

DATE OF MEETING April 24, 2017

AUTHORED BY JILL COLLINSON, PLANNER, CURRENT PLANNING AND SUBDIVISION

SUBJECT LIQUOR LICENCE APPLICATION NO. LA126 – 620 TERMINAL AVENUE

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present Council with an application for the existing liquor primary licence for Casino Nanaimo to extend its hours of liquor service at 620 Terminal Avenue.

Recommendation

That Council recommend the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch approve an application to extend the hours of liquor service for the existing liquor primary licence for the property located at 620 Terminal Ave from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (Sunday to Thursday) and 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. (Friday and Saturday) to 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m., seven days a week.

BACKGROUND

The City has received correspondence from the Great Canadian Gaming Corporation (Ms. Andrea Nicolls). The applicant is requesting a local government resolution in support of her application to the provincial Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) in order to amend the hours of liquor service at the Great Canadian Casino - Nanaimo, located at 620 Terminal Avenue (Attachment A) as follows:

Existing hours

Sunday to Thursday	Friday & Saturday
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Proposed hours

Sunday to Thursday	Friday & Saturday
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.

The applicant recently received approvals from the British Columbia Lottery Corporation to adjust the hours of operation. The Great Canadian Casino – Nanaimo is currently undergoing renovations to relocate and expand restaurant seating, and to increase the number of gaming devices. As a result, the applicant would like to adjust the liquor services hours to better serve patrons during hours of gaming operations (Attachment B).

Hours of service and capacity are subject to local government consideration and comment. A municipal resolution is required before the province will consider the application further.

DISCUSSION

As part of the liquor primary licence amendment review process, LCLB asks the local government to comment on potential for noise, impact on the community and views of residents/neighbouring businesses. The local government is also asked to offer comment from a building and fire perspective.

- ***The potential for noise if the application is approved***

The subject property is located downtown and is included within the DT6 - Port Place Zone; casino, neighbourhood pub, lounge and entertainment uses (includes nightclubs) are all permitted uses within this zone. As nightclubs, neighbourhood pubs and other late night entertainment uses are permitted within the downtown core; expected noise levels in this area are much higher than those in the rest of the city. As the casino is an existing facility and the application does not include any change to the casino's occupant load, Staff does not anticipate an increase in noise if the application is approved.

- ***The impact on the community if the application is approved***

The Great Canadian Casino – Nanaimo received support for their original liquor licence application in September of 2010. At that time, the Casino entered into a Good Neighbour Agreement with the City of Nanaimo, became members in Nanaimo's Bar Watch community, registered a covenant restricting the use on the property to prevent a nightclub or stand-alone neighbourhood pub, and agreed to no liquor service be permitted within the outdoor patio area.

Police records indicate a large number of calls for service in the area around the Casino, but most are not related to the venue's operation of liquor service. The RCMP note that the venue is professionally managed, has well-trained security staff, and onsite surveillance measures. The RCMP does not object to the application and does not anticipate any adverse impact on police resources (Attachment D).

A negative community impact is not anticipated.

- ***The views of residents / neighbouring businesses***

A public notice and comment sheet has been mailed and hand delivered to the owners, residents, and business owners of buildings and properties within 100m of the subject property. A total of 102 comment sheets were mailed out and delivered. Of the 12 responses received, 8 are in support of the application and 4 are opposed. Only 1 letter included an opposition rationale explaining traffic and security in a closed mall setting as a concern. Comment sheets returned are included as Attachment C.

Through the application process, City Staff contacted the Downtown Nanaimo Business Improvement Association (DNBIA) regarding the request for extended hours. The DNBIA voted to dissolve the organization in March 2017; as such a referral response was not received.

Opt Out of Application Process

With respect to all food and liquor primary licence applications, it is worth noting that Council has the option to provide no comment. If Council chooses to opt out of the application process, Staff will inform the LCLB of Council's decision and no further action will be taken by Staff

regarding the application. If a local government chooses to opt out, the LCLB will start their own review process, which could considerably delay the application process. As such, Staff recommends that Council does not opt out of the application review process.

