background information:

- All liquor products sold by a hospitality customer (bars and restaurants) must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment’s liquor register, this includes liquor transfers. Hospitality customers must make all their purchases through either the LDB’s Wholesale Customer Centre (WCC), in a BC Liquor Store (BCLS), or via direct delivery by an authorized manufacturer.
- Where products are sold via direct delivery, the manufacturer acts as the LDB’s agent in selling the product. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register. The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments. As part of its regular operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained or kept for an unlawful purpose. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.

Thank you,

Liam Butler

Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Attorney General
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Email: Liam.Butler@gov.bc.ca
Phone: 778 584-2433

Butler, Liam GCPE:EX

From: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 2:51 PM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Cc: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: AG Media Request: Whisky seizures

Katie De Rosa and Liam Britten still have whisky related requests.

Reporter

Katie DeRosa, Reporter
Times Colonist
kderosa@timescolonist.com
250-380-5343 c: 250-812-1132

Deadline Monday, January 22, 2018 5:00 PM

Request

The reporter would like to schedule a phone interview with Mark Hicken. She would like to discuss his role as liquor policy advisor and how his approach differs from the previous government. The reporter mentioned that she would also ask about the seizure of alcohol from four B.C. businesses last week.

The reporter also would like the following:

- 1) a year-by-year breakdown of government revenues from liquor policy infractions between 2011 and 2017
- 2) Does the NDP government plan to increase liquor enforcement following the more hands off approach taken by the B.C. Liberals?
- 3) An interview with Minister Eby to discuss the NDP's approach to liquor enforcement

Background

Recommendation

Reporter

Liam Britten, Reporter
CBC-Vancouver
liam.britten@cbc.ca
604-662-6498

Deadline ASAP

Request

Can the ministry confirm an LCLB liquor inspector told the Victoria Whisky festival it was prohibited from displaying product from the Scotch Malt Whisky Society.

Background

Recommendation

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 2:46 PM
To: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Butler, Liam GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: AG Media Request: Whisky seizures

Mike did ask for these. He called. Liam, pls transfer justine's request to hager.

Which outlets are waiting for other specific Qs answered?

Tiffany
250 858-4680

From: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 2:37 PM
To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX <Tiffany.Nelson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: AG Media Request: Whisky seizures

Just to confirm, Justine/Mike didn't ask the two middle questions. Those were from CP on the weekend I believe. Justine's request in the hub is closed under her name, I will re-open under Mike Hager.

Reporter

Justine Hunter, Reporter
Globe and Mail - BC Bureau
jhunter@globeandmail.com
250-220-2718 c: 250-857-4779

Deadline ASAP

Request

The reporter is looking for more details on the seizure of whisky from four B.C. establishments, specifically:

- 1) What will happen to the liquor if the establishments cannot meet requirements to reclaim it? Will it be destroyed or auctioned?
- 2) The reporter would like to speak to the person who made the decision to seize. Possibly the GM of enforcement and compliance?

Background

Recommendation – statement sent earlier, provide information on background.

Background

What will happen to the liquor if the establishment cannot meet the requirements to reclaim it? Will it be destroyed or auctioned?

- LCLB retains seized liquor until all enforcement proceedings, reviews and appeals have concluded.
- If a person fails to establish their claim and right to possess the liquor, the liquor must be destroyed or otherwise disposed of as the general manager may direct pursuant to section 47(6) LCLA.

How frequently does LCLB confiscate/seize liquor from establishments across the province?

- Seizures of unlawful liquor occur approximately 3 – 5 times a year.

How much liquor is confiscated within a given year?

- The amount of liquor confiscated within a given year varies depending on the type of establishment where the liquor was removed from (e.g., liquor volumes from a U-Brew or U-Vin establishment will be greater as product is often stored in large containers as opposed to bottles).
- From 2014 – 2017, 18 liquor seizures were made and included bottles of wine, spirits, beer, mixed drinks and bulk wine products.

Where is the liquor being held?

- The seized alcohol is being held a secure location that cannot be disclosed.

From: [Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX](#)
 To: [Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX](#)
 Subject: Media Scan
 Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 11:49:02 AM

Topic	LCLB whiskey raids – Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo
Date range of scan	Thurs. Jan. 18-Mon. Jan. 22
Tone/theme	Very negative. Key phrases: “Prohibition-style raids”, “arcane liquor laws”
Key spokespeople + calls on gov’t	<p>CKNW with Linda Steel (Jan. 19) spoke with Fets Whiskey Kitchen owner Eric Fergie. Major questions were why weren’t the establishments warned by LCLB that they were non-compliant – why so heavy handed? Why is government enforcing rules that industry thought were “don’t ask don’t tell”, why can cannabis be sold everyone in Vancouver and Victoria, but the sale of legal whiskey is being punished? And the reporter suggests that the government is threatening small businesses and jobs while protecting government revenue and government jobs.</p> <p>CBC quoted Scotch Malt Whiskey Society Canada co-founder Rob Carpenter saying the government has received its fair share of taxes and they were taken by surprise by the prohibition-style raids.</p> <p>CTV Vancouver Island quoted Odai Sirri, VP of operations at Grand Hotel Nanaimo "It's 2018 and it shines another spotlight on how archaic the liquor laws are in British Columbia. Year after year the issue does not get addressed," he said. "We're talking about a year where marijuana is being legalized, and the government is spending resources on whisky." He says he is still unclear what the problem was with the whiskey "It leaves a sour taste in everybody's mouth," he said. "This could have been addressed with a simple letter, a phone call or a meeting."</p> <p>Globe and Mail (Jan 22) quoted Little Jumbo managing director Bruce Gillespie, who managed to pull the illegal whiskey before inspectors arrived but is angry at the optics of the raid. Also said the previous government’s liquor reforms benefitted the consumer did not address long-standing issues for restaurants and bars. Owner of Gets Whiskey Kitchen said they he hopes this will help facilitate change. Mention of open-air cannabis market being allowed in Vancouver while these raids are happened.</p> <p>CFAX (Jan 22) Rod Phillips (host of Dork Uncorked and former buyer for Liquor Plus) points out that establishments may have outed themselves by promoting at the Whiskey festival that they had non-compliant liquor. This coverage provides clear understanding of liquor laws.</p> <p>Reporter says “it sounds like they knew the rules and chose not to obey them or to adhere to them and they paid the price”. Phillips</p>

