



Webinar series: Alcohol policy in Canadian municipalities
Séries de webinaires : Politique sur l'alcool dans les municipalités canadiennes

Webinar 1: September 3, 2025

Introduction to Municipal Alcohol Policy

Introduction à la politique municipale sur l'alcool



**University
of Victoria**

Canadian Institute
for Substance
Use Research

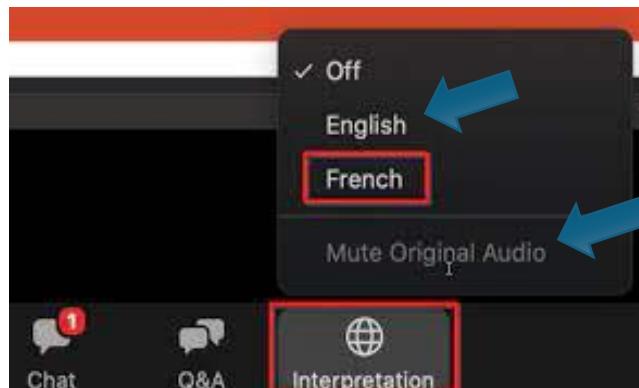
Institut canadien
de recherche sur
l'usage de substances

CA^xPE
CANADIAN ALCOHOL
POLICY EVALUATION

Interprétation simultanée

Veuillez noter que l'événement sera en anglais / This event will be in English.

Une interprétation simultanée en français est offerte / Simultaneous French interpretation is available.



Land acknowledgement



As we gather today, we want to acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional and ancestral territories of many Indigenous Nations across Turtle Island. We recognize the enduring presence, resilience, and sovereignty of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial.

We honor the diverse Indigenous Peoples and cultures across what is now called Canada, and we affirm our collective responsibility to learn about the histories of the lands we live and work on and to commit to ongoing reconciliation and respectful relationships.

We offer this land acknowledgement as just one step (of many) toward understanding, respect, learning, unlearning and healing on the path to reconciliation and reconcili-Action.

Adapted from Tamarack Institute

Acknowledgment of funding and support



This webinar series is an initiative of the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR) and the Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation Community of Practice (CAPE CoP) and is supported in part by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Cette initiative de l’Institut canadien de recherche sur l’usage de substances (CISUR) et de la Communauté de pratique pour l’évaluation des politiques canadiennes en matière d’alcool (CdP de CAPE) est soutenue en partie par le Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines.

The views and opinions expressed as part of this presentation are those of the presenters and do not necessarily represent those of our funders or other organizations acknowledged.

Why this webinar series?



We heard that people want to:

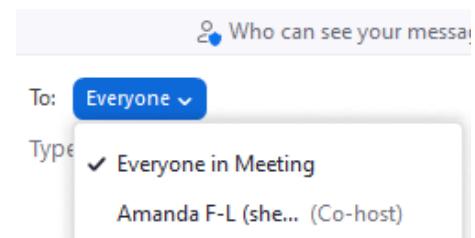
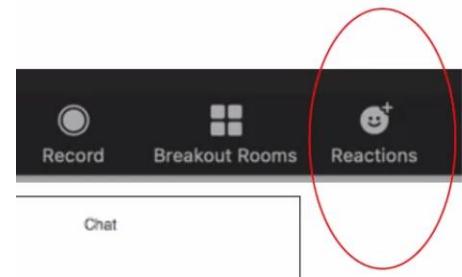
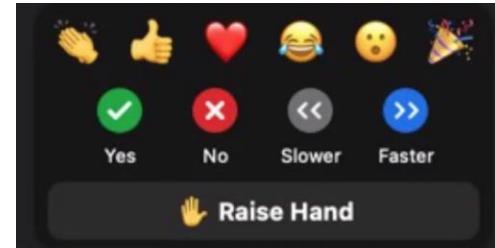
- Learn about the legal framework for alcohol policies, research evidence, guidance and resources for the diverse municipal contexts across Canada.
- Hear from councilors and practitioners across Canada about alcohol policy initiatives in their communities (large, small, urban, rural, or remote): what works well, challenges faced, and local-level impacts.
- Connect with people across Canada who share an interest in alcohol policy at municipal, local government and/or community levels.
- Help shape research priorities that can support alcohol policy at municipal, local government and/or community levels.

Today's session

- This webinar includes two presentations with Q&A, 90mins total.
- The presentation components will be recorded, not the Q&A.
Links to the recording and presentation slides will be sent via email.
- We invite your feedback about today's session.
A survey link will be shared at the end of the webinar and via email.
- To receive persons with lived/living experience honorariums, please email
capecopcoord@uvic.ca
- **Webinar 2: A Legal Framework for Developing a Municipal Alcohol Policy -**
Thu, Sep 11

Q&A format

- Use the Q&A tool to submit a question at any time. You can choose to submit anonymously.
- ‘raise hand’ during Q&A segment. The moderator may ask you to unmute to pose your question.
- Technical difficulties?
Please message us in the chat or ‘Ask for Help’



Presenters

Ashley Wettlaufer

Research Methods Specialist, Institute for Mental Health Policy Research (IMHPR), Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

Lorelee Marin

Health Promotion Facilitator, Mental Health & Addiction, Recovery Alberta; Retired Councillor, City of Lloydminster

Presentation Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe alcohol consumption, revenue, costs and harms in Canada.
2. Provide rationales for population-level alcohol policy approaches.
3. Describe local-level policies and strategies across Canada that have effectively balanced public safety concerns with community needs.
4. Identify resources and tools available to help guide alcohol policy development and advocacy.

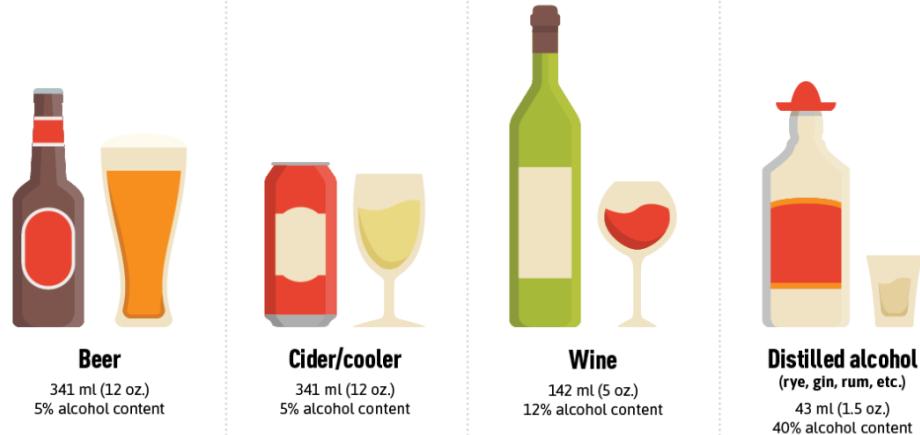
Alcohol Sales in Canada

How many standard drinks per person aged 15+ were sold in Canada in the year 2023-24?

