

Backgrounder

Where are the 34 SLGA liquor stores located?

These 34 SLGA stores are located in 24 communities throughout the province:

Assiniboia	Humboldt	North Battleford
Biggar	La Loche	Prince Albert (2)
Buffalo Narrows	La Ronge	Regina (6)
Carlyle	Meadow Lake	Saskatoon (5)
Creighton	Melfort	Swift Current
Esterhazy	Moose Jaw	Watrous
Estevan	Moosomin	Weyburn
Fort Qu'Appelle	Nipawin	Yorkton

When will the stores close their doors?

All stores will cease operations no later than March 31, 2023. Actual dates will vary depending on factors like lease dates, time required to decommission locations (larger stores will take longer than smaller stores), etc.

How many liquor retailers are there in Saskatchewan? Will any of these communities be without retail liquor service during this transition process?

There are approximately 600 liquor retailers operating in Saskatchewan (including the 34 SLGA stores). All the communities where SLGA stores are closing have at least one other liquor retailer currently operating (where customers can purchase alcohol for take home consumption).

What happens to the SLGA employees at these stores?

SLGA will negotiate a workforce adjustment plan with SGEU for employees affected by the closures. Generally speaking, employees will be eligible for severance and other transitional supports (will vary depending on position, years of service, etc).

What happens to the liquor store permits associated with the 34 stores that are closing?

The retail permits associated with the stores will be sold through a public online auction in early 2023. More details will be available later this year.

Why use an auction process?

The online auction format is an objective method to determine a purchaser, giving interested individuals and businesses the ability to follow and participate in the bid process in real time. Using online auctions is not new – this format has been used to sell permits previously. The successful bidder must still apply and qualify to hold a commercial liquor permit.

How much have retail liquor permits sold for previously?

The value of the permits will depend on the interest by individuals/businesses in each community. Retailers who sell their permits (through auctions or private transactions) are not required to disclose the selling price (it is considered third party commercial information).

When will there be more information about the auction process?

The auction process will begin in 2023. More information will be made available later this year.

What happens to the physical liquor store buildings when these stores close permanently?

SLGA owns 19 of the properties in which these liquor stores are located. The vacant buildings will be made available for sale in a separate process. (The empty physical buildings do not include a liquor permit).

Will SLGA liquor stores operate as normal until their closure date (hours, inventory, etc.)?

Stores are expected to continue to operate as usual, although there may be some changes to operations in the new year as operations wind down (ex. not replenishing slower moving products, hours of operation). SLGA Retail will immediately cease selling gift cards and accepting special orders. Existing gift cards will be valid until the final store closes next spring. Customers looking to place special orders can do so with other liquor retailers.