



Ban Israeli Wine

MLA Toolkit

BAN ISRAELI WINE: MLA Meeting Toolkit

Preparing to meet with your MLA:

- Consider demographics and community relationships – are you a member of a local organization or demographic group that your MLA is particularly attuned to (ex: youth)? They may prioritize your request for a meeting if you say this upfront.
- Use the BC Legislative Assembly's Parliamentary Calendar <https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/parliamentary-calendar> to find out when your MLA will be in your constituency.
- Find out as much as you can about your MLA's stance on Palestinian liberation and their track record to date. Follow up by email before your meeting and consider sending any materials you want to discuss with them.

During your meeting:

- Be polite and personable with staff. Ask for their business cards and/or contact information.
- While meeting with your MLA, avoid saying "I voted for you," as politicians hear this all the time. If you have a connection to their campaign base (for example, if you have volunteered for the BC NDP or have been a member of a local riding association), say that instead.
- Print or email the briefing note and bring it to the meeting. Can be used to guide the discussion and ground the ask.
- Keep a constructive approach and focus on opening dialogue.
- **Take notes** and ask your MLA how best to **follow up** with them. Consider asking for a photo and posting about your meeting on social media, to add a layer of public accountability.

Talking points and Resources:

- Ban Israeli Wine Action Network Letter: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/ban-israeli-wine>
- International Law:
 - The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled in January and March 2024 that Israel was plausibly committing genocide in Gaza.
 - <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/203454>
 - <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/203847>
- Canada is obligated not to aid or assist violations of the Geneva Conventions (including occupation) and the Genocide Convention.
- BC's double standards:
 - The provincial government immediately removed and halted imports of Russian alcohol when Russia invaded Ukraine in Feb 2022. Federal sanctions on Russian alcohol came into effect 84 days after BC's removal.
 - The provincial government directed the BC Liquor Distribution branch (LDB) to pull liquor from US Republican red states on March 3, 2025.
- BC has **full power over liquor imports** and does not need federal action or approval to ban Israeli wine.

Briefing Note

To: [Insert Elected official]
From: [Insert Your Name/Organization]
[Email/contact info]
Date: [Insert Date]

Subject: Ban Israeli Wines in Alignment with Human Rights and International Law

Issue

The British Columbia (B.C.) Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) currently imports and sells seven Israeli wines, including four produced in the occupied Golan Heights and three in illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. This practice raises urgent concerns given the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling on the plausibility of genocide in Gaza and numerous United Nations reports on systemic violence, occupation, apartheid, and now, genocide.

As a province that has made commitments to reconciliation, anti-racism, and gender justice, B.C. must ensure its trade policies align with international human rights law and do not contribute to violence, forced displacement, or the erosion of Indigenous rights – whether at home or abroad – especially where a people's self-determination and very existence are at stake.

Given B.C.'s history of trade restrictions on ethical and political grounds, such as the ban on Russian alcohol (2022) and United States (U.S.) red-state liquor (2025), the province has both the authority and responsibility to take similar action against Israeli wines.

Background

International Law Obligations

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled in [January](#) and [March 2024](#) that Israel was plausibly committing genocide in Gaza. This ruling constitutes an **urgent directive for all states to ensure they are not complicit** in aiding or assisting genocidal acts.
- In July 2024, the ICJ [ruled](#) that Israeli settlements violate the Fourth Geneva Convention. **This convention prohibits economic support of illegal occupation.**
- On March 13, 2025, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel released a report entitled "[More than a human care bear](#)" detailing Israel's systematic use of sexual, reproductive, and gender-based violence since October 7, 2023 in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territory. The report details crimes that constitute genocidal acts.
- On June 16, 2025, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 published a report entitled "[From economy of occupation to economy of genocide](#)" detailing how corporate actors have not only contributed to the destruction of Palestinian life, they aid in the construction of the colonies that replace it. Agribusiness, including wineries, has thrived on Israel-led extractivism and land-grabbing, while erasing Palestinian food systems and accelerating displacement.



- Under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (Article 27), Canada, including its provinces, cannot use domestic jurisdiction as an excuse to violate international law.

Precedent for Action

In 2022, B.C. banned Russian liquor following the invasion of Ukraine 84 days before a federal sanction. In 2025, the province banned alcohol from Republican-led U.S. states in response to trade disputes. The government has demonstrated its ability to restrict liquor sales based on ethical and political considerations.

The Ban Israeli Wine campaign is not new. Community groups have been pressuring the province to boycott Israeli wine since 2008. Further, this campaign carries forward the struggle of labour and the community in the 1980s to end economic complicity in apartheid South Africa by removing South African alcohol from the LDB.

Palestinians can't wait any longer.

Discussion

No discussion of human rights is complete without addressing Israel's decades-long impunity for its violations against Palestinians. The world must act to end complicity in illegal occupation, apartheid and now, genocide and to restore some faith in international law.

The LDB operates under provincial control, giving B.C. full discretion over which products it stocks. **Continuing to sell Israeli wines puts the province at risk of legal liability and economic complicity.** British Columbians should not be on the hook for policies that contradict Canada's treaty obligations.

B.C. took swift action against Russia and U.S. red-state liquor—it must apply the same standard here. Failing to do so exposes a racist double standard. As a province committed to reconciliation, anti-racism, and gender justice, B.C. must take a principled stance: justice and human rights must apply to everyone, not just when politically convenient.

Recommended Actions [Pick One Set of Recommendations – For NDP MLAs]

- Direct the Liquor Distribution Branch to stop the import and sale of all Israeli wines.
- Publicly announce the directive and reiterate B.C.'s commitment to ethical trade policies, international law, and human rights.
- Request a legal opinion from the Attorney General on B.C.'s obligations under international law regarding the sale of settlement goods.

Recommended Actions [Pick One Set of Recommendations – For Green MLAs]

- Publicly endorse the campaign and amplify calls to action.
- Raise this issue in the Legislature during Question Period or appropriate committees.