- a) 253 (4.86 per week)
- b) 428 (8.23 per week)
- c) 457 (8.78 per week)
- d) 648 (12.46 per week)

Note: Age 15+ is used as the international standard as legal drinking ages vary across (and within) countries

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240306/dq240306a-eng.htm>

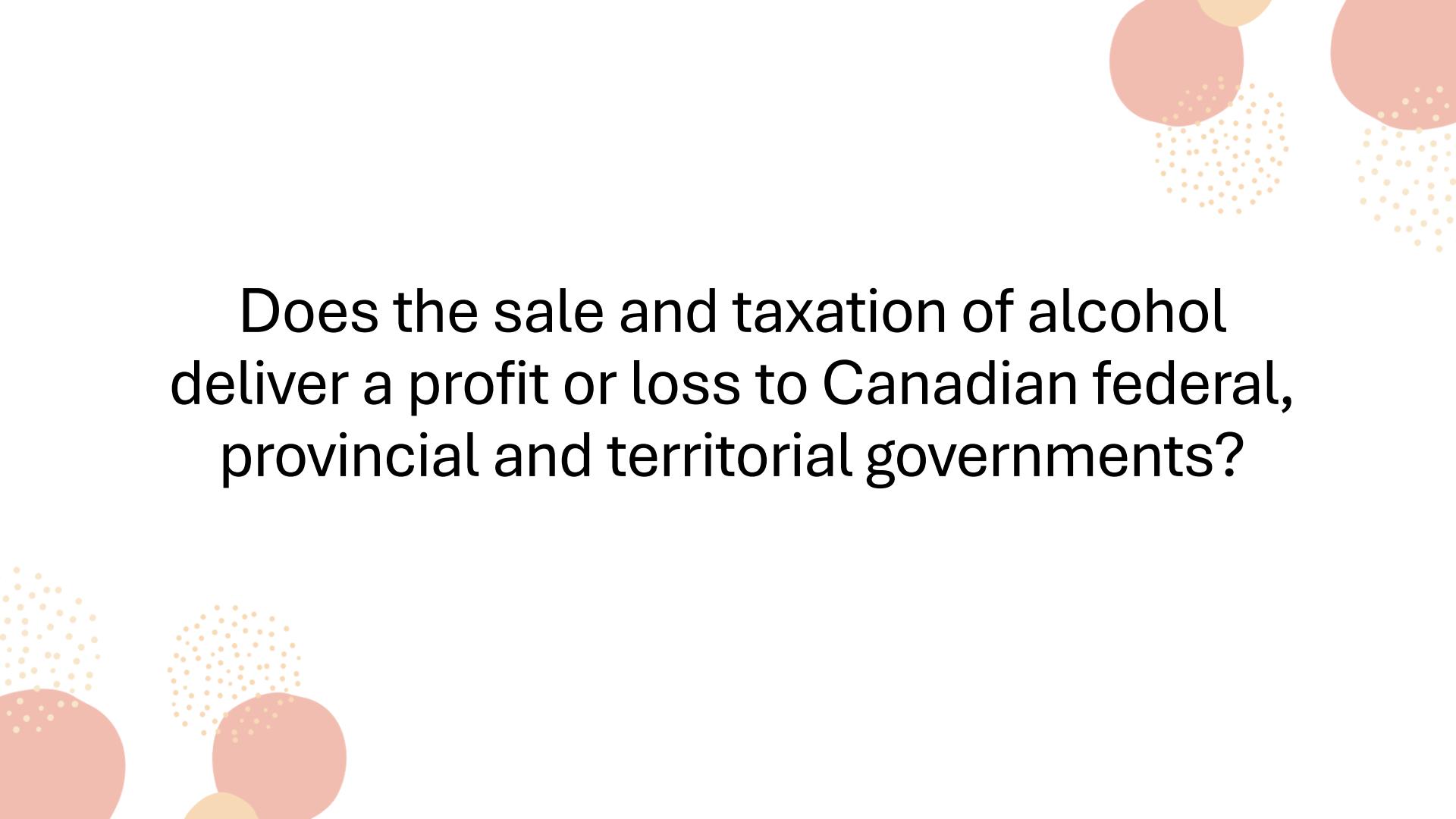


Alcohol Sales in Canada

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Sources: [Statistics Canada. \(2023/24\) Table 10-10-0010-01 Sales of alcoholic beverages types by liquor authorities and other retail outlets, by value, volume, and absolute volume.](#)



Does the sale and taxation of alcohol
deliver a profit or loss to Canadian federal,
provincial and territorial governments?

Alcohol in the News

How the LCBO makes money for the Ontario government

Opinion: Provinces face sobering drop in alcohol sales
Governments will have to rethink their reliance on this source of revenue for their coffers as Canadians shift their consumption patterns.

AUGUST 22, 2024 | APPEARED IN THE EDMONTON SUN

Alcohol sales in grocery and convenience stores would benefit Albertans

U.S. booze ban would lead to lost B.C. tax dollars, says industry insider

Cautious optimism in B.C. as provinces agree to slash barriers to booze trade

Has the temporary tax break been driving up booze sales? Yup, says head of NLC

Canada is heading for a booze revolution—if the provinces stay out of the way

Freeze the Alcohol Escalator Tax: A Call for Fairness and Economic Recovery

Ontario to spend hundreds of millions to boost alcohol sector

The Alcohol Deficit

Province/Territory	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC†	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT++	NT	NU
Alcohol- Net Revenue* (StatsCan, 2020/21)	\$2,043	\$1,305	\$454	\$508	\$5,162	\$2,824	\$319	\$432	\$70	\$296	\$19	\$36	\$5.4
Alcohol- Harms Costs* (CSUCH, 2020)	\$2,811	\$3,110	\$766	\$807	\$7,109	\$3,244	\$411	\$652	\$131	\$351	\$46	\$109	\$124
Deficit*	-\$768	-\$1,805	-\$312	-\$299	-\$1,947	-\$420	-\$92	-\$219	-\$61	-\$54	-\$27	-\$73	-\$119
Loss per standard drink	-\$0.33	-\$0.95	-\$0.71	-\$0.57	-\$0.34	-\$0.12 [†]	-\$0.30	-\$0.54	-\$0.96	-\$0.22	-\$0.98	-\$2.58	-\$17.92

* Value in Millions

† Cost estimates do not include inpatient hospitalization, day surgery, emergency department and paramedic services costs for Quebec

++ Costs associated with lost productivity due to premature deaths in Yukon are not included

