

The BC Greens believe that small breweries and cideries are an important part of what makes BC communities thrive. These locally owned businesses create jobs, support farmers and give people places to gather in communities across our province.

The BC Greens vision for BC's economy is focused on helping small businesses succeed, creating more value from what we produce here, and keeping more of that wealth circulating in communities across BC. Craft breweries and cideries are great examples of what this can look like, with locally rooted businesses turning ingredients into products people love, creating jobs, and contributing to the character of our communities.

BC has become a leading destination for craft beer and cider. More than 200 craft breweries support over 4,500 jobs¹ across 70 communities, while approximately 85 cider producers² turn BC-grown fruit into finished products, creating markets for local farmers.³ These businesses bring people together, attract visitors and support regional economies. But they are facing growing challenges. Rising costs have contributed to at least 20 craft brewery closures in 2025 alone, while small cideries struggle to reach customers through BC Liquor Stores, where locally made craft cider has little distinction from mass-produced beverages.

There are direct solutions to help these industries that the Greens would support in government. BC's beer markup system penalizes small breweries as they grow, while giving the largest multinational beer companies more than \$9 million in annual rebates. The BC Craft Brewers Guild has proposed reforms that would save craft breweries an estimated \$16.3 million annually without reducing provincial revenues. We can also give BC's cider makers better access to retail shelves and opportunities to showcase their products. These changes can be made while protecting our publicly owned liquor distribution system and the good union jobs and public revenues it supports.

The BC Greens will:

- Implement the BC Craft Brewers Guild's proposed revenue-neutral beer markup reforms, lowering rates for small breweries, introducing more gradual increases as they grow, and raising rates for the largest producers. The Guild estimates its proposal would save BC craft breweries \$16.3 million annually to reinvest in their businesses and employees.
- Review provincial liquor markup rates for cider to ensure fair treatment of small producers and continued support for cider made from BC grown fruit. Additionally, improve access to BC Liquor Stores by establishing dedicated craft cider sections to be featured alongside craft beer.

¹ BC Craft Brewers Guild. [BC Craft Brewers Guild Launches 'Protect BC Craft Beer' Campaign to Fight Tax Inequity](#). (2025)

² The Georgia Straight. [B.C.'s Cider Makers Are Happy Staying Small](#). (2025)

³ BC Chamber of Commerce. [Protecting B.C.'s Craft Brewing Industry: The Case for Fair Tax Reform](#). (2026)