



November 25, 2025

Municipality of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

VIA EMAIL

Re: Updated Patio Guidelines & Staff Recommendations

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of [ABLE BC](#), I am writing to express our general support for City staff's recommendations in today's report, and to share some additional comments and suggestions to capitalize on upcoming major events.

ABLE BC represents the interests of liquor hospitality establishments, private liquor & cannabis stores in BC. As such, we, along with other member-based organizations, have been closely consulted throughout the review of the patio program, requesting streamlined business permitting and licensing processes, the freezing or reduction of fees, and other changes that result in a more business friendly and vibrant city.

We are encouraged to see the introduction of expanded design options, weather protection features, and clearer accessibility requirements, along with the elimination of application fees for storefront furniture (formerly "small patios". These changes respond directly to industry feedback and reflect the need for patios that can function effectively in Vancouver's climate. We urge the City of Vancouver to consider additional relaxations and flexibility around simple structures or four-season improvements, particularly where they support accessibility, street-side or laneway vibrancy, and year-round economic resilience.

At the same time, it is essential that the City provides clear, timely guidance to all interested businesses as it implements these updates. Businesses require early, predictable direction on permitted structures, accessibility requirements, inspection processes, and the application period. We request Council to direct staff to expedite approvals, publish detailed implementation guidance as soon as possible, and ensure businesses are informed of next steps, well ahead of the 2026 patio season. It would be ideal if the City could repeat last year's proactive batch processing with eligible businesses.

Given the scale of international visitation Vancouver anticipates in spring and summer of 2026, these updates must be enacted and applications processed as soon as possible.



Patio readiness will play a major role in supporting tourism capacity, improving the visitor experience, and ensuring downtown restaurants and bars are able to meet increased demand and experience positive economic impacts.

This proposal aligns with the positions of Downtown Van, the members and industry leaders at Hospitality Vancouver Association, and the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association. We collectively see it as a necessary adjustment to keep the city competitive.

We encourage Council to support the recommendations in this report, recognizing its potential to stimulate business recovery, drive tourism, and create a more vibrant streetscape. We look forward to continuing to work with the City to support a vibrant, resilient downtown for businesses, workers, and visitors alike.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss further, I would be happy to meet with you. You may also reach us directly at bo@ablebc.ca.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Bo Chen
Executive Director
ABLE BC
1050 W Pender St #970, Vancouver, BC V6E 3T4