Next Steps

Should Council pass a resolution to support the application to extend the hours of service, Staff will forward the resolution to the LCLB. The final decision regarding the approval of this liquor primary licence amendment application will be made by the LCLB.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The applicant proposes to extend the hours of liquor service to 11 a.m. to 1:30 a.m., seven days a week.
- 12 public responses have been received; 8 in support and 4 in objection to the application.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Location Plan
Attachment B: Applicant's Letter of Rationale
Attachment C: Public Comment Sheets
Attachment D: RCMP Response

Submitted by:



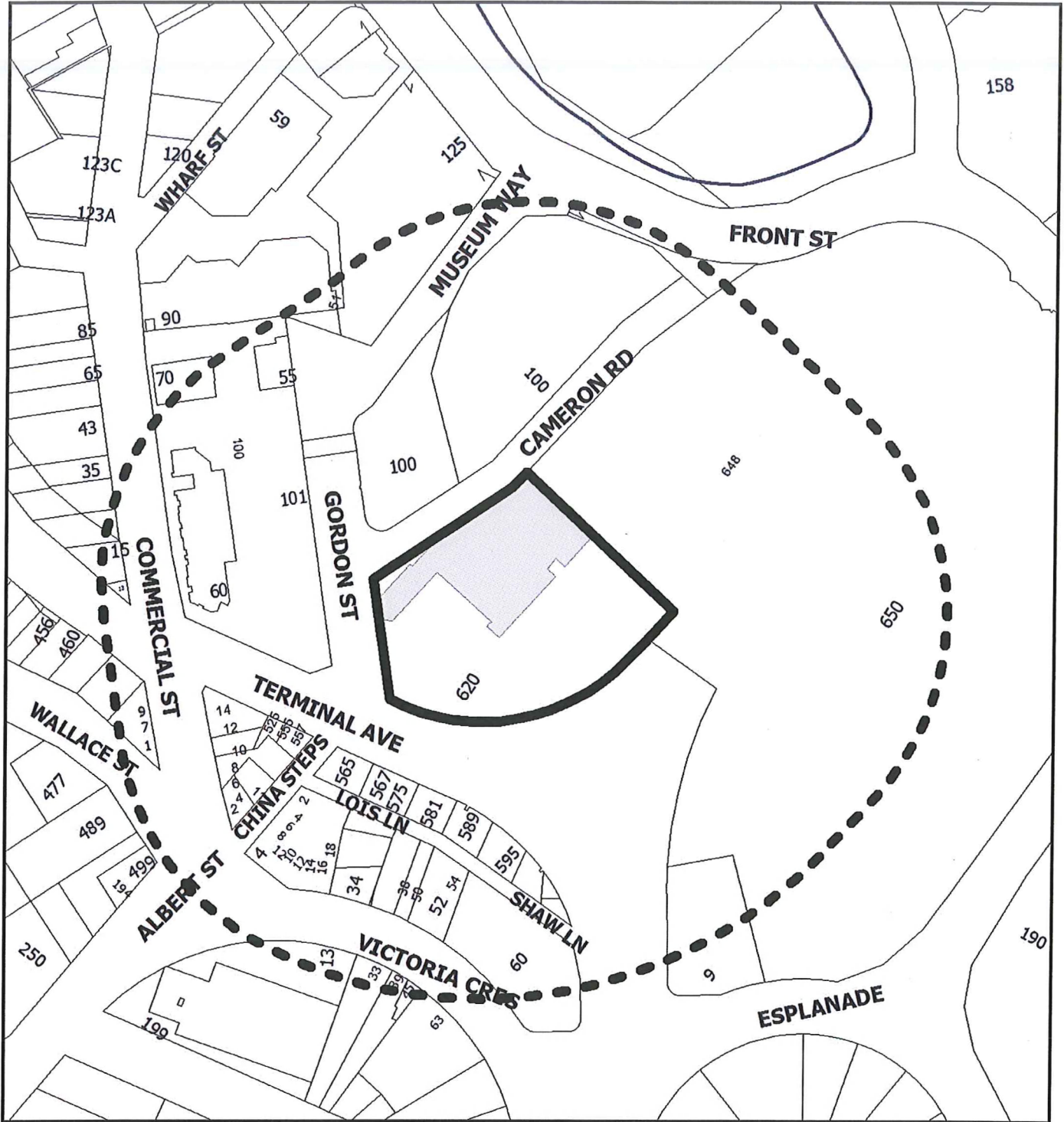
Lainya Rowett
Manager, Current Planning and Subdivision

