



Wanna *pay more* for your beer?

You'll have to if the government closes B.C. Liquor Stores.

The provincial government plans to close B.C. Liquor Stores over the next two years. They want to force you to buy beer and other alcohol from private for-profit companies.

If you've ever been in a private beer and wine store, you'll already know that they charge more for everything. And the government has even said that new private stores *will not be allowed* to sell for less than the existing B.C. Liquor Stores.

Even in Alberta, where workers in private liquor stores are paid as little as \$5.90 an hour, prices are often higher. *(See over for examples.)*

Less selection. Higher prices. Who benefits from that?

B.C. Liquor Stores are well worth keeping!

Price comparison, July 2002

Many popular products are more expensive in Alberta's private liquor stores, even though liquor taxes are lower and the minimum wage is just \$5.90 in that province. Very high-end products are cheaper.

	Alberta	BCLDB
Canadian Club Rye	\$22.99 to \$23.99	\$20.95
Smirnoff Vodka	\$22.45 to \$24.99	\$20.45
Bacardi White Rum	\$22.45 to \$24.99	\$20.45
Kahlua	\$27.39 to \$28.99	\$26.45
Kokanee (12 pack)	\$18.30 to \$18.69	\$17.55
Budweiser (12 pack)	\$19.19	\$17.55
John Labatt Classic	\$19.60	\$17.95
Chivas Regal scotch	\$38.49	\$43.95
Glenlivet 18 year scotch	\$83.95	\$89.95

Alberta prices are from *Alberta Spirits, Canmore; Liquor Store #1, NW Calgary; Montgomery #1, NW Calgary; and the Liquor Barn, NW Calgary*. B.C. beer prices include container deposit.

Impaired driving rates

Criminal Code impaired driving offences per 100,000 population, 2001

Canada	291.0
British Columbia	299.2
Alberta	475.0

Source: *Statistics Canada, CANSIM II, table 252-0013, July 12, 2002*

Public safety

In 2000, 1,689 deaths were directly or indirectly related to alcohol.

— *Annual Report of the B.C. Vital Statistics Agency, released July 20, 2001*

"(Alberta's) impaired driving rates are almost double those of B.C."

— *James Chase, Executive Director, B.C. and Yukon Hotel Association, Kamloops Daily News, April 19, 2002*

Who will profit?

"Booze firms eye B.C. – Alberta's liquor chains plan to open stores in B.C. with province's privatization push."

— *Aug. 6, 2002, Business in Vancouver*

"The bottom line is that liquor privatization in Alberta has led to higher consumer prices, more stores (but less genuine selection), marginalized workers, a host of social problems, and (in real terms) decreasing government revenues.

"All in all, given Alberta's experience in privatizing liquor, British Columbians might want to give the idea some sober second thought."

— *Trevor Harrison, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Lethbridge and Research Director of the Parkland Institute, Winnipeg Free Press, Aug. 4, 2002*

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B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch

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