

# Single Business Licence

## The Opportunity

The Government of British Columbia is committed to making our Province the most small business friendly jurisdiction in Canada. In support of this goal, at the UBCM Annual Convention in October 2006, Premier Gordon Campbell encouraged local governments to develop a Single Business Licence framework. When completed, British Columbia will be the first province in Canada where businesses can operate freely across the province.

The Ministry of Small Business and Revenue is leading the Single Business Licence initiative. The Ministry is working in partnership with UBCM, the Ministry of Community Services, the Ministry of Finance, and key stakeholders to introduce a Single Business Licence in British Columbia.

## Goals

Goals of the Single Business Licence include:

- reducing the administrative burden on small business;
- improving information flow between municipalities and their ability to monitor compliance;
- increasing choice of contractors and service providers for residents;
- making it easier for businesses to operate across municipalities; and
- making it easier for businesses to comply with municipal business licence bylaws.

Based on feedback and input from municipalities during consultations and research, a Draft Model for the Single Business Licence has been developed.

## Okanagan- Similkameen Pilot

Starting in January 2008 municipalities in the Okanagan and Similkameen regions will participate in a Pilot of the Draft Model for mobile businesses. Under the Pilot, eligible mobile businesses have the option to upgrade to the Mobile Business Licence, allowing them to work in all participating communities (see reverse for more information).

## Next Steps

Over the next year, regular progress updates on the Okanagan and Similkameen Mobile Business Licence Pilot Project will be provided on the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue website. Consultations with business and municipal leaders across British Columbia will also continue.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Where will my Mobile Business Licence be valid?

- A Mobile Business Licence is valid in each of the following Okanagan and Similkameen communities:

Armstrong	Coldstream	Enderby	Kelowna
Keremeos	Lake Country	Lumby	Oliver
Osoyos	Peachland	Penticton	Princeton
Salmon Arm	Spallumcheen	Summerland	Vernon

### Who is eligible for a Mobile Business Licence?

- Eligibility is limited to any business that performs a service in more than one of the participating municipalities without an associated storefront, and who provides the service by moving from client to client. This includes contractors of all types (eg: trades people, landscaping services, janitorial services, pest control, etc), as well as other service providers (eg: massage therapist, mobile mechanic, photographer, mobile hair dresser/barber).
- Ineligible mobile businesses are those selling goods or services to clients from the same location (eg: fruit stands/trucks, mobile stores, flea markets, carnivals, trade shows), and vehicles for hire, escort agencies, and body rub services.

### Where can I apply?

- Applications will be submitted to the municipal office where your business is presently located and licensed.

### What is the cost of a Mobile Business Licence?

- The cost of a Mobile Business Licence is \$150.

### How long is a Mobile Business Licence valid?

- A Mobile Business Licence is valid for the same time as your municipal business licence.

### What if I already have a valid North Okanagan Intermunicipal Business Licence?

- If you currently have a North Okanagan Intermunicipal Business Licence it will be honoured as a Mobile Business Licence in all Pilot communities. Upon renewal, businesses will have the option to renew as a Mobile Business Licence under the Pilot Project.

### Will I need any other licences?

- Mobile businesses will still need to get a municipal business licence from their home municipality and a licence for each premises they have.

## For more information, please contact:

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