Concurrence by:



D. Lindsay
Director, Community Development

ATTACHMENT A
LOCATION PLAN






LIQUOR LICENCE APPLICATION NO. LA000126

LOCATION PLAN

Civic: 620 Terminal Avenue
 Lot 1, Section 1, Naniamo District, and the Bed
 of the Public Harbour of Nanaimo, Plan 9246,
 City of Nanaimo Lease Bylaw No. 4708 and
 4709 (SEP 13/93)



-  Building Location
-  Subject Property
-  Notification Area

ATTACHMENT B
APPLICANT'S LETTER OF RATIONALE



GREAT CANADIAN GAMING CORPORATION

February 20, 2017

ATTENTION: Dave Stewart

Planner
City of Nanaimo
455 Wallace Street
Nanaimo, BC
V9R 5J6

VIA EMAIL

RECEIVED
LA000126
2017-FEB-20
Current Planning & Subdivision

Dear Mr. Stewart:

**Re: Municipal Approval Request - Application for a Permanent Change to a Liquor Licence for LP
Applicant/Licensee: Great Canadian Casino - Nanaimo
Establishment: Casino Nanaimo
Location: 620 Terminal Ave., Nanaimo, BC**

On behalf of Casino Nanaimo, please accept this as our Letter of Intent and Community Impact Statement. We are writing to advise that we have submitted a Permanent Change to a Liquor Licence application with the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) to request a revision to our liquor service hours. In accordance with the Liquor Branch and the City's requirements for Municipal Approval, we would like to submit the following information for consideration.

Casino Nanaimo is located at 620 Terminal Avenue and features 24,000 square feet of gaming space with 384 slot machines and 6 gaming tables, as well as a restaurant.

Casino Nanaimo has a liquor primary licence to allow service from the main service bar to the gaming floor. The Company views alcohol service as an added amenity to our gaming clientele and has many safeguards in place to ensure that this requested change will not have a negative impact to the community. Not only do we adhere to the LCLB standards and policies & procedures we currently have in place, but we must also follow the strict measures set by the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC). These measures include pricing alcohol in a manner that will discourage overconsumption, drinks presented in single servings, and drinks withheld from guests appearing to be intoxicated. As this is a casino environment, access will not be available to minors. To ensure minors do not gain entry, and do not purchase alcohol on site, it is our policy to check two pieces of identification for any person who appears to be under the age of 25 at the casino entrance points, and at the F&B outlets. In addition, Security Personnel are stationed at all access points to ensure liquor will not go beyond the boundaries. All employees that work in Great Canadian Gaming Corporation (GCGC) facilities that provide liquor service in British Columbia are required to have their "Serving It Right" certification. These employees are required to comply with internal policies and procedures, as well as policies developed by BCLC.

The site is currently undergoing renovations and we are making changes to relocate and expand our restaurant seating area at Casino Nanaimo, and to increase the number of gaming devices in the facility. Below is a brief summary of the changes:

Level 1

1. The old restaurant seating area will be converted to a new high limit slots room
2. The current bar seating area will be decommissioned and converted to additional kitchen space
3. We will remove the partition between the gaming floor and the existing shell space. The shell space will become restaurant seating
4. We will convert part of the existing gaming floor to a bar and additional restaurant seating
5. Existing racebook area will be converted into a table games area
6. The existing slot floor layout will be changed to allow for better guest traffic flow and additional gaming devices

Level 2

1. The existing space will be converted into licensed poker/racebook area

There will be no change in occupant load, however, as you can see, there will be more of a focus on food and beverage, and gaming options.