	<p>responds saying “that is a fair assessment. It’s sad...there is no reason for these laws to be on the books, but they knew the rules, regardless of whether or not people do it...it’s absolutely time this should change”.</p> <p>CBC On the Island (Jan. 23) - Dave Mason President – West Coast Whiskey Society –“It was the topic of the festival. Fire and fury about the heavy handedness of the approach”. “Not rationale provided. Communication should have happened before”. Reporter seems to show better understanding of gov’t position through his questions.</p> <p>ABLE BC (Jan. 23) sent an industry update email to stakeholders encouraging to “abide by all liquor laws, even when those laws need to change” and explain that they are in contact with MAG, LCLB, Mr. Hicken. They also mention that they are on a joint committee to provide recommendations to government (liquor advisory panel). ABLE provides a link to a petition to reverse the seizure of whiskey and return it to the small businesses. Full email attached.</p> <p>Times Colonist (Jan. 23) quotes Little Jumbo managing director Bruce Gillespie “I think it’s out of control, out of touch regulations... The world is laughing at us”.</p> <p>Andrew Weaver tweet is quoted saying it is outrageous that government does nothing about questionable housing activity yet it throws the book at people sampling whiskey.</p> <p>Ian Tostensen (CEO of BCRSFA) said a group of industry professionals met with Mark Hicken to provide industry feedback on this and other issues.</p> <p>Other outlets that covered the story:</p>
Gov’t position	LCLB’s mandate is to enforce the Liquor Control and Licensing Act and its regulations.
Corrections needed	<p>No corrections needed yet.</p> <p>General concern over conspiratorial takes on reason for seizure: prohibition-style raids, new government is more strict on liquor controls, protecting government jobs over small businesses.</p>
Next steps: KMs, approach	<p>See IN and QAs for KMs.</p> <p>Ongoing requests for interviews with Minister Eby:</p> <p>TSN – Joe Leary has requested the Minister appear on his podcast again to explain the raid. Fets Whiskey Kitchen is a podcast sponsor. Reporter is very passionate and has referred to the inspectors as “goons” and the raids as “anything but rational”. He and his colleagues are framing the issue as “the NDP is choosing to attack small businesses rather than bothering to amend antiquated liquor laws”. Before the raid, the reporter had asked to have the Minister</p>

	back in May. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation: s.13 s.13
Key dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raids happened during the Victoria Whiskey Festival (Raid: Thurs. Jan 18, 10 AM, Fest: Thurs Jan. 18 - Sun. 21) • Hicken and Advisory panel recommendations expected at end of March.
Status of products	IN and QA in development. Statement from Ministry has been distributed to over 20 outlets
Questions for program	See QA

Cassandra Togneri
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Attorney General
Government Communications and Public Engagement
P: 250-953-3196 / C: 778-677-0870

From: [Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX](#)
 To: [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
 Subject: Media Scan and LIQUOR QA
 Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 7:11:06 PM
 Attachments: [Fw Industry Update Recent whisky confiscations.msg](#)
[QA - LCLB Liquor Seizures - 24JAN18 DRAFT.docx](#)
[Liquor - LCLB - LDB - Liquor Seizures - IN - 22JAN18 DRAFT.docx](#)
[Media Scans - ICBC, electoral refor, liquor seizures - 24JAN18.docx](#)
 Importance: High

MEDIA SCANS: Liquor Seizures, ICBC, Electoral Reform

Attached: ABLE BC Industry Email, LCLB Liquor Seizures QA (draft), LCLB Liquor Seizures IN (draft), Media Scans (in word format if preferable).

Topic	LCLB whiskey raids – Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo
Date range of scan	Thurs. Jan. 18-Mon. Jan. 22
Tone/theme	<p>Very negative.</p> <p>Key phrases: “Prohibition-style raids”, “arcane liquor laws”, “too heavy handed”, “hurting small businesses”</p>
Key spokespeople + calls on gov’t	<p>CKNW with Linda Steel (Jan. 19) spoke with Fets Whiskey Kitchen owner Eric Fergie. Major questions were why weren’t the establishments warned by LCLB that they were non-compliant – why so heavy handed? Why is government enforcing rules that industry thought were “don’t ask don’t tell”, why can cannabis be sold everyone in Vancouver and Victoria, but the sale of legal whiskey is being punished? And the reporter suggests that the government is threatening small businesses and jobs while protecting government revenue and government jobs.</p> <p>CBC BC (Jan. 19) quoted Scotch Malt Whiskey Society Canada co-founder Rob Carpenter saying the government has received its fair share of taxes and they were taken by surprise by the prohibition-style raids.</p> <p>CTV Vancouver Island (Jan. 19) quoted Odai Sirri, VP of operations at Grand Hotel Nanaimo "It's 2018 and it shines another spotlight on how archaic the liquor laws are in British Columbia. Year after year the issue does not get addressed," he said. "We're talking about a year where marijuana is being legalized, and the government is spending resources on whisky." He says he is still unclear what the problem was with the whiskey "It leaves a sour taste in everybody's mouth," he said. "This could have been addressed with a simple letter, a phone call or a meeting."</p> <p>Vancouver Sun (Jan. 20) quoted ABLE BC executive director Jeff Guignard saying his industry organization encourages its members to abide by B.C. liquor laws – “even the stupid ones”. He went on to say that the laws are outmoded and need to be changed and that ABLE BC has been speaking with officials about letting bars and restaurants buy a broader range of products directly. “It’s a long-</p>

standing irritant in the industry and absolutely, its time has come,” he said. “What happened yesterday was a Prohibition-era raid on a small business that is not harming anyone at all.”

Globe and Mail (Jan 22) quoted Little Jumbo managing director Bruce Gillespie, who managed to pull the illegal whiskey before inspectors arrived but is angry at the optics of the raid. Also said the previous government’s liquor reforms benefitted the consumer did not address long-standing issues for restaurants and bars. Owner of Gets Whiskey Kitchen said they he hopes this will help facilitate change. Mention of open-air cannabis market being allowed in Vancouver while these raids are happened.

