

MEMORANDUM TO: Heads of Council - Ontario Municipalities

DATE: January 13, 2026

FROM: Tom McKinlay,
Assistant Deputy Attorney General

RE: Updates to “Tailgate Event” Permits under the *Liquor
Licence and Control Act, 2019*

Effective April 30, 2026, [amendments to O. Reg. 747/21](#) under the *Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019* (LLCA) will expand eligibility for tailgate event permits to include events that have been municipally-designated as cultural or community events. “Tailgate events” will also be renamed “bring-your-own events”. Tailgate events held in connection with and in proximity to professional, semi-professional or post-secondary sporting events will continue to be eligible events under the bring-your-own permit. All bring-your-own permit events are to remain public outdoor events.

As of April 30, 2026, organizations and individuals will be able to apply to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), which administers and regulates liquor licences and permits in the province, for permits to host “bring-your-own events”.

The bring-your-own permit is for outdoor public events and can be either “Sale” or “No-Sale” depending on whether alcohol will be sold and served or just served at the event. Attendees aged 19 or older are allowed to bring and consume their own alcohol at all bring-your-own events.

This initiative is intended to benefit businesses, organizations, and local tourism by making public events more accessible and encouraging greater community participation. These amendments support Ontario’s ongoing efforts to modernize the legislative and regulatory framework for alcohol, promoting safe and socially responsible recreational opportunities.

As municipalities are best positioned to understand local needs and determine how to classify community or cultural events, applicants for a bring-your-own event permit for a cultural or community event must obtain a letter or resolution from the municipality in which the event will take place designating the event as a “cultural, or community event” before [submitting their application to the AGCO](#).

Examples of outdoor community or cultural events may include, but are not limited to:

- outdoor movie screenings,
- street markets,
- arts and crafts shows,
- free outdoor concerts,
- fairs,
- neighbourhood sports tournaments,
- public performances (i.e. theatre),
- farmers markets, and
- international or religious festivals.

If a municipality does not designate an event as a community or cultural event, the AGCO cannot issue a bring-your-own event permit. The designation of an event as “community” or “cultural” is at the municipality’s discretion, there is no obligation to make such a designation.

Consistent with other types of outdoor events, event organizers must also provide written notice 30 days before the event to the municipal clerk’s department, and police, fire and public health departments when expecting fewer than 5,000 people per day and 60 days prior to the event if expecting more than 5,000 people.

Events held on municipal property (e.g., city parks) remain subject to applicable municipal approvals and alcohol policies, these changes are not intended to alter those requirements.

The AGCO will continue to ensure compliance with the LLCA, its regulations, and the AGCO Registrar’s Standards.

If you have any questions about these regulatory changes please contact Wendy Chen, Director, Agency and Tribunal Relations Branch at Wendy.Chen@ontario.ca. If you have any questions about AGCO permits and the application process, please contact Ruxandra Ilicea, Senior Eligibility Officer at Ruxandra.Ilicea@agco.ca.

Yours truly,



Tom McKinlay
Assistant Deputy Attorney General

c.c. Wendy Chen, Director, Agency and Tribunal Relations Branch
Ben Valido, Chief Strategy Officer
Ruxandra Ilicea, Senior Eligibility Officer