Casino Nanaimo recently submitted a request to the British Columbia Lottery Corporation to revise our hours of operation, and the request was approved on February 1, 2017. As such, we wish to adjust our liquor service hours to 11:00am to 1:30am seven days a week.

We will be the adjusting hours of operation to the below, which has been approved by BCLC:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10am-2am	10am-2am	10am-2am	10am-2am	10am-3am	10am-3am	10am-2am

Our current liquor service hours are as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11am-12am	11am-12am	11am-12am	11am-12am	11am-1:30am	11am-1:30am	11am-12am

We are requesting to revise our liquor service hours to the following:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11am-1:30am	11am-1:30am	11am-1:30am	11am-1:30am	11am-1:30am	11am-1:30am	11am-1:30am

This change will result in liquor service being available to patrons for an additional hour and a half later Sunday through Thursday (the liquor service hours will not change from the current approved times on Friday and Saturday).

Potential Positive Impact to the CommunityEmployment for Locals

The extension of liquor service hours will provide additional hours for current Casino Nanaimo employees and potential additional employment for locals.

More Entertainment Options in Downtown Nanaimo

The extension of liquor service hours will provide more entertainment options for local residents and visitors/tourists to Downtown Nanaimo seven days per week.

Increase to Revenues for Local Vendors

The extension of liquor service hours will create additional spending for local vendor services and entertainment.

Financial Benefits to the Community

The Province shares gaming revenue with local governments that host casinos and community gaming centres in British Columbia. From 1999 until March 2015, the City of Nanaimo received over \$41 billion in gaming revenues, which funds municipal and charitable projects in the community. The extension of liquor service hours may result in more visitors to the site, which in turn may result in additional gaming revenues and economic benefits to the community.

Potential Negative Impact to the Community & Measures Taken to Reduce ImpactNoise in the Community

It is not expected that the extension to hours of liquor service will result in any additional noise to the community as any measurable increase in noise is not anticipated to emit from the building, and the site is located in a commercial area with limited residential housing.

Demands on the RCMP

According to the British Columbia Lottery Corporation's document "Backgrounder on Perceptions of Casinos and Crime" written in November 2016, "Casinos in B.C. have more security and surveillance than most banks or venues of a comparable size that attract large volumes of people." It is not expected that the extension to hours of liquor service will result in an increased amount of police resources being used as the site has its own Security Department. Pursuant to the *Security Services Act and Regulations of British Columbia*, our Gaming Security Officers are required to complete the Advanced Security Training courses through the Justice Institute of British Columbia.

Impact on Traffic

It is not anticipated that the extension to hours of liquor service will result in any additional traffic in the area, or have any effect on traffic flow. The site is situated in a high pedestrian and traffic area located near a commercial shopping centre and the Vancouver Island Convention Centre. There is easy access to the establishment from local roads and a highway. Because the establishment is already located in a high traffic area, it is not expected that there will be a further increase in traffic.

We trust that the information provided will satisfy the City's requirements but should you require additional information, please feel free to contact me directly at (604) 303-6185.

We appreciate your review of this application and look forward to receipt of your decision.

