# **Liquor and Gaming Authority of Manitoba**

#### What's new?

On April 1, 2014, the Manitoba Gaming Control Commission (MGCC) and the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission's (MLCC) Regulatory Services Division will combine to become a single regulatory agency – the Liquor and Gaming Authority of Manitoba (LGA). The LGA will license liquor service, sales and manufacturing, and gaming employees, products and operations. Most of the changes will update Manitoba's current liquor laws, which have been in place since 1956.

#### What's coming?

During the coming year, the LGA will transition services to bring liquor and gaming regulatory responsibilities under one roof to deliver integrated, single-window services for licensing and compliance.

# Key changes will:

- streamline the categories of liquor licences from 12 to three
- increase flexibility to liquor licence terms and conditions
- eliminate the Liquor Licensing Board to speed licensing and hearing processes
- · support small live music venues
- · improve public safety and policing powers
- improve the public notice and citizen input process for liquor licence applications and community concerns.

# Any more details? Yes - LGA's "Top 100"

While the LGA is hoping to make the transition transparent and easy for those we regulate and for consumers, there are a lot of changes that have resulted from the amalgamation of liquor and gaming regulatory responsibilities under *The Liquor and Gaming Control Act* (the Act). The following describes and highlights the scope of the changes in our "Top 100". Sections of the legislation are referenced in many cases.

#### The Big Picture

- Established the LGA to create a one-stop shop for liquor and gaming licences and permits, which are issued to the same client groups in many cases. During the next year, the LGA's liquor and gaming regulatory processes will transition to become a single-window access service for citizens, businesses, suppliers, employees and manufacturers.
- 2. Completely overhauled Manitoba's liquor control framework for the first time since 1956, with a focus on 21<sup>st</sup> century expectations for consumer choice, social responsibility, public safety and red tape reduction as the cornerstones of modern regulation. Previously, the liquor laws were framed by society's expectations in the last century's post-prohibition era.



- 3. Modernized liquor laws by creating enabling, rather than prescriptive, legislation that allows flexibility via regulations and licence terms and conditions. This allows the LGA to be more responsive to special events, entrepreneurial proposals, evolving consumer preferences, citizen input and public safety concerns. Order-in-Council regulations are prescribed by section 157(1); LGA board regulations are prescribed by section 157(2).
- 4. Mandated the LGA to:
  - regulate persons who sell, serve or manufacture liquor
  - regulate gaming events and persons who are involved in gaming
  - regulate the integrity of lottery schemes conducted in Manitoba
  - provide information and advice to the minister about activities respecting liquor and gaming.

The LGA may also develop, promote and support initiatives or programs designed to encourage the responsible consumption of liquor and responsible participation in gaming. It may also hold meetings to obtain public input and conduct research on matters related to liquor and gaming.

- 5. Strengthened police powers and licensee obligations to address community safety concerns specific to liquor sales, service and consumption. We believe this new legislation is complementary to the public safety provisions in Manitoba's *Safer Communities and Neighborhoods Act*.
- 6. Addressed citizen concerns about "party houses" and related disorderly behaviour in several sections of the new Act. New sections were crafted to balance these concerns with society's respect for personal autonomy, choice and responsibility. These new and/or updated sections are intended to address problems with chronic "party houses".
- 7. Part 10 of the new Act, "Community Input" clarifies provisions for citizen participation. Sections 158 to 173 describe citizen and municipal options for community plebiscites and local option to limit or prohibit gaming and liquor, and to limit or prohibit Sunday opening. The key aim of Part 10 is to bring consistency to the community input process for liquor and gaming.
- 8. Eliminated the Liquor Licensing Board to speed and authorize licensing, complaint and hearing processes via administrative approval and order-making powers through the Executive Director.
- 9. Modernized the appeal process in Part 7. Appeal hearings will be conducted by the LGA's board with appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench.
- 10. Split regulatory responsibilities that focus on service and sales oversight, and public safety, from operational responsibilities that focus on sales and marketing. Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries is now established by *The Liquor and Lotteries Corporation Act*.
- 11. Reduced red tape by decreasing liquor licence categories from 12 to three: service, sales and manufacturing. We have streamlined service categories to reflect business models, meet



- customer service expectations and enable appropriate inspection protocols to ensure public safety and social responsibility.
- 12. Leveled the retail market's playing field with independent and consistent regulation, and oversight for retail stores including Liquor Marts, specialty wine stores, beer vendors and liquor vendors.
- 13. Modernized advertising standards for liquor service, sales and manufacturing to replace the nearly 60 year old prescriptive advertising limitations set in legislation, which now have been eliminated. The LGA is working with industry to establish a toolkit to guide self-regulation based on social responsibility and public safety.
- 14. Simplified the language used in the legislation and regulation to make it easier for licensees and the public to read and understand.