Alcohol Harm Costs

Lost productivity: due to premature deaths; Long- and short-term disability

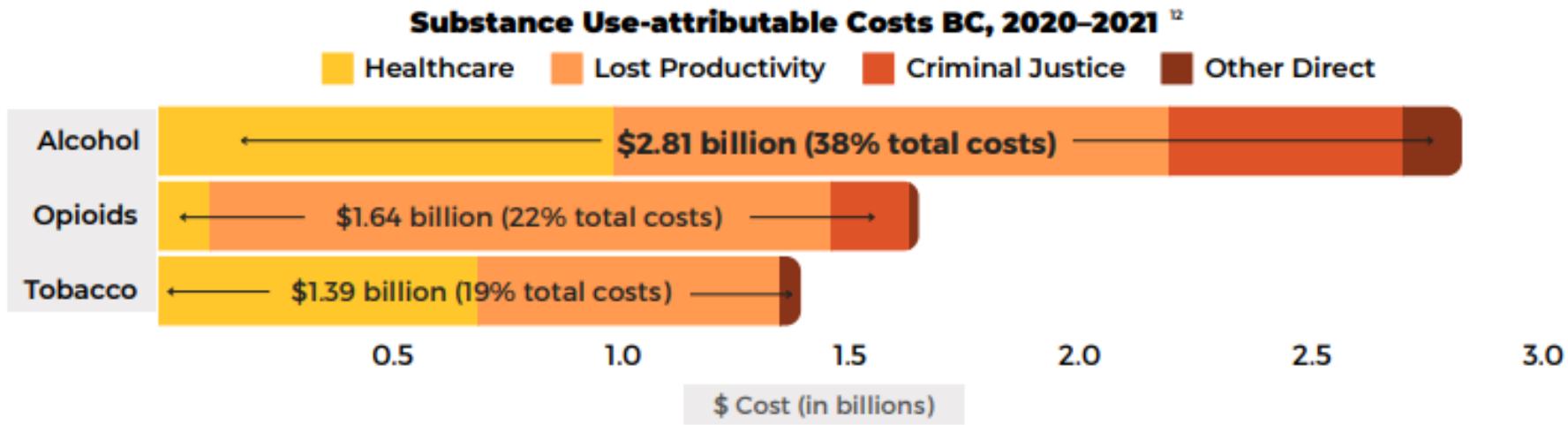
Criminal justice: Policing, Courts and Correctional services; Crimes 100% attributable to alcohol use, such as impaired driving; Crimes partially due to alcohol use, such as violent crimes (e.g., homicide, assault) and non-violent crimes (e.g., theft, arson)

Healthcare: Inpatient hospitalizations, Day surgeries, Emergency department visits, Paramedic services, Specialized treatment for substance use disorders, Physician time; Prescription drugs

Other direct : Fire damage, Damage to motor vehicles from impaired driving, Social assistance for disability related to substance use; Research and prevention, Workplace costs not already covered in lost productivity

Source: [Canadian Substance Use Costs and Harms Study](#)

Alcohol Harm Costs



Source: [Interior Health's Reducing Alcohol-Related Harms Toolkit for Local Governments](#)

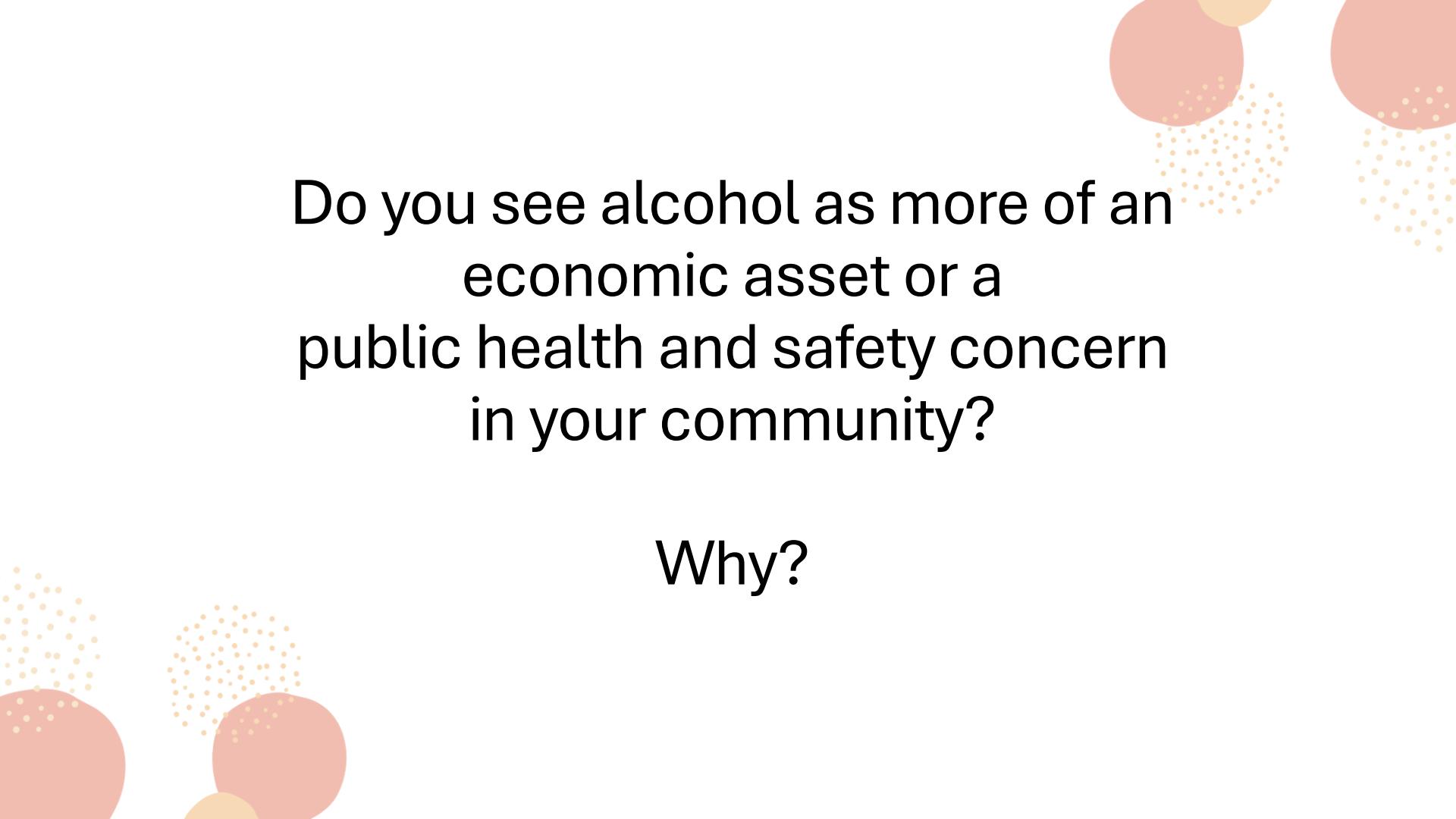
Alcohol's impacts on health and safety

- Acute effects of alcohol use: hospital admissions for alcohol **poisoning**, preventable **injuries** and **death** (e.g. drownings, suicide), physical and sexual **assaults**, family and intimate partner **violence**, and **traffic collisions** from alcohol-impaired driving.
- Alcohol is causally linked to at least 7 types of **cancer**, and over 200 **health conditions, injuries** and **diseases** (e.g. liver cirrhosis, alcohol use disorder, cardiovascular disease)
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (**FASD**), a lifelong disability from exposure to alcohol in the womb, impacts ~4% of the Canadian population ([CanFASD](#))
- 1 in 4 **crash deaths** on roadways involved a drinking driver; 459 people were killed in alcohol-related road crashes in Canada in 2021 ([MADD Canada](#))
- Over 40% of **crimes** committed by offenders admitted to Canadian federal institutions* are associated with substance use, with alcohol responsible for the greatest proportion ([CSUCH](#))

