

## INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 033

### Liquor sales licence applications to be posted online, increasing public access to information and reducing costs for businesses

(September 9, 2013)

Effective September 30, 2013, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) will post Public Notices of liquor sales licence applications to its website ([www.agco.on.ca](http://www.agco.on.ca)). This initiative is a result of the AGCO's ongoing review of its policies and practices to identify and remove barriers for businesses, increase transparency in its operations and enhance appropriate public participation in liquor licensing decisions.

Public Notices for the following types of liquor sales licence applications will be posted to the AGCO's website:

1. Where an application for a liquor sales licence has been filed with the AGCO and there has been no liquor sales licence at that address for at least six (6) months;
2. Where an existing licensee wishes to licence an outdoor space such as a patio;
3. Where an existing licensee wishes to increase the licensed capacity of the establishment (indoor or outdoor) by more than 25%; and
4. Where the Registrar of Alcohol and Gaming may require public notification due to the location or the past compliance history of an establishment.

Members of the public have historically been advised of these types of applications in two ways:

1. A large Public Notice placard placed in the window of the establishment for up to 30 days ; and
2. A formal Public Notice advertisement placed in the English and French language newspapers (where applicable) of the municipality in which the establishment is located, and for which the licensee/applicant was required to pay the cost.

While a Public Notice placard will still be required to be posted in the window of the establishment with a pending application, beginning on September 30, 2013, members of the public will be able to view all current applications easily on the AGCO website which will be updated weekly.

By making this change, the AGCO is taking a more modern approach by providing easier and faster access to information to better support local residents' input into liquor sales licensing decisions, while at the same time providing administrative relief and cost savings for businesses in the hospitality industry.

For more information on Public Notices or liquor sales licence applications / changes, please contact AGCO's Customer Service Department at 416-326-8700 (GTA) or 800-522-2876 (toll-free in Ontario), or by email at [customer.service@agco.ca](mailto:customer.service@agco.ca).