CFOX (Jan 22) Rod Phillips (host of Dork Uncorked and former buyer for Liquor Plus) points out that establishments may have outed themselves by promoting at the Whiskey festival that they had non-compliant liquor. This coverage provides clear understanding of liquor laws.

Reporter says “it sounds like they knew the rules and chose not to obey them or to adhere to them and they paid the price”. Phillips responds saying “that is a fair assessment. It’s sad...there is no reason for these laws to be on the books, but they knew the rules, regardless of whether or not people do it...it’s absolutely time this should change”.

CBC On the Island (Jan. 23) - Dave Mason President – West Coast Whiskey Society –“It was the topic of the festival. Fire and fury about the heavy handedness of the approach”. “Not rationale provided. Communication should have happened before”. Reporter seems to show better understanding of gov’t position through his questions.

Times Colonist (Jan. 23) quotes Little Jumbo managing director Bruce Gillespie “I think it’s out of control, out of touch regulations... The world is laughing at us”.

Andrew Weaver tweet is quoted saying it is outrageous that government does nothing about questionable housing activity yet it throws the book at people sampling whiskey.

Ian Tostensen (CEO of BCRSFA) said a group of industry professionals met with Mark Hicken to provide industry feedback on this and other issues.

Stakeholder Communication:

ABLE BC (Jan. 23) sent an industry update email to stakeholders encouraging them to “abide by all liquor laws, even when those laws need to change” and explain that they are in contact with MAG, LCLB, Mr. Hicken. They also mention that they are on a joint committee to provide recommendations to government (liquor advisory panel). ABLE provides a link to a petition to reverse the

	<p>seizure of whiskey and return it to the small businesses. The email also expresses concern about social media posts by industry members threatening the safety of liquor inspectors. It calls such reactions offensive, inappropriate and against the law. The email strikes a balance of understanding for licensees and government's position. Full email attached.</p> <p>Covered by: CKNW, CBC Vancouver, CTV News, Global, News 1130, WhiskeyCast, CTV VI, Oak Bay News, The Daily Hive, 24 Hours, CBC Victoria, Province, Times Colonist, CP, CFAX, Globe and Mail, Castanet, The Straight, Saanich News, Vancouver Sun</p>
Gov't position	LCLB's mandate is to enforce the Liquor Control and Licensing Act and its regulations.
Corrections needed	<p>No corrections needed yet.</p> <p>General concern over conspiratorial takes on reason for seizure: prohibition-style raids, new government is more strict on liquor controls, protecting government jobs over small businesses.</p>
Next steps: KMs, approach	<p>See IN and QAs for KMs.</p> <p>Ongoing requests for interviews with Minister Eby:</p> <p>TSN – Joe Leary has requested the Minister appear on his podcast again to explain the raid. Fets Whiskey Kitchen is a podcast sponsor. Reporter is very passionate and has referred to the inspectors as “goons” and the raids as “anything but rational”. He and his colleagues are framing the issue as “the NDP is choosing to attack small businesses rather than bothering to amend antiquated liquor laws”. Before the raid, the reporter had asked to have the Minister back in May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation: s.13 s.13 <p>Liam Britten – CBC – due Thurs., 5PM</p> <p>News 1130 (2 requests – Marcella and Lasia) – both requests for Wed (overdue).</p> <p>Interview requests are still coming – s.13 s.13</p>
Key dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raids happened during the Victoria Whiskey Festival (Raid: Thurs. Jan 18, 10 AM, Fest: Thurs Jan. 18 - Sun. 21) • Hicken and Advisory panel recommendations are expected at the end of March.
Status of products	<p>IN and QA in development. Statement from Ministry has been distributed to over 20 outlets.</p> <p>IN (DRAFT) and QA (approved by ADM Carr and LDB), attached.</p>
Questions for program	See QA
Topic	ICBC

Date range of scan	Dec. 15, 2017 to Jan. 24, 2018
Tone/theme	Positive mixed with negative
Key spokespeople + calls on gov't	<p>Road BC campaign shows steady growth on Facebook and Twitter; have also started a petition for people to tell Premier Horgan they are against injury caps; as of Jan. 24, the petition has just over 7,000 signatures; ads are running on radio and in print; Ujjal Dosanjh supports Road BC. Note that on Twitter and Facebook, some commenters disagree with Road BC with comments that Road BC is run by "lawyers and private insurers" who "try to give the impression that it is a grassroots movement."</p> <p>Globe and Mail (Jan. 18) NDP government rejected recommendation to move to no-fault insurance mode. Similar to Saskatchewan and Manitoba (from FOI on briefing notes). PwC report is due at end of month.</p> <p>CKNW (Jan. 22) Personal injury lawyer John Green is discouraging ICBC from placing a cap on payouts and doubts cap will provide significant relief from financial challenges.</p> <p>CKNW (Jan. 23) Rob Shaw is shocked by the Liberal government's failure to heed warnings about state of ICBC in 2014 report from EY.</p> <p>CTV (Jan. 23) CTV News has obtained a copy of the damning report into ICBC from 2014 that shows the public insurer badly needed drastic intervention to control costs. Suggestions for capping payouts were removed from final report, ignored by former Liberal government. MDE believes pages were removed by someone in the previous government.</p> <p>Twitter (Jan. 23) Gary Mason: Someone needs to ask Todd Stone what happened here.</p>
Gov't position	Our government is moving forward to repair the damage done by the old government. Our solutions are aimed at keeping rates affordable, improving medical care for those hurt in minor accidents and placing limits on pain and suffering pay outs.
Corrections needed	none
Next steps: KMs, approach	<p>Holding lines prior to product change announcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the evidence – from both the EY reports to what we've uncovered in the fiscal third quarter – shows a problem years in the making that's significantly worse than anyone anticipated. • Years of bad decisions and mismanagement by the old government has undermined ICBC's ability to deliver low-cost insurance to BC drivers. • The total loss at ICBC has escalated to \$1.3 billion - exactly the amount the old government siphoned out to finance their pet projects.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we do not take action, B.C. drivers will need to pay, on average, \$400 more for their car insurance. • Everyone benefits if we drastically cut down on legal costs, and instead focus on providing care for those hurt in accidents and keeping insurance affordable.
Key dates	<p>All dates TBC:</p> <p>Jan. 25 ICBC financials briefing with ICBC Board of Directors</p> <p>Jan. 26 MDE Statement re: ICBC's Q3, YTD results</p> <p>Feb. 5 ICBC stakeholder briefing before product change announcement</p> <p>Feb 6 ICBC product change announcement (technical briefing and media briefing)</p>
Status of products	<p>QA, MDE statement for ICBC financial results in draft, need program review</p> <p>QA, event for product change in draft; NR and background in development</p>
Questions for program	Questions noted in draft materials
Topic	Electoral reform
Date range of scan	Nov. 23 – Jan. 24
Tone/theme	Somewhat negative. Concerns of government bias, lack of public trust.
Key spokespeople + calls on gov't	<p>Vancouver Sun, Dirk Meissner (Nov. 24): Reporter states concern from liberal party members that PR will put more power in urban ridings at the expense of rural voters. Liberal backbench Doug Clovechok compares the relationship between the Green and NDP parties as “the small Green tail continues to wag the bloated orange dog.”</p> <p>Global, Keith Baldrey (Nov. 29): The reporter shared fears that proportional representation would lead to the empowerment of the far right and extremist parties.</p> <p>Vancouver Sun, Vaughn Palmer (Nov. 30): The reporter writes that the NDP government is refusing to release key information about electoral reform, including how questions were shaped and detailed breakdowns of the incoming answers from the public.</p> <p>The Tyee, Andrew Macleod (Dec. 1): Anthony Hodgson, a Fair Voting BC advocate, says the electoral reform engagement is missing key options. Hodgson wants local proportional representation and rural-urban proportional representation featured on the ballot, as he is concerned rural voters won't have an equal voice.</p> <p>The Province, Dirk Meissner (Dec. 27): Premier John Horgan says this referendum will be the last on PR for the foreseeable future. “I think we will have exhausted the public interest in this issue,”</p>

