



Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command  
The Royal Canadian Legion

61 Gloria McCluskey Avenue  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B3B 2Z3

Tel: 902-429-4090

Fax: 902-429-7481

Email: [info@ns.legion.ca](mailto:info@ns.legion.ca)

[ns.legion.ca](http://ns.legion.ca)

## **All Branch Mail Out #28 - 2019**

**Date:** April 15, 2019

**To:** NS/NU Command Branches  
NS/NU Zone Commanders  
NS/NU Executive Council  
NS/NU Past Presidents  
NS/NU Command Staff

**From:** Valerie Mitchell-Veinotte  
Executive Director  
NS/NU Command, RCL

**Subject:** Comrades, on behalf of NS/NU Liquor and Gaming Committee Chairman Mervin Steadman please find urgent information from NS Alcohol and Gaming Licensing and Registration Division attached. Chairman Steadman advises that the A & G representatives will be presenting at the Convention Training Sessions so that any questions can be addressed at that time.



Alcohol and Gaming Division  
Licensing and Registration

Torrington Place  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 902.424.6160 T  
780 Windmill Road TOLL FREE IN NS  
PO Box 545 1.877.565.0556  
Dartmouth, NS 902.424.4942 F  
B2Y3Y8

April 12, 2019

Valerie Mitchell-Veinotte, Executive Director  
Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command  
The Royal Canadian Legion  
61 Gloria McClusky Avenue  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
B3B 2Z3

**Sent via e-mail only.**

Dear Ms. Mitchell-Veinotte:

We are writing to clarify our position with regards to the Club liquor licenses that Legions and other private clubs have been issued.

As you are aware, a Club license is a unique license that allows a private club, which has a closed membership (open to members and limited guests but not the public) to operate in a manner that has advantages over other classes of liquor license that exist in the province. Commensurate with this license there are restrictions that apply to the operation of the Club, most notably that the facility is not used for events that are open to the general public.

To assist clubs such as Legions in their efforts to boost membership we have allowed those who hold a Club license to hold a few (typically two) events per year that are open to the public so that new community members can be exposed to the club and its benefits. These events are operated under the club's permanent liquor license by the club.

We have also permitted clubs to rent their premises for private, family-oriented events such as wedding receptions and anniversaries. In those instances, the events may be operated directly under the club's

Email:

[Jp.landry@novascotia.ns.ca](mailto:Jp.landry@novascotia.ns.ca)

Visit our Website at:

<http://www.novascotia.ca/snsmr/access/alcohol-gaming.asp>

license or, in limited circumstances we will allow the suspension of the license to allow the family to obtain a Special Occasion License (SOL) from us. These events are private in nature and are not open to the public and are not for business purposes.

We recently suspended the license of a Legion for an event that did not meet the above noted criteria. It was an event for which permits were issued to a number of NSLC manufacturers. However, concerns have arisen as a result of this and similar events that have caused us to reconsider whether it is appropriate that they be held in an establishment licensed as a private club. Events such as these are open to the public, which is inconsistent with the nature of the liquor license extended to the Club. As well, the licensing of a private club does not require broad public consultation as would typically be required if the liquor establishment was opened to the general public. As a result, we feel it appropriate to limit the circumstances to which we will suspend the Club's liquor license to those more traditional events noted above (private, family-oriented events). We will not be suspending club licenses for other events open to the public that are not subject to our licensing requirements.

We ask that you please inform your membership of this and remind them that they are to operate as a private club. We wish to avoid the unfortunate circumstances should the facility be rented but the Club then learn that the event cannot proceed.

We would offer two suggestions:

- 1) If a Legion wants to operate an event for a membership drive, as mentioned above, in which NSLC manufacturers are present, they could do so, but the event would need to be operated by the Legion itself under their permanent license. The Legion could purchase the alcohol itself and have individual manufacturers present to assist with service, but the event would be operated by the Legion with the profits going to the Legion.
- 2) If a Legion no longer wishes to operate as a private club and wishes to concentrate on events that are open to the public then they have the option of surrendering their license and applying for a different license which would allow for events that are open to the public.



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If your members would like to pursue either of these options or have any other questions, we would encourage them to contact our licensing section to discuss options prior to making any decisions or committing to renting their facility.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jp Landry".

Jp Landry  
Director of Licensing & Registration

cc. John MacDonald, Executive Director  
Jennifer Price-Hudson, Director Investigation and Enforcement

Email:  
[Jp.landry@novascotia.ns.ca](mailto:Jp.landry@novascotia.ns.ca)

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