*(excluding impaired driving or violations of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act)

Alcohol's impacts on health and safety

- Alcohol-related harm is unequally distributed across populations and has social justice dimensions.
 - The same level of drinking by people in lower and higher **socioeconomic status** (SES) groups is known to result in higher levels of harm for those with less resources (known as the “alcohol harm paradox”) ([Probst et al. 2020](#)).
 - A high proportion of alcohol consumed by **young people** is in the form of binge drinking which has greater risks of injuries, aggression, and violence ([CCSA 2023](#))
 - **Men** are more likely to be involved in alcohol-impaired driving collisions, injuries and violence, and to be hospitalized for alcohol-related medical emergencies ([CCSA 2023](#))
 - **Women** are more likely to be victims of alcohol-related sexual assault and violence ([CCSA 2023](#))



Do you see alcohol as more of an
economic asset or a
public health and safety concern
in your community?

Why?

Alcohol's costs to communities

- **Policing:** violence, impaired driving, public disturbance
- **Emergency services**
- **Bylaw enforcement**
- **Costs to local businesses:** licensing, insurance, security, property damage, vandalism
- **Social costs:** secondhand impacts on friends, family, coworkers, community

Costs are exacerbated in smaller and rural communities due to limited resources and access to services.



How to reduce alcohol's negative impacts

Effective population-level **alcohol policies**

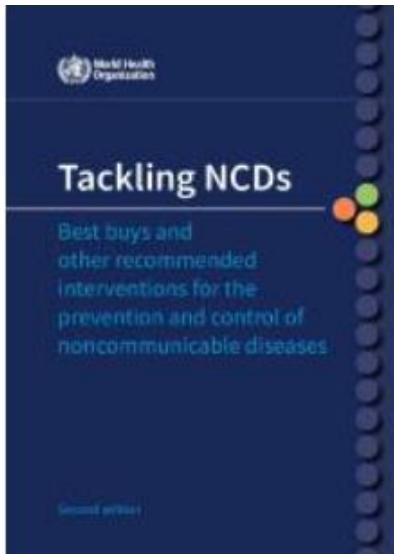
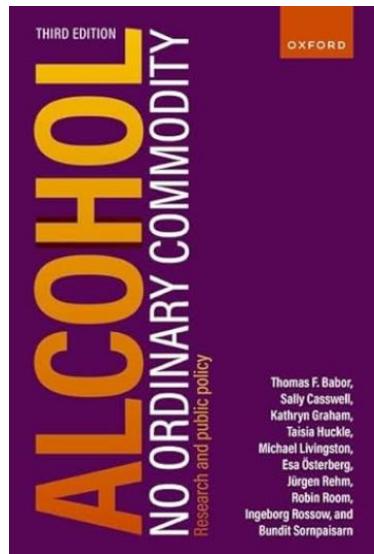
- Changes in the **alcohol environment**
- Changes in social and **cultural perspectives** on alcohol and drinking
- Changes in **drinking behavior** (e.g. onset of drinking, drinking contexts, amount consumed, frequency of drinking)



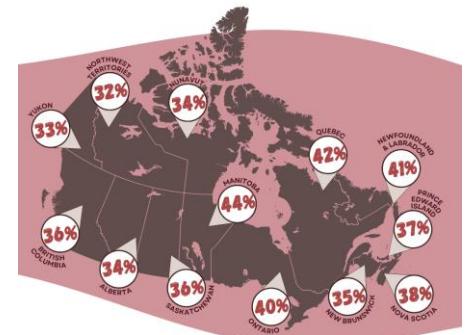


What comes to mind
when you hear the term
“alcohol policy”?

Alcohol Policy



Five areas of intervention at national and subnational levels



* Based on 2022 Policy Data

Alcohol Policy

Evidence shows that preventative alcohol policies contribute to improved safety and well-being of citizens and communities.

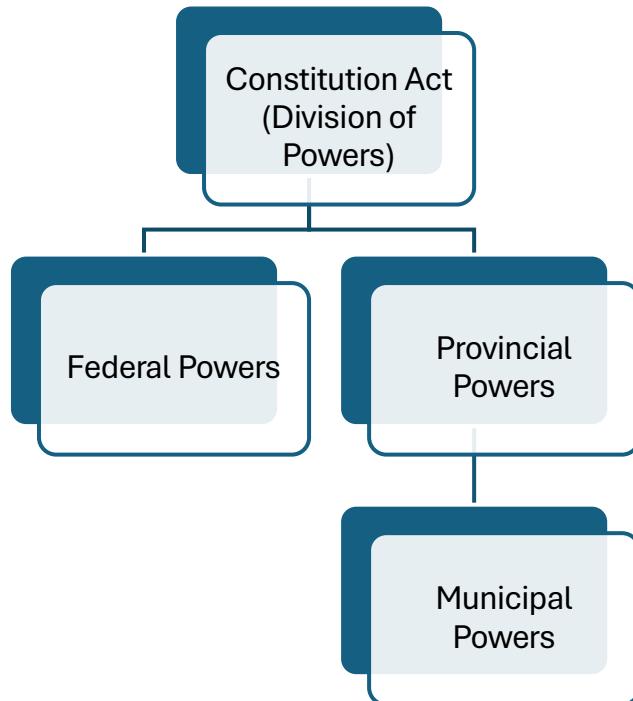
At the community level, alcohol policies are associated with



- ✓ Reduced underage access to alcohol
- ✓ Reduced community disruption
- ✓ Fewer injuries and hospital visits
- ✓ Reduced impaired driving
- ✓ Enhanced safety and reduced demand on security and police resources
- ✓ Reduced costs to taxpayers
- ✓ Reduced legal risks for local governments

Key policy areas include pricing, availability, alcohol control system, impaired driving countermeasures, marketing restrictions, health and safety messaging, and liquor law enforcement.