# Flexibility and Red Tape Reduction

- 15. Specific categories for sales and service licences are now established in section 24 (1) of regulation (previously enshrined in legislation). This creates a more flexible and modern framework to ensure public safety and social responsibility, while allowing the LGA to attach terms and conditions to licences and permits. It is important to establish service, accountability, public safety and responsible service expectations in legislation, but modern expectations for liquor sales and service operations, like operating hours, advertising, regulatory fees and food service requirements are more appropriately set in regulation.
- 16. The food to liquor ratio for dining rooms has been eliminated. Dining rooms may now serve liquor without food service as long as half of their seating is available for food service or occupied by customers who have ordered or been served a meal.
- 17. Businesses that operate a dining room/lounge will now operate under one licence. Previously, these businesses were required to have two licences.
- 18. Beverage rooms, operated by hotels only, will generally remain age-prohibited. Interested beverage room operators will be able to apply for a special endorsement to operate as a dining room before 9:00 p.m. to accommodate family and community oriented events. This flexibility will particularly benefit smaller Manitoba communities with limited event facilities. The LGA will establish criteria for this endorsement to ensure the premises are appropriate for minors.
- 19. Cabarets and spectator activities will now be licensed as entertainment facilities. This change acknowledges that consumer tastes and entertainment options have evolved since the 1950s.
- 20. In anticipation of the proclamation of the Act, the 200-person seating minimum for cabarets was eliminated effective January 1, 2014. This supports Manitoba's 2014 Year of Music initiative and encourages smaller live entertainment venues throughout the province.



- 21. The prohibition against a disc jockey mixing live music was also eliminated on January 1, 2014. In keeping with Manitoba's commitment to encourage live entertainment, recorded or taped music does not meet the criteria for live entertainment.
- 22. Kitchen and hot food service requirements have been eliminated for entertainment facilities, formerly licensed as cabarets. Food service is still required, but may now be catered or prepared off-site. This change responds to evolving consumer tastes and new food preferences including sushi, salads and wraps. Food safety provisions, including municipal by-law requirements, must still be met.
- 23. Customer and member service licences will now be issued to sports facilities, transportation services (e.g., airlines), military canteens and private clubs, thereby eliminating several licence categories.
- 24. Customer and member service licences may now be issued to personal services providers. Businesses that offer hairstyling, nail or skin care services under *The Apprenticeship and Certification Act* are eligible to apply for a liquor service licence. This service option was extended to respond to changing consumer tastes and the popularity of personal services.
- 25. Established a Unique Hospitality Experience licence to recognize exceptional, new and distinct business proposals that cannot be accommodated within another licence category. Section 24(4) authorizes regulations to issue a licence based on geography or by class (e.g. casino).
- 26. Brew pubs no longer require two licences. These businesses will now be able to produce, sell and serve beer under a single licence through section 25(1).
- 27. Increased opportunities for licensees to feature special musical events. For example, as part of Manitoba's Year of Music, and Manitoba's commitment to live music events and increased licence flexibility, licensees will be eligible to apply to operate as a live entertainment venue up to 12 times during 2014. This provision also allows additional dates for special events. The LGA will accept applications beginning April 1.
- 28. Hotels are no longer required to apply for a hotel registration certificate and a licence category was created exclusively for hotels (beverage rooms and beer vendors) in section 24(3).
- 29. Recognizing that marketing and promotional activities have changed over the years, section 34 authorizes licensees to enter into exclusive product agreements with manufacturers. The licensee must notify the LGA of such an agreement and provide any details of the agreement at the LGA's request.
- 30. Liquor manufacturers and their agents are now authorized under section 70 to give or discount promotional items and gifts, other than liquor. Previously this practice, referred to as gifting, was prohibited. Codifying this acknowledges evolving marketing and advertising practices and responds to societal standards.
- 31. Advertising and marketing practices will now be self-regulated based on the Canadian Code of Advertising Standards. This includes prohibitions against advertising to minors, depictions



of unlawful or dangerous behavior (e.g. high-risk drinking), respecting standards of public decency and disguised advertising techniques. The Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission advertising standards continue to apply.

