

## Interim Report on Survey of Stores

Executive Summary of findings to date

1624 Stores on list

As of Mar 13, 260 contacts voice in-person or message and email

Replies to date 83 or 32%

Against Liquor on Grocery Shelves 82

For Liquor on Grocery Shelves 1

Against enforced installation of ID Scanning 78

In favour of installation of ID Scanning 5

Stating February 7, 2024, I was asked to contact by phone all stores in the province regarding the threat of 2 substantial changes to the retail liquor landscape.

This is major undertaking and required some planning even to get started. As a start I downloaded and sorted the D licensed providers from the AGLC listing.

All business that sells liquor directly to the public are licensed as D including Hotels.

Delivery Services, General Merchandise Liquor Stores, Producers with a retail store.

Convenience stores must have restaurant MA licensing.

As we only have members who are D licensed as liquor stores, I narrowed my list to that group which is 1624 stores.


Within that group are numerous corporate stores with a head office and I decided to not call all the branches but instead email the headquarters if I could find an address.

I further narrowed to list to not calling our existing members as we were actively emailing them on the subjects in question.

Finally, I decided to focus outside Edmonton and Calgary thus reaching a most vulnerable group of businesses and involve them the survey and encourage them to get active with MLAs. I began alphabetically and have reached the H's at this writing.

As I started, I discovered very quickly that owners of stores "hide" routinely from solicitations and/or the listed phone number is a personal cell phone usually not answered without a message being left. I also discovered that many decision makers were away and not back for x number of days. Messages to call were left at a rate of 60% of phone calls. I have received replies to emails as much as 10 days after sending it

Working 1 hour after 10 am and 1 to 3 hours after 1:30 most days depending on renewals and new member and partner requirements, I was able to average 5 to 8 calls per hour as I did want to pass on the message even if I did not get a reply. It seemed a total loss if I did not at least do that. Hence contacts took a few minutes longer Sadly only 8 messages have been returned.



At one point, I decided to try and find email addresses and found that with some digging I could get an email for 70 to 80 percent of the stores. It takes a little longer to find but I am getting replies from week old emails as well as several instant replies at a rate far better than phone. For those with no easily determined email, I have noted and plan to phone.

#### Results to date

260 contacts voice or email from A to H by community.

82 opposed to liquor of any kind on Grocery store shelves

1 slightly opposed but has a grocery beside a liquor store in a community of 100 and would love to have one door and one staff group.

78 opposed to forced id scanning entrances, with several in favour if pricing were subsidized or of course free.

5 in favour of id scanning even with the costs seeing it as anti-theft deterrent.

Regardless of the result of liquor on grocery shelves issue, I would like to continue the research to continue with the Id scanning survey and to uncover as many email addresses as possible. While I did not “sell” memberships as part of this contact, I can sell the long-standing issue of what is advocating on stores behalf. They were given input even without membership and most thanked me for the inclusion in the process.

#### Some selected quotes from respondents:

“We are against these proposals!! Thank you. HansDown Liquor”


“Not a great idea BC has frozen liquor licenses why is Alberta trying to put people out of business “

“We vote no also. Liquor thefts are so outrageous that grocery stores wouldn't stand a chance. Or, all police attention and protection would go to the grocery and convenience stores and liquor stores would be ignored even more. It would put liquor stores (small businesses) out of business and lose more local jobs. On top of this, these new sellers would not have to spend 7-15 thousand on a new scanning system.”

“Hello I am apposed to what the government wants to implement. I am a small buisness which will not survive. 5 o'clock somewhere!! Clive ab Theresa Wieler”

“Are they stupid” verbally from store in Airdrie

“For Issue 1. I don't recommend having liquor on grocery shelves. As grocery stores would be carrying liquor products as well including convenience stores that will put a major impact on small businesses like my store and force them to close due to poor sales. As many customers would just be buying it from grocery stores I would be more convenient for them and most likely would be



more cheaper for them as well. As a small business I already have to face competition from big corporations such as Ace liquor and liquor Depot.

Issue 2. I do support the idea of having ID scanning equipment for all stores. As that would be a great way to prevent shoplifting and robberies from all liquor retailers. It would be a decent investment at the beginning however it would save money down the line as it would prevent shoplifting and promote employee safety.

Thank you,

Reema Bhagat “

Howard Riddel