

**DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER  
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

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October 10, 2025

The Honourable Spencer Chandra Herbert  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
923 Denman Street  
Vancouver, BC V6G 2L9

Dear Minister Chandra Herbert,

**Re: BCGEU STRIKE – Addressing Damage to Member Operations**

On behalf of the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (Downtown Van), I am writing to express our deep concern regarding the ongoing BCGEU strike and its severe impacts on local hospitality businesses, including restaurants, bars, and entertainment venues throughout downtown Vancouver.

As an organization representing over 8,000 businesses employing more than 130,000 workers in the downtown core, we are closely monitoring the escalating challenges our members face due to disruptions in liquor distribution and licensing services. The strike has created significant operational and financial strain across the hospitality sector, forcing many establishments to consider difficult decisions due to depleted inventory and declining sales. Without some kind of change or relief, Downtown Van and peer organizations foresee staff layoffs, reduced hours, and more cancelled events in an already-struggling sector.

Compounding these challenges, a backlog in new liquor license approvals is preventing new businesses from opening — some of which had planned to launch ahead of major upcoming events, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Members have expressed specific concerns about access to product categories like spirits and other liquors. Current liquor order delays threaten to severely impact inventory during the Halloween and Christmas seasons, which are critical opportunities for small businesses to generate revenue.

Given the urgency of this situation, we respectfully urge the provincial government to expedite a solution to mitigate the potentially irreparable damage this disruption will cause to small and independent hospitality businesses. Specifically, we ask that government consider temporary exemptions that allow affected establishments to purchase directly from manufacturers or other alternative sources until regular operations can resume. This is especially true for distilleries and product categories that operate under more stringent distribution guidelines.

Downtown Vancouver's restaurants, bars, and hospitality businesses are vital to the city's economic and cultural fabric. Without timely intervention and flexibility, many risk significant financial loss and long-term instability. We appreciate your leadership and commitment to supporting small businesses and local workers and urge swift action to ensure our hospitality sector can continue to operate and thrive during this critical period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Talbot".

Jane Talbot  
President & CEO  
Downtown Van