Yours truly,

GREAT CANADIAN GAMING CORPORATION



Andrea Nicholls
Coordinator, Corporate Security & Compliance

Application for a Permanent Change to Liquor Primary Licence
GREAT CANADIAN CASINO - 620 TERMINAL AVENUE

PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT SHEET

The City has received correspondence from Ms. Andrea Nicholls (GC Gaming) regarding her application to amend an existing liquor primary licence. The applicant is requesting a local government resolution in support of her application to the Provincial Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) to extend hours of service as follows:

Existing hours

Sunday to Thursday	Friday & Saturday
11am to 12am	11am to 1:30am

Proposed hours

Sunday to Thursday	Friday & Saturday
11am to 1:30am	11am to 1:30am

As part of the review process, the City of Nanaimo is responsible to gather the views of business operators and residents within the subject area; and, forward this information along with recommendations, to the LCLB. The application is tentatively scheduled to appear before Council at its meeting to be held 2017-APR-24 for consideration of a recommendation to the LCLB. If you wish to become a delegation and speak to this issue at the Council meeting, please contact the City's Legislative Services Section at 250-755-4405.

Please indicate your name and address and if you support or do not support the application. Feel free to add any additional comments. When finished, please mail, fax or drop off this comment sheet **by Thursday, 2017- APR- 03 to:**

Current Planning & Subdivision Section
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Service and Resource Centre - 411 Dunsmuir Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6
Email: jill.collinson@nanaimo.ca

If you have any questions, please contact Jill Collinson at 250-755-4473

- I SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.
 I DO NOT SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

Comments: I was given the phone # 250-753-4439 to send this
to via FAX, but that number is not in service.

Name: JOAN BOYES Resident Street Address: 155 VICTORIA RD.
Name of Business: INK REFILL Business Address: R1 650 S. TERMINAL AVE.

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 GREAT CANADIAN CASINO - 620 TERMINAL AVENUE**

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- I SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.
 I DO NOT SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

RECEIVED
 LA000126
 2017-MAR-24
 Current Planning & Subdivision

Comments: ATTN: JILL
THERE IS NO FAX # ON THIS LETTER, SO AM EMAILING THIS
TO YOU. IF IT NEEDS TO BE FAXED PLEASE CALL ME AND
LET ME KNOW THE FAX #
THE CRAIG PALIN

Name: CRAIG PALIN Resident Street Address: _____
 Name of Business: INPRINT LTD Business Address: 565 TERMINAL AVE
250 754 2542

**Application for a Permanent Change to Liquor Primary Licence
GREAT CANADIAN CASINO - 620 TERMINAL AVENUE**

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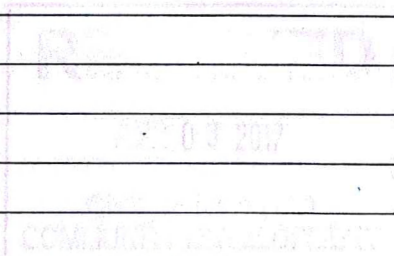
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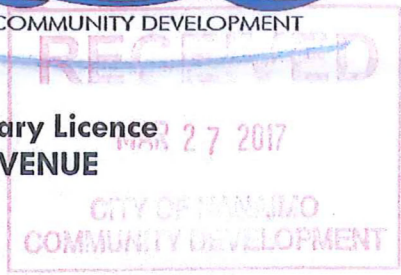
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- I SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.
- I DO NOT SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

Comments: _____

Name: Clifford Willshire Resident Street Address: _____
 Name of Business: Salvation Botanicals Business Address: 54 Victoria Cres





**Application for a Permanent Change to Liquor Primary Licence
 GREAT CANADIAN CASINO - 620 TERMINAL AVENUE**

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- I SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.
- I DO NOT SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

Comments: _____

Name: KELLY PHALEN Resident Street Address: _____
 Name of Business: BESTSELLERS Business Address: 29 COMMERCIAL ST
BOOKSTORE

**Application for a Permanent Change to Liquor Primary Licence
GREAT CANADIAN CASINO - 620 TERMINAL AVENUE**

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Email: jill.collinson@nanaimo.ca

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- I SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.
 I DO NOT SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

RECEIVED
LA000126
2017-MAR-31
Current Planning & Subdivision

Comments: Casino is a great community supporter + the time change is very small. Happy to support.

Name: Beck McDonald Resident Street Address: _____
Name of Business: Nanaimo Museum Business Address: 100 Museum Way

Att. Pat.