The Division of Alcohol Control Powers



Federal Powers

- Criminal law, interprovincial/ international trade, excise tax and duties, broadcast advertising

Provincial/Territorial Powers

- Liquor Licensing, retail, distribution, civil rights (commercial transactions and legal rules, local matters, creation of municipalities)

Municipal Powers (Delegated by the Province/Territory)

- Zoning and land use (Planning Act)
- Business regulation
- Noise/nuisance by-laws
- Municipal facilities and events

Alcohol Policy in Canada: A Practical Application

Federal	Taxation (excise tax; sales tax); pricing ; marketing and advertising restrictions; minimum age ; alcohol strategy and alcohol Act, impaired driving countermeasures; control system (cross border); product labelling and messaging; SBIR; monitoring and reporting.
Provincial/Territorial	Minimum pricing; markups; taxes; trading hours and days of sale, locations and density; minimum age; alcohol control system (sale of alcohol alongside other goods/services); product labelling and messaging; licensing and enforcement; SBIR; monitoring and reporting of alcohol policies, harms and costs.
Municipal/Local	Drinking in public spaces (parks, public gathering spaces) and municipal properties; influence alcohol outlet locations and density; SOPs for "municipally significant" events, municipal compliance with fire protection, building codes etc., influence over licensing (e.g. pedal pubs)

Alcohol Policy in Canada: A Practical Application

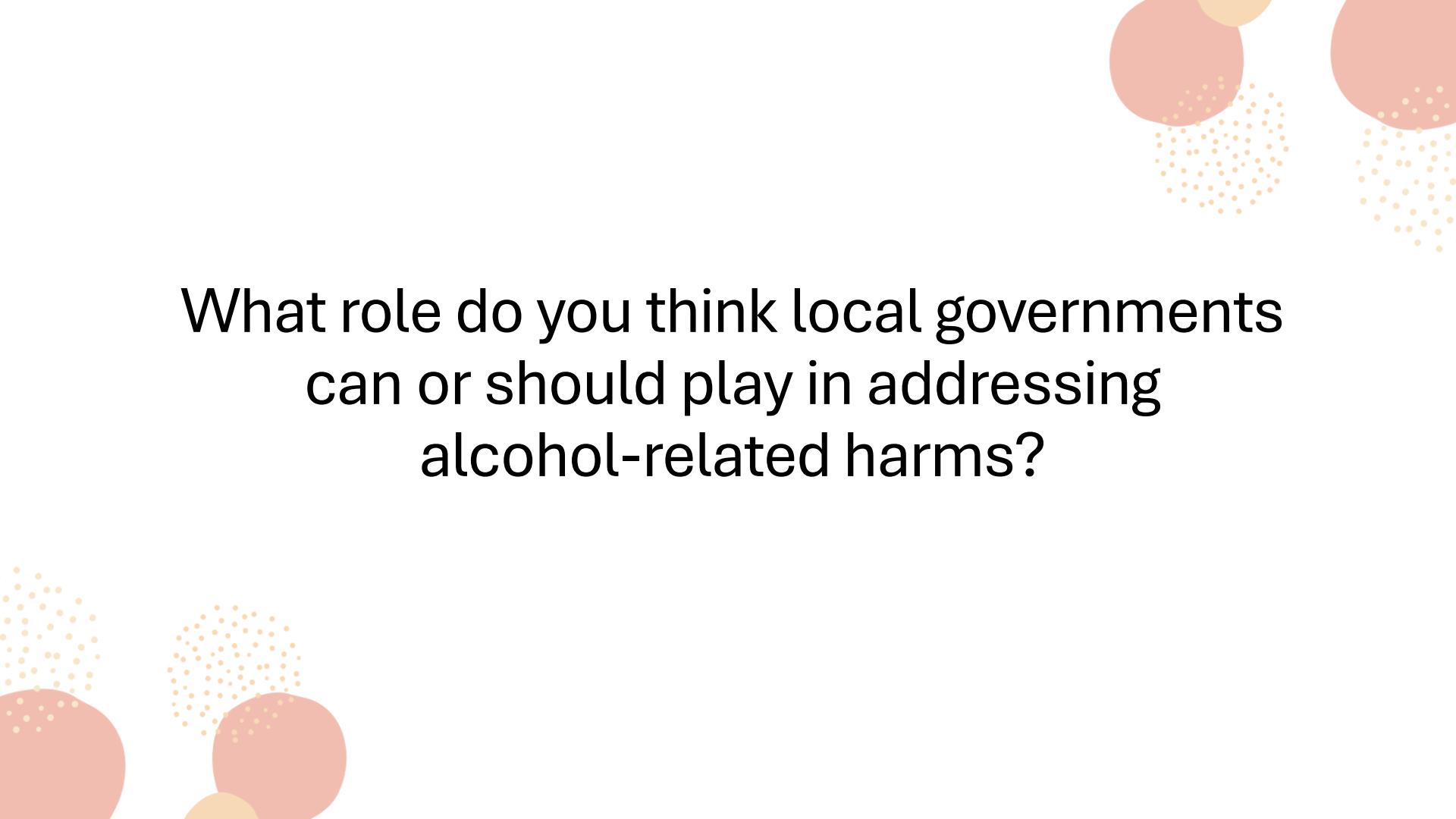
Approach	Policy Options	Jurisdiction Responsible					
		Federal		Provincial		Municipal	
		Potential	Current	Potential	Current	Potential	Current
Regulating alcohol availability	Bans on public drinking			✓	AB	✓	MUN
	Alcohol establishment density and location			✓	AB	✓	MUN
	Alcohol establishment hours of operation			✓	AB	✓	MUN
	Retail sales model			✓	AB		
	Minimum age limits	✓		✓	AB		
	Managing access at municipal events and/or on property			✓	AB	✓	MUN
Controlling alcohol pricing	Alcohol taxes	✓	FED	✓		✓	
	<i>Markup</i>			✓	AB		
	<i>Minimum pricing</i>			✓	AB ^a	✓	
	Bans on price discounts and promotions			✓	AB	✓	MUN
	Business license fees and conditions			✓	AB	✓	MUN
	Minimum price at municipal events and/or on property					✓	MUN
Ensuring safer drinking environments and safer communities	Staff training and house policies relating to responsible beverage service			✓	AB	✓	MUN
	Staff and management training to manage aggression			✓	AB	✓	MUN
	Server and social host liability	✓		✓	AB	✓	MUN
	Addressing noise and nuisance					✓	MUN
	Enhanced enforcement of <i>on-premise</i> laws and legal requirements			✓	AB	✓	MUN
	Crime prevention through environmental design			✓	AB	✓	MUN
	Applying the above options at municipal events and/or on property					✓	MUN
	Business license fees			✓		✓	

LEGEND

✓	A jurisdiction has potential to implement policy in this area.
FED	The Federal Government has a current policy in this area.
AB	The Alberta (Provincial) Government has a current policy in this area.
MUN	The Municipal Government has a current policy in this area in at least one Alberta municipality.

Source: Alberta Health Services. (2022). Alcohol policy for community safety, vibrancy, health and well-being: A practical guide for Alberta municipalities.

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/amh-if-amh-alcohol-policy-for-community-safety.pdf>



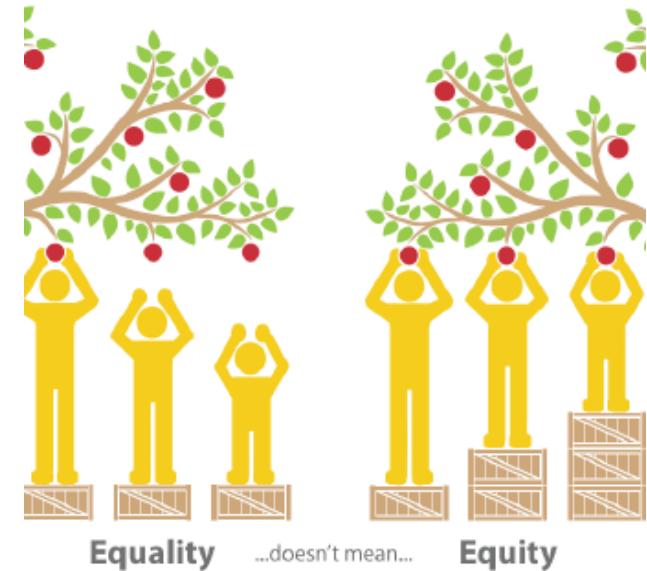
What role do you think local governments
can or should play in addressing
alcohol-related harms?