- 32. Specialty wine stores, liquor vendors and beer vendors will be able to advertise and market products and work with manufacturers to feature products at their stores. This levels the playing field for advertising and marketing at retail premises.
- 33. Retail establishments may now be authorized to operate at temporary locations for specified periods. This will allow these businesses to sell product at a wine festival, trade show or while the permanent premises are under renovation.
- 34. Hours are now set in regulation and are standardized:
  - Service licensees: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., seven days a week
  - Sales licensees (Liquor Marts, liquor vendors and specialty wine stores): 8:00 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week
  - Beer vendors: 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 a.m., seven days a week
  - Unique hospitality venues may operate up to 24 hours, under special authorization

Each establishment may set their own hours within these standards. Municipalities can still limit and prohibit sales via legislated local option provisions. Current local option provisions are carried over under the Act.

- 35. Holiday sale and service restrictions are eliminated to reflect Manitoba's cultural diversity and respond to consumer choice. Operators will set their own hours within the established standards. Remembrance Day is the only exception: only legions and veterans clubs may serve liquor beginning at noon. Other licensees may open for sale and service at 1:00 p.m.
- 36. Charities may now receive donations of liquor purchased through Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries to sell or auction for charitable purposes (Miscellaneous Liquor Provisions Regulation). This was previously illegal.
- 37. The LGA will be able to speed the liquor licensing application process by directly conducting Criminal Record Searches (CRS) through the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC). Previously, applicants were required to provide their own CRS. This will reduce application time and applicant costs. The MGCC has conducted these searches through CPIC since the late 1990s.

#### **Social Occasion Permits**

- 38. Criteria for social occasion permits are moved from legislation into regulation made by the LGA's board under section 49(3).
- 39. Manitoba Liquor Marts will no longer be able to issue emergency social occasion permits. Only the LGA will be able to issue permits; Manitobans are encouraged to apply as far in advance as possible. Social occasion permit applications are still available at Liquor Marts, specialty wine stores, liquor vendors, online and through the LGA.



- 40. The application for a social occasion permit will now double as an application to hold a fundraising raffle as part of the event.
- 41. The bottle limits and brand information for social occasion permits has been eliminated.

  Manitobans are encouraged to plan in advance with their preferred retail location to ensure quantities and brands will be available for their social occasions.

#### **Social Responsibility**

- 42. Expanded the legislative mandate to include social responsibility to encourage responsible consumption (section 8(3)).
- 43. All licensees will be required to include a responsible consumption tagline on all liquor advertising and marketing.
- 44. Mandated to conduct research on liquor through section 8.4). The LGA's first research project targets development of a social responsibility tagline for liquor advertising and marketing. This project is being undertaken in consultation with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and representatives from Manitoba's hospitality industry.
- 45. To build research capacity at the graduate level at Manitoba universities, the LGA will establish a scholarship for liquor research as a complement to the longstanding scholarship for gambling research.
- 46. The LGA is authorized in section 8(4) to hold meetings to obtain public input.
- 47. Section 98 establishes 18 years as the legal age for casinos and VLTs. This brings consistency to age restrictions for liquor (section 30) and commercial gaming, and codifies public expectations that people under 18 years of age should be prohibited from playing VLTs, slot machines, table games and lottery games. Minors will still be able to participate in charitable fundraising events, which are viewed as community-focused and supporting local facilities and events.
- 48. Underage enforcement measures are supported by a new provision that allows inspectors to seize identification from a person who appears to be a minor in contravention of the age prohibition of the Act if the inspector believes that the identification has been altered or does not belong to the person (section 124(3)).
- 49. Manitoba Liquor Marts and specialty wine stores must now be licensed (section 35). This ensures that inspection services, which have long applied to liquor sales and service licensees, will cover all retail premises. This also underscores the separation of regulatory and operational responsibilities. It is noted that Manitoba Lotteries' casinos have been inspected by the MGCC for many years.
- 50. The LGA will take a risk-based approach to assess applications and monitor licensee compliance, including matters relating to over-service and service to minors. New administrative order-making powers will allow the LGA to address and resolve these kinds of



- infractions more quickly. Previously, these matters were dealt with by the Liquor Licensing Board, which only met a few times per month.
- 51. New beer vendor standards will be developed in cooperation with Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries and Manitoba's hotel industry to establish modern criteria that reflect societal values and support public safety in and around these premises.
- 52. Public service notice powers have been expanded to require licensees to post information relevant to broader societal issues, including human trafficking, domestic violence and the dangers of drinking and driving (section 65).
- 53. Social responsibility training continues to be required for service licensees in section 66(1), and is extended to retail licensees in section 66(2). Current training programs, Serving It Safe and the Problem Gambling Assistance Program, will be revised and refined based on the new legislation, new retail premises training needs and in keeping with the single regulator model.