Application for a Permanent Change to Liquor Primary Licence GREAT CANADIAN CASINO - 620 TERMINAL AVENUE

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If you have any questions, please contact Jill Collinson at 250-755-4473

- I SUPPORT THE APPLICATION. I DO NOT SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

RECEIVED LA000126 2017-MAR-24 Current Planning & Subdivision

Comments: THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A PROBLEM STEMING FROM THE CASINO OTHER THAN CASINO PATRONS PARKING IN OUR CUSTOMER PARKING LOT, THERE ARE TIMES DURING OUR BUSINESS HOURS THAT OUR PATRONS HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING A PARKING SPOT.

Name: PATRICIA DOLAN Resident Street Address: 4935 FILLINGER CR.

Name of Business: THE PANTRY RESTAURANT Business Address: 101-648 TERMINAL AVE. NANAIMO.

**Application for a Permanent Change to Liquor Primary Licence
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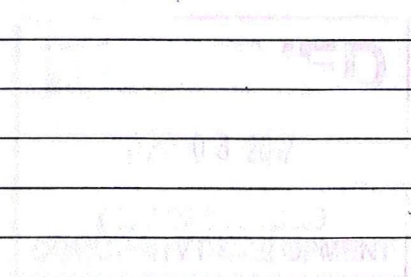
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- I SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.**
 I DO NOT SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

Comments: _____



Name: Richard Payne Resident Street Address: _____
 Name of Business: Payne Consulting Business Address: 52 Victoria Crs.

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I SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.
 I DO NOT SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

Comments: _____

Name: GINA SWATEZ Resident Street Address: 795 Nan Lks Rd.

Name of Business: Port Place Lottery Business Address: 650 S. Terminal Ave.

**Application for a Permanent Change to Liquor Primary Licence
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- I SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.
 I DO NOT SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

Comments: _____

Name: Lisa Desprez Resident Street Address: 673 Stirling Ave.
Name of Business: _____ Business Address: 125 Front Street



**Application for a Permanent Change to Liquor Primary Licence
GREAT CANADIAN CASINO - 620 TERMINAL AVENUE**

PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT SHEET

The City has received correspondence from Ms. Andrea Nicholls (GC Gaming) regarding her application to amend an existing liquor primary licence. The applicant is requesting a local government resolution in support of her application to the Provincial Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) to extend hours of service as follows:

Existing hours

Sunday to Thursday 11am to 12am	Friday & Saturday 11am to 1:30am
------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Proposed hours

Sunday to Thursday 11am to 1:30am	Friday & Saturday 11am to 1:30am
--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

As part of the review process, the City of Nanaimo is responsible to gather the views of business operators and residents within the subject area; and, forward this information along with recommendations, to the LCLB. The application is tentatively scheduled to appear before Council at its meeting to be held 2017-APR-24 for consideration of a recommendation to the LCLB. If you wish to become a delegation and speak to this issue at the Council meeting, please contact the City's Legislative Services Section at 250-755-4405.

Please indicate your name and address and if you support or do not support the application. Feel free to add any additional comments. When finished, please mail, fax or drop off this comment sheet **by Thursday, 2017- APR- 03 to:**

Current Planning & Subdivision Section
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Service and Resource Centre - 411 Dunsmuir Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6
Email: jill.collinson@nanaimo.ca

If you have any questions, please contact Jill Collinson at 250-755-4473

- I SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.
 I DO NOT SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

RECEIVED
LA000126
2017-MAR-24
Current Planning & Subdivision

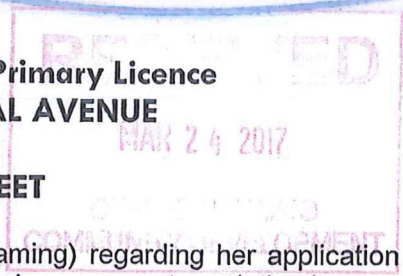
Comments: _____

Name: Susan Timmo Resident Street Address: 1611 BRICKLEY HALL
Name of Business: SERIOUS COFFEE Business Address: 300-60 COMMERCIAL ST



**Application for a Permanent Change to Liquor Primary Licence
GREAT CANADIAN CASINO - 620 TERMINAL AVENUE**

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- I SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.
- I DO NOT SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

Comments:

Sunday to Thursday closing time extension will create traffic in a closed mall setting which will impact security and activity in this area, and beyond - Commercial, Victoria Crescent may be impacted as well.

