

## **NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **City Council Endorse the Sale of VQA Wine and Ontario Microbrewery Beer at Convenience Stores**

**Moved by:** Councillor Walker

**Seconded by:** Councillor Jenkins

#### **SUMMARY:**

The sale of liquor and wine in Ontario is regulated by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) and is restricted to LCBO stores and LCBO Agency stores. LCBO Agency stores are local vendors licensed to sell alcohol in small communities that do not have LCBO stores. The LCBO Agency store program has been in effect since 1962.

To spread the success of the LCBO Agency store program, convenience stores and small grocery stores should be allowed to sell alcohol. The sale of alcohol would bring added income to these small business owners and would boost the local economy in Toronto and its neighbourhoods. Also, with the impending ban on cigarette “power-wall” advertising behind the cash register at convenience stores, allowing the limited sale of alcohol at convenience stores could provide some relief for the small business owner from their loss of the “power-wall” revenue.

The Provinces of Quebec, British Columbia, and Alberta all allow the sale of alcohol in stores licensed and regulated by the Province.

On April 3, 2007, Queen’s Park passed the first reading of a Private Member’s Bill, Bill 199 (Liberal MPP, Kim Craitor - Niagara Falls), that proposed to amend the Liquor Control Act to allow the sale of VQA wine and Ontario microbrewery beer at convenience stores. In addition to the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) stores, this Bill would have allowed licensed convenience store owners to sell limited stock of local wine and beer only. The Bill proposed to regulate the trained (by the Hospitality Industry Training Organization of Ontario) and the licensed vendors.

On September 4, 2007, the Executive Committee considered a Motion to endorse Bill 199. The Executive Committee withdrew that Motion from its agenda, since the Ontario Legislature was no longer in Session and all outstanding business before the House was terminated.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council endorse an expansion of the LCBO Agency Store program to permit the sale of VQA wine and Ontario Microbrewery beer at convenience stores in Toronto.
2. City Council direct the City Clerk to immediately convey this Resolution to the Province of Ontario.
3. City Council direct the appropriate officials to give effect to the foregoing.

October 22, 2007

### According to Chapter 27, Council Procedures:

Notice given	(√)
Fiscal Impact Statement provided	
Should have Fiscal Impact Statement prior to debate Requires two-thirds to waive requirement if Council wishes to debate	*
Should be referred to Executive Committee Requires two-thirds vote to consider at this meeting	(√)
Motion Recommendations are Urgent	

\* Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to advise