



City One Stop Licence Shop

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — To reduce red tape for business owners by saving them time and money, City Council has adopted the Vancouver Island Inter-Community Business Licence (ICBL). The license is available for mobile businesses providing services across various communities, by offering a single license that covers them all.

An ICBL license is an expansion of the existing Inter-Municipal Licence and is available for businesses who are mobile and provide services in more than one community. The new program allows eligible mobile businesses to obtain one licence to operate in all participating local governments on Vancouver Island. Participating local governments currently include Duncan, Esquimalt, Ladysmith, Lake Cowichan, Nanaimo, North Cowichan, Parksville, and Sooke.

It is important to note that a business holding an ICBL must follow the bylaws and regulations of each community in which they are providing services. These businesses are permitted to have one storefront or physical location in a community, but the nature of their work takes them across multiple municipal boundaries from where their business resides. This includes trades, sales, cleaning services, or other similar mobile businesses.

The City of Victoria is one of up to 24 municipalities considering partnering in the ICBL and the program will be updated as new local governments adopt the framework. The program is being led by the Provincial Government, with the eventual goal of having all 13 municipalities in the CRD adopt the license. Eligible mobile businesses are not required to be located within a participating local government, therefore, Esquimalt and Songhees Nation businesses, and other non-participating communities are able to benefit from obtaining this licence. Businesses that are located within a participating community are required to obtain their license there.

The new ICBL fee is set at \$170 in order to maintain existing revenues, offset any anticipated administrative costs, and promote consistency across participating communities. The ICBL is offered through Business Licensing and more information is available at the Business Hub at City Hall.

For more information visit: Victoria.ca/businesslicences

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