	<p>Horgan says.</p> <p>Times Colonist, Les Lyne (Jan. 5): Reporter states that the electoral reform initiatives are going over Elections B.C.'s budget. The office served notice that it would need more money to cover new functions once the costs are figure out.</p> <p>Vancouver Sun, Vaugh Palmer (Jan. 12): Reporter speaks to the NO BC Proportional Representation Society, a coalition formed by Bill Tieleman, Suzanne Anton, and Bob Plecas to prevent proportional representation in B.C. Reporter says PR would "guarantee a NDP-Green majority" in the next election.</p> <p>CBC On the Island (Jan. 19): Martyn Brown, Gordon Campbell's former chief of staff, says he supports PR but ER engagement is a "shoddy process" and "not fair at all."</p>
Gov't position	<p>The Attorney General's mandate is to act as a neutral arbiter and ensure the referendum is in accordance with B.C. law.</p> <p>Government will campaign for PR during the campaign period.</p>
Corrections needed	<p>No corrections needed so far.</p> <p>Main concerns surround lack of representation for rural areas, "stacking of the deck" to ensure PR passes, high costs of frequent elections, and giving power/voice to the far right and extremist parties.</p>
Next steps: KMs, approach	<p>See QAs for KMs.</p> <p>Jan. 25 event to remind public to participate in the public engagement.</p>
Key dates	<p>Nov. 23: Engagement launched</p> <p>Jan. 25: ER reminder</p> <p>Feb. 28: End of public engagement.</p> <p>s.13</p>
Status of products	Products w/ MO
Questions for program	See QA
Topic	Anti-money laundering
Date range of scan	Jan. 1 – Jan. 23
Tone/theme	General media
Key spokespeople + calls on gov't	<p>CBC (Jan 3) Article about BCLC's demand for \$500K fee for money laundering FOI request. Quotes the applicant saying they were shocked and it is the public's right to have this information. Article explains options for appeal, quotes BCLC saying they are working with the applicant to refine the search.</p> <p>Globe and Mail (Jan. 10) Article on BCLC's information bulletin saying that the first Peter German recommendation has been implemented. Minister is quoted: "'The rule changes are not glamorous or innovative. To many people – including me – they seem like common sense. If you can't prove where you got your duffel bag of cash from, the casino is not allowed to accept it. The</p>

reason for the change is that, remarkably, B.C. didn't have it in place.”

Article says previous government’s shifted the problem instead of solving it (suspicious cash transactions down, but suspicious non-cash alternatives like bank drafts up). Said Minister suspects previous government was concerned about lost revenue.

Peter German is quoted speaking about his recommendations “It's premature to say what impact it will have. In my view, there are a whole lot of pieces that fit together in terms of what we are dealing with here, there is no expectation that one or two recommendations will change the landscape”

National Observer (Jan. 23) The article is positive towards the Minister. It says in potential budget preview, AG has pledged to crack down on white collar crime and money laundering, and to introduce a whistleblower protection program. Characterizes Transparency International speech as a “scathing takedown on the previous Liberal government which he accuses of doing nothing while in the know.” Also quotes the Minister “The goal of these recommendations and those that will follow in the coming months is to ensure, as soon as possible, that B.C. casinos are meeting high anti-money laundering standards, that these standards are consistently enforced, and that criminals are kept out of casinos.”

Sam Cooper – Vancouver Sun

Dec. 2 Casino chips that have left River Rock Casino – police allegations that the lending network of Jin was involved in delivery of “unsourced” casino chips to VIP gamblers who could bring the “black market chips” into B.C. casinos. The article links the use of high value B.C. casino chips in illegal casinos and how that is connected to transnational money laundering involving organized crime.

Jan. 2 – Unite Here FOI request – factual article on course of events, reports on GCGC’s contracts in Ontario. Unite Here is working with GCGC on these contracts to establish community benefits and requested this information to gain more information about GCGC and the money laundering issues.