Municipal alcohol policy in Canada

- ‘**Municipal alcohol policy**’ - policies implemented at the municipal level that impact alcohol (e.g. bylaws, comprehensive strategy that includes a range of policies).
- Municipalities began creating **Municipal Alcohol Policies (MAPS)** in the 1990s in response to liability and public health concerns. MAPs often establish where alcohol is and is not permitted on municipal property and set the conditions for Special Occasion Permits (SOPs) for events.
- **Local alcohol policies**- The policies we discussed today may be relevant to a variety of local governance structures including municipalities, local and regional governments, and first nations governments.
- We acknowledge the **diversity of structures, systems and contexts** at the community level across Canada (geography, rural-urban, small-large), Solutions need to be tailored to each community.

Role of local government policy

- Policy has **far reaching impact** across the population by acting on the conditions and context in which decisions are made and people live their lives.
- Municipal decision makers and influencers have a unique privilege to **shape their communities**.
- Appropriate policy interventions can address or **reduce inequities**.
- Policy can be used as a tool to reduce disparities. There is also an ethical responsibility to **embed equity considerations** in assessment, planning, development and implementation of municipal alcohol policy.



Source: Alberta Health Services. (2022). Alcohol policy for community safety, vibrancy, health and well-being: A practical guide for Alberta municipalities.
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/amh/if-amh-alcohol-policy-for-community-safety.pdf>

Municipal alcohol policy in Canada

- Policy tools may include bylaws related to:
 - land use and zoning (e.g. location and density of retail outlets)
 - parks and recreation
 - sponsorship
 - public transit
 - signage
 - business licensing
 - regulations about alcohol use on municipal properties (e.g. buildings, parks, beaches)
 - conditions of ‘special occasion permits’
 - Policing and bylaw enforcement
- Municipal policies can also influence provincial and territorial policies through advocacy and leadership, partnerships and collaboration (e.g 7-11 licenses in Ontario, minimum pricing in BC)

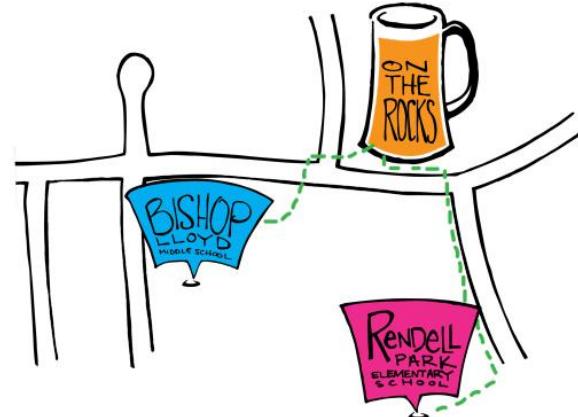
Municipal alcohol policy

- Broad policy areas:
 - Marketing, Advertising and Sponsorship
 - **Availability**
 - Pricing (e.g. through liquor licensing policies)
 - Impaired Driving Countermeasures
 - **Safer drinking environments**



Regulating availability

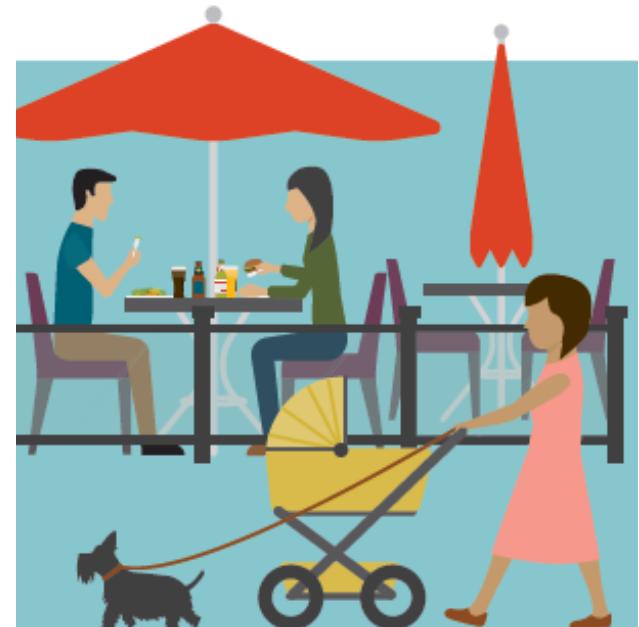
- What does this mean?
- Why is this important?
- What are some policy options?
- Questions to consider?
- What have municipalities done in this area?