# **Public Input and Complaints**

- 54. Public notice provisions for new liquor service and retail beer vendor applications are maintained under section 105(1) of the Act. Notice requirements include on-premises posting and local publication. The LGA intends to post notices of new applications on its website.
- 55. An objection to a licence application will now be received, reviewed and considered by the Executive Director. The objection and review process is detailed in section 112 and provides flexibility to use consultation and mediation to address and remedy concerns. The Executive Director's decision may be appealed to the LGA's board under section 135(2).
- 56. Sections 67 and 68 create a dispute resolution mechanism for citizen complaints about licensed premises. These new provisions allow the LGA to investigate and mediate a complaint with the aim of resolving the problem. This mechanism is intended to deal with complaints in circumstances where the licensee is otherwise in compliance with their licence, (e.g. noise, congestion or traffic). Complaints related to compliance under the Act will be dealt with as a disciplinary matter. A complaint may be made by a patron, citizen or municipality.

### **Public Safety**

- 57. Licensees are now supported in their efforts to ask a disorderly or intoxicated person to leave, or to deny them entrance. Section 29(2) obliges an intoxicated or disorderly person to comply with a licensee's request to leave the premises and section 29(3) authorizes the licensee to eject a person who refuses to comply with the request.
- 58. A new public safety provision in section 31(2) requires licensees not to permit a person with a weapon (e.g. knife, firearm or other weapon) to remain in or enter the premises.
- 59. Section 27(2) clarifies the expectation that licensees must not allow disorderly people to be in the premises or in the immediate vicinity. This requires the licensee to assume some responsibility for disruptive and disorderly behavior near their premises.



- 60. Section 58 strengthens the prohibition of liquor service to an intoxicated person. The occupier of a premises (including a private home) must not allow someone to become intoxicated in the premises and create a disturbance in the premises or immediate vicinity.
- 61. Section 59 creates a duty to prevent intoxication and disturbances; this applies to hosts at private residences and other premises. This section makes it a responsibility of the host of the party to prevent intoxication and disturbances. Sections 58 and 59 are intended to address chronic situations; not to apply to a single house party. Normally, police would respond to a complaint about a disturbance or noise resulting from a single house party and resolve the issue at that time.
- 62. The longstanding "prohibited place order" provision, which prohibits the possession or consumption of alcohol at the specified premises for up to one year, has been strengthened by establishing criteria for such orders. The Act establishes the primary basis for such an order is an ongoing pattern of threatened public safety and neighborhood disruption, including intoxication, violent conduct and disturbances. To establish the necessity of such an order will require sustained cooperative efforts between police and the LGA. For example, multiple attendances by police will be required to establish the threshold of "repeated incidents". Evidence of police involvement will be critical to the LGA justifying an application for a prohibited place order.
- 63. A prohibited place order may also be made when the owner or occupier has been convicted of bootlegging, including manufacturing, transportation and sale of liquor. Police involvement will be required to initiate charges leading to a conviction for unauthorized manufacture, sale or transport of liquor. Prohibitions for illegal resale and unlawful purchases (booze cans and bootlegging) have been carried over from the current legislation.
- 64. Section 126 allows the immediate seizure of liquor found in a place where liquor may not lawfully be kept including prohibited places under section 69.
- 65. New administrative powers require the LGA to conduct a hearing on the application for a prohibited place order in accordance with section 69(5) of the Act. The effect of a prohibited place order is to make it unlawful to possess or consume liquor at the premises for the period of one year. The Executive Director's decision may be appealed to the LGA's board, also in accordance with the Act. A prohibited place order is deemed to be revoked on change of ownership or occupancy.
- 66. Section 32(1) gives the police power to direct a person who they believe creates a risk of violence to leave the premises or immediate vicinity.
- 67. Section 32(3) compels a person to leave when directed to do so by police.
- 68. Refusal to leave when directed to do so is now an offense under section 32(4) of the Act. This strengthens police powers to remove the person from the premises.