Name: Lemieux, Jenn Resident Street Address: 625 PARK AVE
Name of Business: Sound Heritage Business Address: 33 VICTORIA CRESC

**Application for a Permanent Change to Liquor Primary Licence
 GREAT CANADIAN CASINO - 620 TERMINAL AVENUE**

PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT SHEET

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- I SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.
 I DO NOT SUPPORT THE APPLICATION.

RECEIVED
 LA000126
 2017-MAR-31
Current Planning & Subdivision

Comments: _____

Name: Denise Tacon Resident Street Address: _____
 Name of Business: Vancouver Island Conf. Centre Business Address: 101 Gordon Street

ATTACHMENT D
RCMP RESPONSE

1 of 2



Royal Canadian
Mounted Police

Gendarmerie royale
du Canada

Security Classification
/Designation
Classification/désignation

Unclassified

Your File - Votre référence

LA 126

Our File - Notre référence

RCMP Nanaimo
303 Prideaux Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 2N3

City of Nanaimo
455 Wallace St. Nanaimo
Attn: Jill Collinson, Current Planning & Subdivision

Date
March 21, 2017

Dear Madam,

Re: Great Canadian Casino – Application for Change in License Hours

We are in receipt of your letter advising that the Great Canadian Gaming Corporation at 620 Terminal Avenue is requesting a local government resolution in support of an application to change their hours of liquor service. The existing hours of service are 11 am to 12 am Sunday to Thursday, and 11 am to 1:30 am Friday and Saturday. The proposed hours of service is 11 am to 1:30 am seven days a week.

The venue is a gaming facility with an existing licensed capacity of 805 persons situated between Port Place Mall and the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in the downtown district. The casino is a prominent hospitality destination. This application coincides with ongoing renovation and improvement to the venue.

Police records indicate a large number of calls for service in and around the Casino, but most incidents are not related to the venue's operation or liquor service. The Casino has participated in Nanaimo's bar watch program for many years. The venue is professionally managed with a well-trained security staff and state of the art surveillance technology. Their security presence provides strong oversight both inside, and in adjacent parking areas. They do not permit patrons in their premise that have been banned or excluded by other establishments participating in the Bar Watch program.

Calls for police service are typically high in this area of the city. Incidents of public intoxication and disturbances are not uncommon, but are not typically associated to liquor service at the Casino. The proposed changes to hours of liquor service are consistent to operating hours of other licensed venues in the downtown entertainment district. The Casino has a large patron capacity, but the emphasis of the venue is gaming and entertainment. They utilize responsible serving practices, have a significant security presence to manage any alcohol-related incidents, and work cooperatively with police.

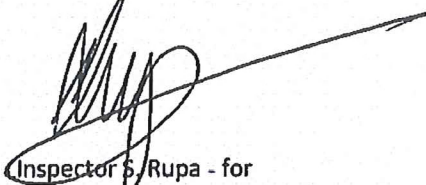
Canada

LA126 - Great Canadian Casino

In consideration of these factors, it is not anticipated that the proposed change of licensed hours will adversely impact police resources, levels of criminal activity or public disorder, or increase calls for service.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this application. Should you require further information or assistance, please contact Corporal David LaBerge of the Nanaimo Detachment Bike Patrol.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Miller', written over a horizontal line.

Inspector S. Rupa - for
Cameron W. Miller, Superintendent
Officer in Charge
Nanaimo RCMP Detachment