

Ten more reasons:

Closing government liquor stores is a poor idea.

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

2 The LDB is run efficiently, profitably and professionally on behalf of the people of B.C. The \$636 million net income – in addition to taxes – that the LDB contributes to the province is like a \$316 tax break for every worker in the province.

3 Liquor is a drug, not a product to be sold like any other. Abuse of alcohol can cause serious problems for families and communities. Responsible sale of alcohol is best done through government liquor stores that give us real control and help keep alcohol out of the hands of under-age teenagers.

4 B.C. Liquor Stores are well-designed and located, not loud and garish private establishments that bring unwanted noise and traffic to residential areas.

5 A province-wide government system has the resources to provide public education on responsible use of alcohol, to prevent sales to minors, to promote alternatives like dry grads, to encourage recycling, and to support services to reduce, treat and prevent alcohol abuse.

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

7 There has been no public input into the government's decision to allow private corporations to take over alcohol sales in B.C. Communities have not, and will not be consulted. Public health and safety experts have not been asked for their opinion.

8 If you look at the number of children who are able to buy cigarettes, it's pretty clear that minors would also find it easier to get alcohol from private liquor stores. After privatization in Alberta, an Edmonton TV station disclosed that teenagers were served in three of four private liquor stores with no questions asked.

9 Health and safety studies agree the more liquor stores there are, the more tragedies there will be from underage drinking and driving.

10 Central warehousing in the government system provides large efficiencies of scale. A private system is more expensive for suppliers who will have to deal with hundreds of customers instead of one. Shipping costs will also increase for the same reason. These new extra costs will be passed on to customers. The further you are from Vancouver, the more you will pay.



**The LDB isn't perfect. But it's worth keeping.
And it's better than the alternative.**

Price comparison, July 2002

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

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

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

Impaired driving rates

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

Canada	291.0
British Columbia	299.2
Alberta	475.0

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

Public safety

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

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

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

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

Who will profit?

"Booze firms eye B.C. – Alberta's liquor chains plan to open stores in B.C. with province's privatization push."

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

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

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

— *Trevor Harrison, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Lethbridge and Research Director of the Parkland Institute, Winnipeg Free Press, Aug. 4, 2002*

Distributed by the women and men who work for the
B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch

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