



CANNABIS RETAILING in Saskatchewan

Four years ago, we started discussions with the Saskatchewan government regarding Saskatchewan Hotel & Hospitality Association (SHHA) members, particularly Retail Store Permit holders, being allowed to enter the cannabis retail market. We were very encouraged by the recent announcement that cannabis retail permits would be available throughout the province. Retail permits would be granted based on an application process. The number of permits in the province will be unlimited and there is no restrictions on how many can operate in a community.

So what does that mean for you? It means that you may enter the cannabis market and possibly generate revenues to replace losses occurring from diminished liquor sales. Although the process is lengthy and there are costs involved, some operators are keen to explore this market.

We have fielded many questions, and a few are worth repeating for general knowledge.

“I have an RSP (off sale) in my hotel, can I now sell cannabis in my store?”

You can apply for, and hold a cannabis retail permit, but marijuana cannot be sold in the same store as liquor.

“Am I able to have an off sale and separate cannabis store in my hotel?”

Yes, but within certain parameters.

If the community is under 2,500 people, you are able to have both stores accessible through your front lobby. For instance, a customer enters through the front doors and can go left to your liquor outlet or go right to access your cannabis store.

If the community is over 2,500 people, the customer enters through your front doors and goes left to your liquor outlet. The customer will not have access to your cannabis store through the lobby of your hotel and can only be accessed through an outside entrance, not your lobby.

We strongly recommend you contact SLGA prior to investing in any renovations.

“When will I be able to make an application to obtain a cannabis retail permit?”

Beginning in April 2020, SLGA will accept applications for cannabis retail permits in Saskatchewan communities with populations less than 2,500. As well, you will be able to apply for permits in communities that were previously identified as eligible for permits but did not proceed.

In September 2020, SLGA will begin accepting permit applications for stores in all communities in the province. Communities may opt out of having cannabis retail stores in their community. Interested businesses and individuals will be required to meet SLGA’s permitting requirements including a good character check, inventory tracking and store security. Applicants will also need to meet local municipal requirements, including zoning.

For more information:

<https://www.slga.com/permits-and-licences/cannabis-permits>

or

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