Jan. 8 – Demographic look at VIP gamblers – from FOI documents. 97% of are Asian VIP gamblers coming to B.C. who are responsible for 54% of all large cash transactions in B.C. casinos. Docs reveal that real estate is top profession of gamblers making suspicious cash transactions. While B.C. casinos are reporting suspicious cash transactions, the B.C. real estate market is not. Also flagged is that taking out these VIP gamblers will have a significant affect on the revenue generated in casinos.

	<p>Jan. 12 – Follow up article on E-Pirate investigation. FOI documents that say “there are likely people involved in the regulated B.C. gaming industry that are involved in facilitating proceeds of crime for players. Although cash is still the main instrument of choice for whale, it will not be acceptable in the public eye if more player due diligence is not taken around receiving cash.” Jin suing a Chinese developer for the \$2.68 million loan he has not paid back. The loan was allegedly delivered in cash in Richmond café. Crux of the article is that there is brazen use of the court system by criminals on both sides of case.</p>
Gov’t position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On assuming responsibility for gambling policy in B.C., I received briefings that caused me to be concerned that government was not doing enough to reduce the risk of money laundering and criminal activity in B.C. gambling facilities. • That is why I hired Peter German to conduct an independent review of British Columbia’s anti-money-laundering policies and practices in relation to B.C. casinos. • He has been asked specifically to identify issues of money laundering in Lower Mainland casinos. That work has been underway since late September. • Mr. German has provided me with two interim recommendations that I have reviewed and approved. I have directed BCLC and the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch (GPEB) to implement them as soon as possible. • The first recommendation requires that casino customers must complete a Source of Funds Declaration for cash deposits or bearer bonds of \$10,000 or more. The second requires that government regulators now be on-site and available to service providers at all times. • I have reason to believe that these matters might be linked to other areas of BC’s economy, and I have asked Mr. German to examine these connections as well. • Protecting public confidence means ensuring that high standards are enforced, and that criminals are kept out of casinos.
Corrections needed	None
Next steps: KMs, approach	<p>Currently, outstanding media includes:</p> <p>ISA suspension request – Mackin – ^{s.13}</p>

	Sam Cooper – GPEB employee investigation – w/GPEB, due Mon. Jan. 29
Key dates	s.13
Status of products	INs to be finalized from GPEB Thursday.
Questions for program	Updating INs and addressing ongoing media requests.

Cassandra Togneri
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Attorney General
Government Communications and Public Engagement
P: 250-953-3196 / C: 778-677-0870

Topic	LCLB whiskey raids – Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo
Date range of scan	Thurs. Jan. 18-Mon. Jan. 22
Tone/theme	<p>Very negative.</p> <p>Key phrases: “Prohibition-style raids”, “arcane liquor laws”, “too heavy handed”, “hurting small businesses”</p>
Key spokespeople + calls on gov’t	<p>CKNW with Linda Steel (Jan. 19) spoke with Fets Whiskey Kitchen owner Eric Fergie. Major questions were why weren’t the establishments warned by LCLB that they were non-compliant – why so heavy handed? Why is government enforcing rules that industry thought were “don’t ask don’t tell”, why can cannabis be sold everyone in Vancouver and Victoria, but the sale of legal whiskey is being punished? And the reporter suggests that the government is threatening small businesses and jobs while protecting government revenue and government jobs.</p> <p>CBC BC (Jan. 19) quoted Scotch Malt Whiskey Society Canada co-founder Rob Carpenter saying the government has received its fair share of taxes and they were taken by surprise by the prohibition-style raids.</p> <p>CTV Vancouver Island (Jan. 19) quoted Odai Sirri, VP of operations at Grand Hotel Nanaimo "It's 2018 and it shines another spotlight on how archaic the liquor laws are in British Columbia. Year after year the issue does not get addressed," he said. "We're talking about a year where marijuana is being legalized, and the government is spending resources on whisky." He says he is still unclear what the problem was with the whiskey "It leaves a sour taste in everybody's mouth," he said. "This could have been addressed with a simple letter, a phone call or a meeting."</p> <p>Vancouver Sun (Jan. 20) quoted ABLE BC executive director Jeff Guignard saying his industry organization encourages its members to abide by B.C. liquor laws – “even the stupid ones”. He went on to say that the laws are outmoded and need to be changed and that ABLE BC has been speaking with officials about letting bars and restaurants buy a broader range of products directly. “It’s a long-standing irritant in the industry and absolutely, its time has come,” he said. “What happened</p>

yesterday was a Prohibition-era raid on a small business that is not harming anyone at all.”

Globe and Mail (Jan 22) quoted Little Jumbo managing director Bruce Gillespie, who managed to pull the illegal whiskey before inspectors arrived but is angry at the optics of the raid. Also said the previous government’s liquor reforms benefitted the consumer did not address long-standing issues for restaurants and bars. Owner of Gets Whiskey Kitchen said they he hopes this will help facilitate change. Mention of open-air cannabis market being allowed in Vancouver while these raids are happened.

CFAX (Jan 22) Rod Phillips (host of Dork Uncorked and former buyer for Liquor Plus) points out that establishments may have outed themselves by promoting at the Whiskey festival that they had non-compliant liquor. This coverage provides clear understanding of liquor laws. Reporter says “it sounds like they knew the rules and chose not to obey them or to adhere to them and they paid the price”. Phillips responds saying “that is a fair assessment. It’s sad...there is no reason for these laws to be on the books, but they knew the rules, regardless of whether or not people do it...it’s absolutely time this should change”.

CBC On the Island (Jan. 23) - Dave Mason President – West Coast Whiskey Society –“It was the topic of the festival. Fire and fury about the heavy handedness of the approach”. “Not rationale provided. Communication should have happened before”. Reporter seems to show better understanding of gov’t position through his questions.

Times Colonist (Jan. 23) quotes Little Jumbo managing director Bruce Gillespie “I think it’s out of control, out of touch regulations...The world is laughing at us”.

Andrew Weaver tweet is quoted saying it is outrageous that government does nothing about questionable housing activity yet it throws the book at people sampling whiskey.

Ian Tostensen (CEO of BCRSFA) said a group of industry professionals met with Mark Hicken to provide industry feedback on this and other issues.