- 69. The Act directly addresses gang colours in premises in which liquor licences and social occasion permits are in effect. Specifically, section 32(2) sets out situations and circumstances which police may consider in assessing the risk of violence. Known gang membership/association or wearing gang colours may be considered, as well as threats, previous violent crimes and the person's conduct in the premises or in the immediate vicinity of the premises.
- 70. To support the consideration of the risk of violence by police, specific definitions now are enshrined in legislation. For example, a "gang means a group of persons who engage in a pattern of unlawful behaviour"; unlawful behaviour is also described and includes drug trafficking, living off the avails of prostitution, illegal firearms, and violence, threats, extortion and intimidation (section 32(5)).
- 71. Section 123(3) allows search warrants to be obtained by phone or other means of telecommunication. This provision will be of assistance in circumstances where access to a Justice is limited.
- 72. Anti-bootlegging efforts are strengthened by a new seizure provision in section 126 that allows an inspector to seize liquor in a place where it may not lawfully be kept, for example a dry community.
- 73. Section 127 authorizes arrest without a warrant when an inspector, including police officers, witnesses a person apparently committing an offense under the Act.
- 74. Compliance orders may be made under Division 3 to address and remedy non-compliance with the Act. These administrative orders issued by the Executive Director may: direct action be taken or stopped; impose, rescind or amend terms and conditions; impose an administrative monetary penalty; or suspend or cancel any licence, permit or approval. Though rarely issued, compliance orders have been authorized under *The Gaming Control Act* since the late 1990s as a practical and effective method to remedy non-compliance issues. Compliance orders may be appealed to the LGA's board.
- 75. The maximum administrative monetary penalty is \$100,000 (section 131). This maintains the maximum administrative penalty under *The Gaming Control Act*, and increases the maximum administrative penalty under *The Liquor Control Act*, which was \$20,000.
- 76. The Act augments liquor inspectors' powers to order an emergency closure for up to 12 hours when they consider there is an immediate threat to patron safety have been maintained. This longstanding power is now strengthened by section 33(2), which requires licensees to take all reasonable steps to ensure the premises are vacated immediately. Note: The definition of "inspector" includes a member of a police service, which enables police officers to take action under the new legislation.
- 77. Restricted enforcement powers may now be granted to inspectors based on the Act's specific provisions, the inspector's territorial jurisdiction and the duration of the appointment. This will allow the Executive Director to appoint representatives from other agencies to enforce provisions of the Act, including liquor consumption in provincial parks during the camping season.



- 78. New provisions allow inspectors to receive investigative assistance from third party experts, (section 123(2)) and take samples and conduct tests (section 124(2)) to aid in an inspection or investigation.
- 79. Part 8 describes and details matters pertaining to evidence, offences and penalties under the Act. The sections in Part 8 bring consistency and equity to both liquor and gaming offences.
- 80. A prohibited place order must now be served on the owner and occupants of the place in question. Section 152 establishes the procedures for this service.
- 81. Section 152(3) clarifies timing and service for notices, orders and other documents made under the Act, to establish fair and reasonable timeframes for appeals and hearings.
- 82. The LGA is legislatively empowered to conduct research and provide policy advice to the government on matters pertaining to the regulation of liquor and gaming in Manitoba. For example, upon proclamation of the Act, and in keeping with its mandate to provide advice at the request of the minister, the LGA will conduct an empirical examination of the association between geographic access to alcohol sales and service and violence and crime. This work will:
  - review current research and academic literature nationally and internationally
  - assess the literature findings within the context of Manitoba's environment
  - identify practical regulatory actions and standards appropriate to Manitoba's communities and neighborhoods

#### **Municipalities**

- 83. Section 106(3) enshrines the longstanding practice that licenses can only be issued once the proposed premises comply with municipal zoning and that all required licences, permits and approvals have been obtained.
- 84. Section 27(2) updates language to clarify that licensee compliance with municipal by-laws continues to be a condition of a licence.
- 85. The dispute resolution mechanism outlined in sections 67 and 68 acknowledges municipalities' role in addressing and resolving citizen and neighbourhood concerns related to business operations. As such, municipalities may also make complaints and participate in hearings about noise, congestion and traffic. The LGA may seek relevant information from a municipality and invite a municipality to participate in mediation.
- 86. Local option provisions for liquor and gaming are now consistent (sections 159 and 160). Current municipal local option prohibitions or restrictions are transitioned and maintained.
- 87. Restrictions on Sunday hours have been eliminated. Municipalities may pass by-laws to restrict the sale and service of liquor on Sundays.