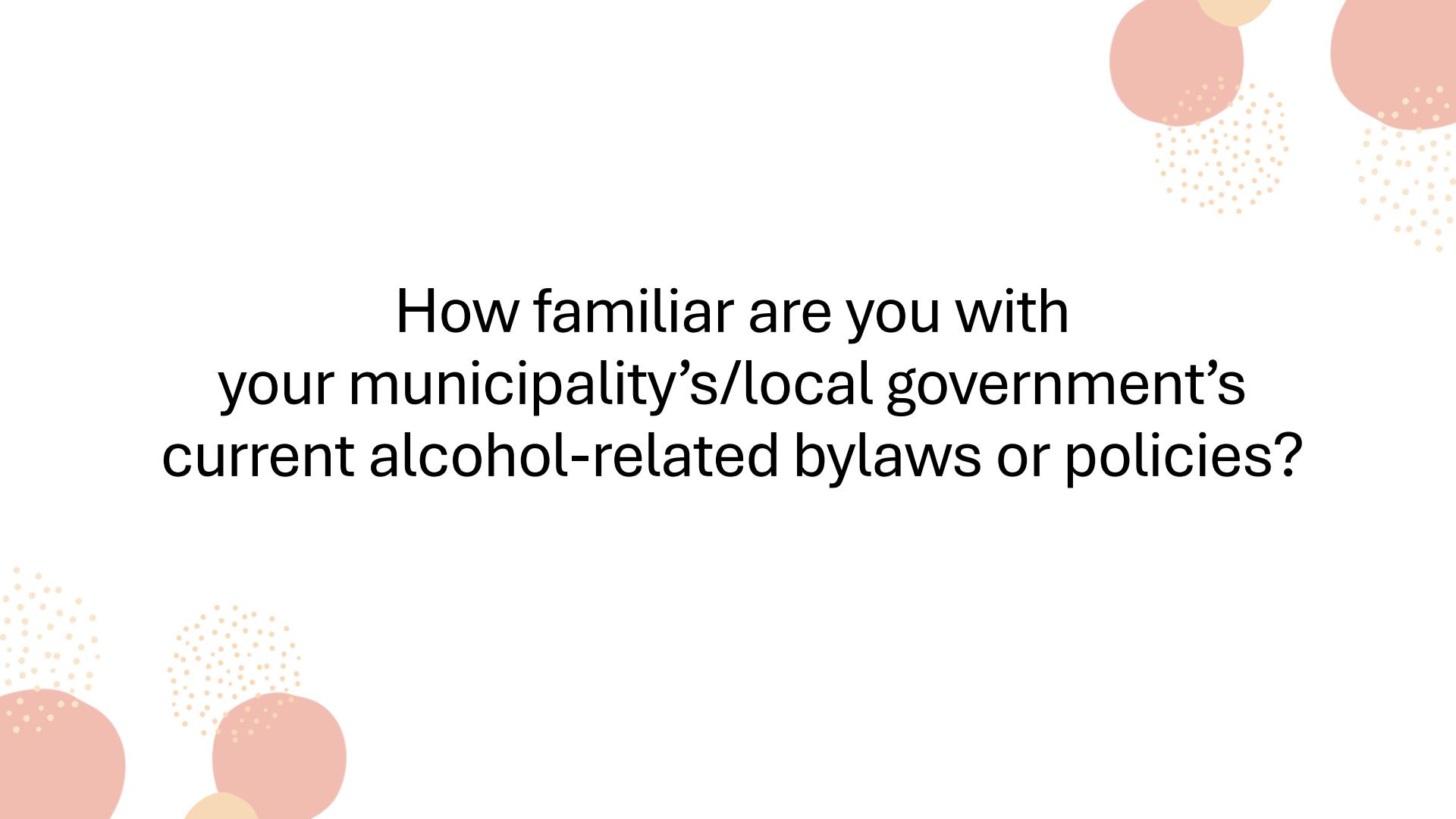


Liquor stores per person in each community.

Safer drinking environments

- What does this mean?
- Why is this important?
- What are some policy options?
- Questions to consider?
- What have municipalities done in this area?





How familiar are you with
your municipality's/local government's
current alcohol-related bylaws or policies?

Municipal alcohol policy examples in Canada

Alcohol Policy for Community Safety,
Vibrancy, Health and Well-Being
A Practical Guide for Alberta Municipalities

Reducing Alcohol Harms:
A Primer for Municipalities



Prince Albert and Area
Community Alcohol Strategy

ALCOHOL-RELATED ISSUES
IN QUEBEC'S MUNICIPAL
ENVIRONMENTS

CONSULTATION REPORT



Reducing Alcohol-Related Harms
Toolkit for Local Governments

**ALCOHOL POLICY
AND CANCER
IN CANADA:
POLICY
ACTIONS**

Progressive
& Prosperous

Municipal Alcohol Policies
for a Balanced and Vibrant Future

A Municipal Alcohol Policy Guide
for Nova Scotia Municipalities



**Municipal Alcohol
Policy (Events)
Amendment**



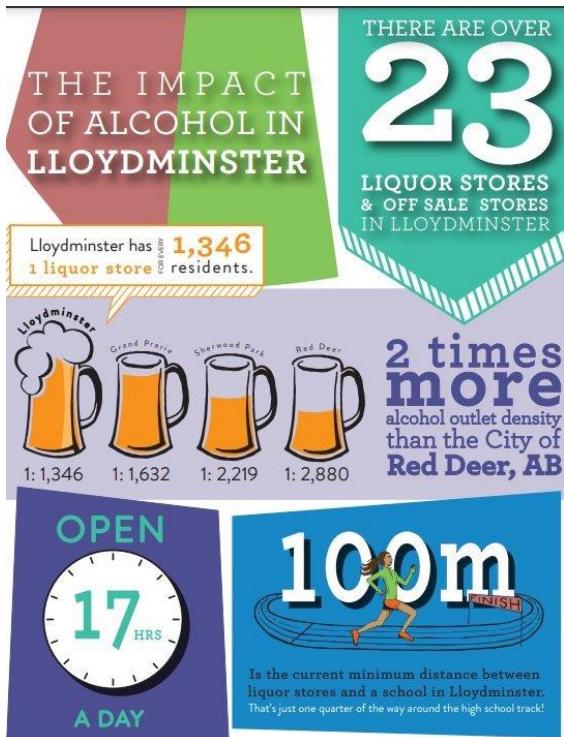
Municipal alcohol policy examples

The City of Lloydminster, Alberta/Saskatchewan:

- Business license fees to support harm reduction and education initiatives
- Alcohol in parks community engagement



Alcohol policy brief for municipalities

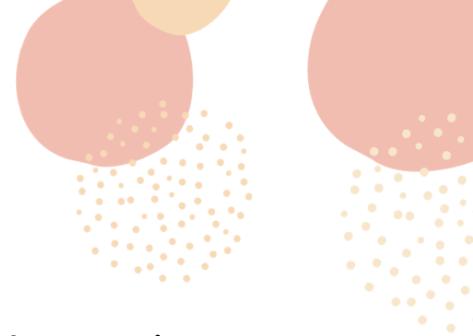


The City of Lloydminster, Alberta/Saskatchewan:

- Engage with community and youth
- Apply research to practice
- Connect with council and administration
- Develop a policy brief to support council in decision-making



Municipal alcohol policy in Canada



Resources and tools (i.e. where to start)

- Where can you access data about alcohol-related harms and costs in your community?
- Does your province/territory, region or health authority offer a guide or toolkit for policies that reduce alcohol-related harms?
- What policies have other municipalities, local governments and communities in your province/territory and/or across Canada found to be effective and impactful?

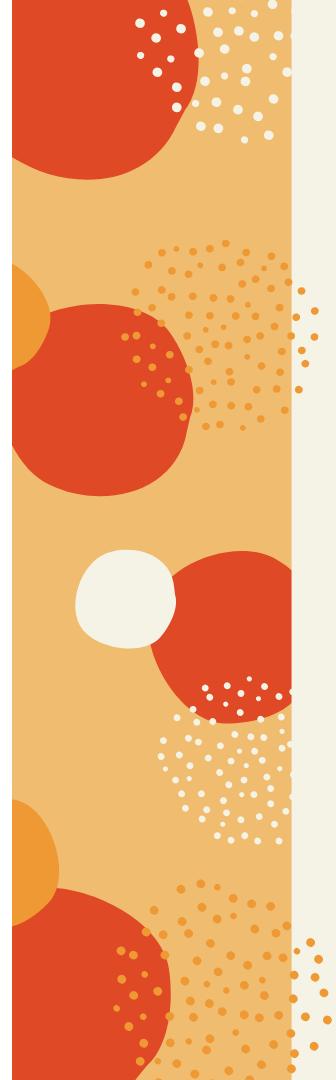


Q&A



What's next?

- Provide input into upcoming webinars via feedback survey; and Contact us directly if interested in collaborating/presenting
- If not already, sign up to receive invitations to future webinars:
English: <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/SR9ZJNC>
French: <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/SR9ZJNC?lang=fr>
- Find out more: [Webinar series: Alcohol policy in Canadian municipalities](#) | Pour en savoir plus : [Série de webinaires : Politique sur l'alcool dans les municipalités canadiennes](#)
- Contact capecopcoord@uvic.ca with any questions|
Communiquez avec capecopcoord@uvic.ca si vous avez des questions.