Stakeholder Communication:

ABLE BC (Jan. 23) sent an industry update email to stakeholders encouraging them to “abide by all liquor laws, even when those laws need to change” and explain that they are in contact with MAG, LCLB, Mr. Hicken. They also mention that they are on a joint committee to

	<p>provide recommendations to government (liquor advisory panel). ABLE provides a link to a petition to reverse the seizure of whiskey and return it to the small businesses. The email also expresses concern about social media posts by industry members threatening the safety of liquor inspectors. It calls such reactions offensive, inappropriate and against the law. The email strikes a balance of understanding for licensees and government's position. Full email attached.</p> <p>Covered by: CKNW, CBC Vancouver, CTV News, Global, News 1130, WhiskeyCast, CTV VI, Oak Bay News, The Daily Hive, 24 Hours, CBC Victoria, Province, Times Colonist, CP, CFAX, Globe and Mail, Castanet, The Straight, Saanich News, Vancouver Sun</p>
Gov't position	LCLB's mandate is to enforce the Liquor Control and Licensing Act and its regulations.
Corrections needed	<p>No corrections needed yet.</p> <p>General concern over conspiratorial takes on reason for seizure: prohibition-style raids, new government is more strict on liquor controls, protecting government jobs over small businesses.</p>
Next steps: KMs, approach	<p>See IN and QAs for KMs.</p> <p>Ongoing requests for interviews with Minister Eby:</p> <p>TSN – Joe Leary has requested the Minister appear on his podcast again to explain the raid. Fets Whiskey Kitchen is a podcast sponsor. Reporter is very passionate and has referred to the inspectors as “goons” and the raids as “anything but rational”. He and his colleagues are framing the issue as “the NDP is choosing to attack small businesses rather than bothering to amend antiquated liquor laws”. Before the raid, the reporter had asked to have the Minister back in May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation s.13 s.13 <p>Liam Britten – CBC – due Thurs., 5PM</p> <p>News 1130 (2 requests – Marcella and Lasia) – both requests for Wed (overdue).</p>
Key dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raids happened during the Victoria Whiskey Festival (Raid: Thurs. Jan 18, 10 AM, Fest: Thurs Jan. 18 - Sun. 21) • Hicken and Advisory panel recommendations are expected at

	the end of March.
Status of products	IN and QA in development. Statement from Ministry has been distributed to over 20 outlets. IN (DRAFT) and QA (approved by ADM Carr and LDB), attached.
Questions for program	See QA

Topic	ICBC
Date range of scan	Dec. 15, 2017 to Jan. 24, 2018
Tone/theme	Positive mixed with negative
Key spokespeople + calls on gov't	<p>Road BC campaign shows steady growth on Facebook and Twitter; have also started a petition for people to tell Premier Horgan they are against injury caps; as of Jan. 24, the petition has just over 7,000 signatures; ads are running on radio and in print; Ujjal Dosanjh supports Road BC. Note that on Twitter and Facebook, some commenters disagree with Road BC with comments that Road BC is run by "lawyers and private insurers" who "try to give the impression that it is a grassroots movement."</p> <p>Globe and Mail (Jan. 18) NDP government rejected recommendation to move to no-fault insurance mode. Similar to Saskatchewan and Manitoba (from FOI on briefing notes). PwC report is due at end of month.</p> <p>CKNW (Jan. 22) Personal injury lawyer John Green is discouraging ICBC from placing a cap on payouts and doubts cap will provide significant relief from financial challenges.</p> <p>CKNW (Jan. 23) Rob Shaw is shocked by the Liberal government's failure to heed warnings about state of ICBC in 2014 report from EY.</p> <p>CTV (Jan. 23) CTV News has obtained a copy of the damning report into ICBC from 2014 that shows the public insurer badly needed drastic intervention to control costs. Suggestions for capping payouts were</p>

	<p>removed from final report, ignored by former Liberal government. MDE believes pages were removed by someone in the previous government.</p> <p>Twitter (Jan. 23) Gary Mason: Someone needs to ask Todd Stone what happened here.</p>
Gov't position	Our government is moving forward to repair the damage done by the old government. Our solutions are aimed at keeping rates affordable, improving medical care for those hurt in minor accidents and placing limits on pain and suffering pay outs.
Corrections needed	none
Next steps: KMs, approach	<p>Holding lines prior to product change announcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the evidence – from both the EY reports to what we've uncovered in the fiscal third quarter – shows a problem years in the making that's significantly worse than anyone anticipated. • Years of bad decisions and mismanagement by the old government has undermined ICBC's ability to deliver low-cost insurance to BC drivers. • The total loss at ICBC has escalated to \$1.3 billion - exactly the amount the old government siphoned out to finance their pet projects. • If we do not take action, B.C. drivers will need to pay, on average, \$400 more for their car insurance. • Everyone benefits if we drastically cut down on legal costs, and instead focus on providing care for those hurt in accidents and keeping insurance affordable.
Key dates	<p>All dates TBC:</p> <p>Jan. 25 ICBC financials briefing with ICBC Board of Directors</p> <p>Jan. 26 MDE Statement re: ICBC's Q3, YTD results</p> <p>Feb. 5 ICBC stakeholder briefing before product change announcement</p> <p>Feb 6 ICBC product change announcement (technical briefing and media briefing)</p>
Status of products	<p>QA, MDE statement for ICBC financial results in draft, need program review</p> <p>QA, event for product change in draft; NR and background in development</p>

Questions for program	Questions noted in draft materials
-----------------------	------------------------------------