#### **Non-potable Intoxicating Substances**

- 88. Section 75(4) prohibits the use and possession of non-potable intoxicating substances as a beverage.
- 89. The sales prohibition for non-potable intoxicating substances has been moved from regulation into the Act (section 75(5)).

# **Regulation of Commercial and Charitable Gaming**

By far the majority of the new legislative provisions focus on the modernization of liquor regulation; changes to the regulatory framework for gaming clarified language and modernized descriptions of events and activities. It is noted that *The Gaming Control Act* was proclaimed in 1997, 40 years after *The Liquor Control Act*, and had been twice amended in 2005 and 2010 to respond to evolving regulatory needs. Further, *The Gaming Control Act* was drafted as enabling legislation while *The Liquor Control Act* was drafted as prescriptive legislation during Manitoba's post-prohibition period.

- 90. The minimum gross revenue reporting threshold for raffle events has been increased to \$10,000. By increasing the reporting threshold from \$5,000, the LGA has streamlined the application process and eliminated reporting requirements for smaller community fundraising activities.
- 91. To bring consistency to liquor and gaming regulation, all registrants and licence holders under *The Gaming Control Act* are now called licensees.
- 92. The term "gaming integrity" replaces the term "technical integrity" as a broader definition to ensure the honesty and integrity of gaming events and equipment.
- 93. To support responsible participation in gaming activities, patrons may now be asked to leave for their own protection. Section 95(3) authorizes Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries and other gaming operators to ask a person to leave or deny entry to a casino under certain circumstances including, intoxication, disorderly behavior and voluntary exclusion.
- 94. Minors are now prohibited by law (sections 97 to 100) from participating in commercial gaming, including VLTs, casinos, entertainment centers and lottery products. These prohibitions were previously set in policy. These sections lay the foundation for underage provisions, authorize entities to ask for identification to confirm age, and eject minors.
- 95. Unauthorized lottery schemes may not be conducted. Further, unauthorized lottery schemes must not be advertised or promoted as authorized. The *Criminal Code (Canada)* now prohibits this activity. These new provincial provisions create an offence under the new Act and create the option to proceed in a non-criminal manner.

#### **Accountability and Reporting**

As an independent regulatory body, the LGA requires a sound funding model to ensure stable operations. Expenses are incurred in administering all parts of the Act and regulations



including: licences, permits, inspections and compliance; social responsibility and research initiatives; and general administration costs.

While the MGCC was entirely self-funding, with operating revenue derived from licence and registration fees, MLCC Regulatory Services Division's expenses were covered in part by licence and permit fees, with the shortfall covered within MLCC's operating budget. A new funding model is mandated by section 13(1) of the Act, which allows the LGA to be funded by:

- fees received by the LGA under the Act (e.g. licence and permit fees)
- amounts appropriated by the Legislature for the LGA
- amounts that the LGA, with the approval of Treasury Board, directs Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries to pay to the LGA
- 96. The LGA is mandated to report on its operational and budget results via an annual report to the minister responsible for administration of the Act. This report must be prepared within six months of year end, include audited financial statements and narrative, and be tabled in the Legislative Assembly within 15 days after receiving it if the legislature is sitting, or within 15 days after the next sitting begins.
- 97. Accountability for responsible and transparent financial stewardship will continue under the LGA through the management of financial and capital assets and resources and in keeping with high standards of financial recordkeeping and controls based on the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards. The Office of the Auditor General of Manitoba will conduct the LGA's annual financial audit (section 20).

# About the LGA and Our Approach to Regulation

- 98. The LGA is neither pro- nor anti-liquor or gaming. We strive to be neutral about the products and services we regulate. We seek to provide a high standard of service through a balanced and independent approach grounded in risk-based assessment practices for applications, authorization, monitoring and compliance responsibilities.
- 99. Manitobans expect the LGA to regulate liquor and gaming products and services in the public interest. Public consultations in 2012 showed that citizens and businesses want a balanced and modern regulatory framework that responds to consumers, encourages individual responsibility, and supports neighbourhood safety.
- 100. The LGA established a standing Hospitality Industry Advisory Committee with representation from the Manitoba Hotel Association, Manitoba Restaurant and Foodservices Association and Restaurants Canada to open communication and enable ongoing consultation and input. In addition to consultative input provided to date, during the coming year this committee will provide input on the development of a new licence fee structure and the new regulatory framework.

