BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Ministry of Small Business, Technology, and Economic Development

Simplifying business licensing – Mobile Business Licence

What is the Mobile Business Licence?

The Mobile Business Licence allows mobile businesses (e.g. contractors and caterers) to operate across participating local governments.

Created in partnership with local governments, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, and the Province of British Columbia, the Mobile Business Licence streamlines and simplifies the licensing process, making it easier to do business in British Columbia.

How does the Mobile Business Licence work?

Under the Okanagan-Similkameen model, mobile business may purchase a Mobile Business Licence from their home local government for $150 in addition to their basic business licence. This allows the mobile businesses to work in all 19 participating local governments. Effective January 1, 2009, the Okanagan-Similkameen Mobile Business Licence was renamed the Inter-Community Business Licence. The Province continues to work with other local governments on adopting similar Mobile Business Licences.

Local governments retain all revenue generated by the sale of Mobile Business Licences and businesses remain responsible for complying with the bylaws of each local government in which they operate.

What are the benefits of a Mobile Business Licence?

- **For Local Governments:** better licensing compliance and a reduction in business licence application processing.
- **For Businesses:** saving time and money by purchasing one Mobile Business Licence instead of multiple non-resident permits.
- **For Residents:** greater choice in service providers.

How successful was the pilot program?

The pilot was very successful with 2,049 Mobile Business Licences sold over 2008. Reviews of the pilot indicate that the Mobile Business Licence has made it easier to do business by reducing red tape, without creating a burden on local governments. The project saw an overall increase in licencing revenue from the Mobile Business Licence. The local governments also adopted the Mobile Business Licence as a permanent licence (renamed the Inter-Community Business Licence, effective January 1, 2009) and have invited other local governments to participate. Sicamous was the first to join in January, 2009, and the Regional District of Central Okanagan joined in effective January, 2010.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Can the Okanagan-Similkameen model be tailored to meet the needs of any local government?

Yes. The model in place for the Okanagan-Similkameen provides a good starting point for other agreements and may be tailored to address such things as the cost for the Mobile Business Licence, how revenue will be handled, licence eligibility and conditions.

Is there a cost to local governments?

Each local government is responsible for the administrative costs of the Mobile Business Licence and retains revenues from Mobile Business Licences sold. The Province does not share in the revenue raised by the Mobile Business Licence.

What is the role of Local Governments in the Mobile Business Licence?

As the Mobile Business Licence is a collaborative agreement, local governments must agree on partners and other specifics of the Mobile Business Licence. Local governments continue to have full jurisdiction over business licensing within their borders.

What is the role of the Province in the Mobile Business Licence?

The Province is partnering with local governments and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to expand existing inter-municipal licensing agreements and to develop and implement new Mobile Business Licence agreements. As these are inter-municipal agreements, the Province plays a supporting role, offering assistance with co-ordination, analysis of options, and IT support.

How do I get more information on the Mobile Business Licence?

For more information, please contact:

Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development
Phone: 250 387-4699
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www.resourcecentre.gov.bc.ca/mbl.htm

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