Topic	Electoral reform
Date range of scan	Nov. 23 – Jan. 24
Tone/theme	Somewhat negative. Concerns of government bias, lack of public trust.
Key spokespeople + calls on gov't	<p>Vancouver Sun, Dirk Meissner (Nov. 24): Reporter states concern from liberal party members that PR will put more power in urban ridings at the expense of rural voters. Liberal backbench Doug Clovechok compares the relationship between the Green and NDP parties as “the small Green tail continues to wag the bloated orange dog.”</p> <p>Global, Keith Baldrey (Nov. 29): The reporter shared fears that proportional representation would lead to the empowerment of the far right and extremist parties.</p> <p>Vancouver Sun, Vaughn Palmer (Nov. 30): The reporter writes that the NDP government is refusing to release key information about electoral reform, including how questions were shaped and detailed breakdowns of the incoming answers from the public.</p> <p>The Tyee, Andrew Macleod (Dec. 1): Anthony Hodgson, a Fair Voting BC advocate, says the electoral reform engagement is missing key options. Hodgson wants local proportional representation and rural-urban proportional representation featured on the ballot, as he is concerned rural voters won’t have an equal voice.</p> <p>The Province, Dirk Meissner (Dec. 27): Premier John Horgan says this referendum will be the last on PR for the foreseeable future. “I think we will have exhausted the public interest in this issue,” Horgan says.</p> <p>Times Colonist, Les Lyne (Jan. 5): Reporter states that the electoral reform initiatives are going over Elections B.C.’s budget. The office served notice that it would need more money to cover new functions once the costs are figure out.</p> <p>Vancouver Sun, Vaugh Palmer (Jan. 12): Reporter speaks to the NO BC Proportional Representation Society, a coalition formed by Bill Tieleman, Suzanne Anton, and Bob Plecas to prevent proportional</p>

	<p>representation in B.C. Reporter says PR would “guarantee a NDP-Green majority” in the next election.</p> <p>CBC On the Island (Jan. 19): Martyn Brown, Gordon Campbell’s former chief of staff, says he supports PR but ER engagement is a “shoddy process” and “not fair at all.”</p>
Gov’t position	<p>The Attorney General’s mandate is to act as a neutral arbiter and ensure the referendum is in accordance with B.C. law.</p> <p>Government will campaign for PR during the campaign period.</p>
Corrections needed	<p>No corrections needed so far.</p> <p>Main concerns surround lack of representation for rural areas, “stacking of the deck” to ensure PR passes, high costs of frequent elections, and giving power/voice to the far right and extremist parties.</p>
Next steps: KMs, approach	<p>See QAs for KMs.</p> <p>Jan. 25 event to remind public to participate in the public engagement.</p>
Key dates	<p>Nov. 23: Engagement launched</p> <p>Jan. 25: ER reminder</p> <p>Feb. 28: End of public engagement.</p> <p>s.13</p>
Status of products	Products w/ MO
Questions for program	See QA

Topic	Anti-money laundering
Date range of scan	Jan. 1 – Jan. 23
Tone/theme	General media

Key spokespeople +
calls on gov't

CBC (Jan 3) Article about BCLC's demand for \$500K fee for money laundering FOI request. Quotes the applicant saying they were shocked and it is the public's right to have this information. Article explains options for appeal, quotes BCLC saying they are working with the applicant to refine the search.

Globe and Mail (Jan. 10) Article on BCLC's information bulletin saying that the first Peter German recommendation has been implemented. Minister is quoted: ""The rule changes are not glamorous or innovative. To many people – including me – they seem like common sense. If you can't prove where you got your duffel bag of cash from, the casino is not allowed to accept it. The reason for the change is that, remarkably, B.C. didn't have it in place."

Article says previous government's shifted the problem instead of solving it (suspicious cash transactions down, but suspicious non-cash alternatives like bank drafts up). Said Minister suspects previous government was concerned about lost revenue.

Peter German is quoted speaking about his recommendations "It's premature to say what impact it will have. In my view, there are a whole lot of pieces that fit together in terms of what we are dealing with here, there is no expectation that one or two recommendations will change the landscape"

National Observer (Jan. 23) The article is positive towards the Minister. It says in potential budget preview, AG has pledged to crack down on white collar crime and money laundering, and to introduce a whistleblower protection program. Characterizes Transparency International speech as a "scathing takedown on the previous Liberal government which he accuses of doing nothing while in the know." Also quotes the Minister "The goal of these recommendations and those that will follow in the coming months is to ensure, as soon as possible, that B.C. casinos are meeting high anti-money laundering standards, that these standards are consistently enforced, and that criminals are kept out of casinos."

Sam Cooper – Vancouver Sun

Dec. 2 Casino chips that have left River Rock Casino – police allegations that the lending network of Jin was involved in delivery of "unsourced" casino chips to VIP gamblers who could bring the "black market chips" into B.C. casinos. The article links the use of high value B.C. casino chips

	<p>in illegal casinos and how that is connected to transnational money laundering involving organized crime.</p> <p>Jan. 2 – Unite Here FOI request – factual article on course of events, reports on GCGC’s contracts in Ontario. Unite Here is working with GCGC on these contracts to establish community benefits and requested this information to gain more information about GCGC and the money laundering issues.</p> <p>Jan. 8 – Demographic look at VIP gamblers – from FOI documents. 97% of are Asian VIP gamblers coming to B.C. who are responsible for 54% of all large cash transactions in B.C. casinos. Docs reveal that real estate is top profession of gamblers making suspicious cash transactions. While B.C. casinos are reporting suspicious cash transactions, the B.C. real estate market is not. Also flagged is that taking out these VIP gamblers will have a significant affect on the revenue generated in casinos.</p> <p>Jan. 12 – Follow up article on E-Pirate investigation. FOI documents that say “there are likely people involved in the regulated B.C. gaming industry that are involved in facilitating proceeds of crime for players. Although cash is still the main instrument of choice for whale, it will not be acceptable in the public eye if more player due diligence is not taken around receiving cash.” Jin suing a Chinese developer for the \$2.68 million loan he has not paid back. The loan was allegedly delivered in cash in Richmond café. Crux of the article is that there is brazen use of the court system by criminals on both sides of case.</p>
Gov’t position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On assuming responsibility for gambling policy in B.C., I received briefings that caused me to be concerned that government was not doing enough to reduce the risk of money laundering and criminal activity in B.C. gambling facilities. • That is why I hired Peter German to conduct an independent review of British Columbia’s anti-money-laundering policies and practices in relation to B.C. casinos. • He has been asked specifically to identify issues of money laundering in Lower Mainland casinos. That work has been underway since late September. • Mr. German has provided me with two interim recommendations that I have reviewed and approved. I have directed BCLC and the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch (GPEB) to implement them as

	<p>soon as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first recommendation requires that casino customers must complete a Source of Funds Declaration for cash deposits or bearer bonds of \$10,000 or more. The second requires that government regulators now be on-site and available to service providers at all times. • I have reason to believe that these matters might be linked to other areas of BC's economy, and I have asked Mr. German to examine these connections as well. • Protecting public confidence means ensuring that high standards are enforced, and that criminals are kept out of casinos.
Corrections needed	None
Next steps: KMs, approach	<p>Currently, outstanding media includes:</p> <p>ISA suspension request – Mackin - s.13</p> <p>Sam Cooper – GPEB employee investigation – w/GPEB, due Mon. Jan. 29</p>
Key dates	s.13
Status of products	INs to be finalized from GPEB Thursday.
Questions for program	Updating INs and addressing ongoing media requests.

From: [Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Vale, Elaine LCLB:EX](#)
Subject: RE: URGENT RE: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 1:19:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[image002.gif](#)
Importance: High

Elaine –

I think we need to add a bullet that says the accurate version of :

s.13

Thanks

Cassandra Togneri
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Attorney General
Government Communications and Public Engagement
P: 250-953-3196 / C: 778-677-0870

From: Turner, Caeli LDB:EX

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 12:58 PM

To: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX; Vale, Elaine LCLB:EX; Tam, Dixon LDB:EX

Cc: Shum, Karen LDB:EX

Subject: RE: URGENT RE: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Hi Cass – Dixon is working on this for you. The second answer needs a bit of work but we'll get back to you soon.

Caeli Turner

Director, Corporate Policy & Communications
BC Liquor Distribution Branch
2625 Rupert Street, Vancouver BC V5M 3T5
T: 604 252-3196 E: caeli.turner@bcldb.com



The LDB is proud to contribute over \$1 billion annually to the Province of British Columbia. Our contribution helps provide financial support for vital public services including health care and education.



Disclaimer: The content of this e-mail is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you have received this communication in error, be aware that forwarding it, copying it, or in any way disclosing its content to any other person, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the author immediately and delete the message including any attachments.

From: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 12:56 PM

To: Shum, Karen LDB:EX; Vale, Elaine LCLB:EX

Cc: Tam, Dixon LDB:EX; Turner, Caeli LDB:EX

Subject: URGENT RE: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Importance: High

Hi Karen – where are we with this request? The deadline for the reporter is 2 pm, but this has to go up to the minister's office for consideration first. Can you please get back to us with your edits right away? LCLB if you have any additions, please jump in as well.

Thank you!

Tiff is reviewing the IN and I will get that to you guys right away as well. This story is taking off and we want to get ahead of it.

Cass

Cassandra Togneri

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Attorney General

Government Communications and Public Engagement

P: 250-953-3196 / C: 778-677-0870

From: Shum, Karen LDB:EX

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 12:06 PM

To: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX

Cc: Tam, Dixon LDB:EX

Subject: RE: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Hi Cassandra,

Dixon is in today to look after the IN. Feel free to direct the IN to him.

If there's anything else, I'm happy to help. ☺

Karen Shum

Communications Officer, Corporate Strategic Services - Communications

BC Liquor Distribution Branch

2625 Rupert Street, Vancouver BC V5M 3T5

T: 604 252-2783 E: karen.shum@bclddb.com



The LDB is proud to contribute over \$1 billion annually to the Province of British Columbia. Our contribution helps provide financial support for vital public services including health care and education.



Disclaimer: The content of this e-mail is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you have received this communication in error, be aware that forwarding it, copying it, or in any way disclosing its content to any other person, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the author immediately and delete the message including any attachments.

From: Togneri, Cassandra GCPE:EX

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 10:54 AM

To: Vale, Elaine LCLB:EX; Turner, Caeli LDB:EX; Tam, Dixon LDB:EX; Zanolco, Viviana LDB:EX; Shum, Karen LDB:EX

Cc: Tetzl, Raymond LCLB:EX

Subject: FW: AG Media Request: Scotch Malt Whisky Society seizures

Importance: High

Hi all - can both LCLB and LDB see the bullets below and provide any edits or concerns. I don't know if we will want to use all of these, but I want to get all of these checked for accuracy in case we need

them.

I might put together and IN in case this story carries over to the weekend. We've got a few on the go now, more coming your way.

Thanks,

Cassandra

Reporter

Jean Paetkau, Producer
CBC - Victoria
jean.paetkau@cbc.ca
250-414-4704

Deadline Friday, January 19, 2018 2:00 PM

Request

The reporter has questions concerning the raids of establishments serving Scotch Malt Whisky Society. She would like to know:

- 1) Was it just bars that were targeted as part of this recent enforcement?
- 2) Are there different rules for restaurant, bars and private liquor stores?
- 3) Can someone import an exclusive kind of whisky that is not on the liquor distribution list?

Background

Recommendation – provide background

Was it just bars that were targeted as part of this recent enforcement?

- As part of its operations, the LCLB performs inspections and follows up on complaints received about establishments. An inspector may seize product in an establishment if the inspector believes that it was unlawfully obtained. The LCLB does not release private information about any licensee.
- The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) cannot comment on compliance measures taken against establishments.
- The LCLB recently created the Licensee Education Program – an in-person, free of charge seminar for licensees province-wide that reviews updates to liquor policy, tips for safe and responsible liquor service and retail, and maintaining a safe and compliant establishment.

Are there different rules for restaurant, bars and private liquor stores?

- All liquor products sold at an establishment must be purchased through the Liquor Distribution Branch and must be documented in the establishment's liquor register, this includes liquor transfers.
- Some manufacturers are allowed to direct-deliver products to hospitality customers. Those

products must be non-listed (not available in BC Liquor Stores), direct-delivered only, and priced according to the LDB's minimum price rules. These products must also be clearly documented in the liquor register.

- The liquor register must be available for inspection at all times.
- Private liquor stores must purchase their inventory from the LDB's wholesale sales.

Can someone import an exclusive kind of whisky that is not on the liquor distribution?

- Liquor that is not listed with the LDB can be purchased through special permission via a liquor agent.