Thank you for attending!

Complete our 3min feedback survey:

English: <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/R9HQM8G>

French: <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/R9HQM8G?lang=fr>

Resources & References

International and Canada-wide alcohol policy resources

Babor T.F., Casswell S., Graham K., Huckle, T., Livingston, M et al. (2023). Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity: Research and Public Policy. Oxford University Press; Oxford, UK. <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/alcohol-no-ordinary-commodity-9780192844484>

World Health Organization (2024). Tackling NCDs: best buys and other recommended interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, 2nd ed. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240091078>

World Health Organization (2019). The SAFER technical package: five areas of intervention at national and subnational levels. <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1262746/retrieve>

Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE). <https://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/cisur/projects/cape/index.php>

Federal and provincial/territorial costs and harms data

Statistics Canada. (2023/24) Table 10-10-0010-01 Sales of alcoholic beverages types by liquor authorities and other retail outlets, by value, volume, and absolute volume. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/250307/dq250307b-cansim-eng.htm>

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. Canadian Substance Use Costs and Harms. <https://csuch.ca/>

Sherk, A. (2024). Canada's Alcohol Deficit, 2007–2020: Social Cost, Public Revenue, Magnitudes of Alcohol Use, and the Per-Drink Net Deficit for a Fourteen-Year Period. Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, 85(3), 306-311. <https://www.jsad.com/doi/10.15288/jsad.23-00241>

Resources & References

Local/regional government alcohol policy guidance documents

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. (2017). Municipal Alcohol Policy: A Role for Canadian Governments. https://www.ccsa.ca/sites/default/files/2019-04/CCSA-Municipal-Alcohol-Policy-Role-for-Governments-2017-en_0.pdf

Canadian Partnership Against Cancer [CPAC]. (2021). Alcohol Policy and Cancer in Canada: Policy Actions. <https://s22457.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Alcohol-Policy-Actions-EN.pdf>

Narbonne-Fortin, C., Rylett, M., Douglas, R., & L. Gliksman. (2003). The Municipal Alcohol Policy Guide: A Practical Resource for Successfully Managing Drinking in Recreational Settings. Centre for Addiction and Mental Health [CAMH]. https://www.camh.ca-/media/files/map_policyguide-pdf.pdf

Alberta Health Services. (2022). Alcohol policy for community safety, vibrancy, health and well-being: A practical guide for Alberta municipalities. Calgary, AB: Alberta Health Services. <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/amh/if-amh-alcohol-policy-for-community-safety.pdf>

Interior Health. (2024). Reducing Alcohol-Related Harms: Toolkit for Local Governments. <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/local-government-alcohol-toolkit.pdf>

Island Health. (2025) Alcohol Control Policies for Local Government. <https://www.islandhealth.ca/sites/default/files/mho/alcohol/alcohol-control-policies-for-local-government-hpp-islandhealth-2025final.pdf>

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. (2019). The Municipal Alcohol Policy Program in British Columbia. https://www.ccsa.ca/sites/default/files/2019-04/CCSA-Municipal-Alcohol-Policy-British-Columbia-2017-en_0.pdf

Farrell-Low, A., Johnston, K., Naimi, T., and Vallance, K. (2021). Not Just a Walk in the Park: Unsupervised Alcohol Consumption on Municipal Properties in BC. Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria, Victoria, Canada. <https://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/cisur/assets/docs/report-unsupervised-alcohol-consumption-municipal.pdf>

Resources & References

Local/regional government alcohol policy guidance documents (continued)

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. (2017). The Nova Scotia Municipal Alcohol Project
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Resources & References

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Resources & References

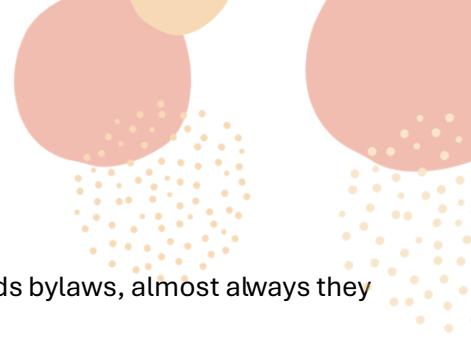
Examples of municipal alcohol policies (MAPs) and other local/regional government alcohol plans/strategies

Prince Albert and Area Community Alcohol Strategy <https://paalcoholstrategy.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2018-Alcohol-Strategy.pdf>

District of Tofino Municipal Alcohol Policy (Events) Amendment <https://talktofino.ca/map>

City of Toronto Municipal Alcohol Policy https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/874e-TP_MAP.pdf

Resources & References



Where do I find alcohol bylaws in my community?

Sometimes you'll find them in parks and recreation rules, sometimes in public safety or community standards bylaws, almost always they will be found in the Land Use Bylaw. They're often scattered. Search for Municipal Alcohol Policy (MAP)

If you're doing this work in your community, start by scanning your municipal website—look at the bylaw library, parks and recreation pages, event booking rules, and council agendas.

Check your provincial liquor licensing authority's website for special event licensing.

Municipal websites

- Bylaw library / e-Laws page (search “alcohol”, “liquor”, “consumption”, “parks”, “public places”, “events”, “business licence”, “land use”).
- Parks & Recreation pages (park rules, alcohol pilots, booking terms).
- Event booking / Festivals & Events pages (venue rules, insurance, permits).
- City Clerk / Council & Committee agendas and reports (policy pilots, amendments, evaluation reports).
- Community Standards Bylaw

Provincial frameworks that interact with local rules

- Liquor/gaming/cannabis commissions (e.g. BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch; Ontario Alcohol and Gaming Commission; Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis)
- Municipal Government Act (MGA), Municipal Act, or similar provincial legislation

Resources & References

Where do I find alcohol bylaws in my community? (continued)

Who to go to for clarity

- City Clerk / Bylaw Services – authoritative wording, enforcement interpretation, and recent amendments.
- Elected Official
- Parks & Recreation / Facility Booking – what's allowed at specific sites, booking contracts, insurance, security.
- Planning & Development / Development & Building Services – land-use bylaw conditions for licensed premises; patios; proximity to sensitive uses.
- Local Police Service – enforcement practices for open liquor, events, nuisance, impaired driving perimeters.

Common municipal levers (what to scan for)

- Public safety / community standards: public intoxication, open liquor in public places, nuisance (noise, litter), enforcement powers & fines. (Municipality)
- Parks & Recreation rules: where alcohol is allowed (designated sites, time windows), booking conditions (insurance, security, noise limits). (Municipality)
- Land Use / Development: zoning for licensed premises; patios; distances from schools/parks; outlet density; conditional-use approvals. (Municipality via MGA).
- Event permissions: park use permits, road closures, fire safety, occupant load, fencing, ID checks; plus provincial gaming & liquor
- Hours of sale/consumption: set in provincial policy/regulation; municipalities/venues can be stricter.
- Advertising & sponsorship on city property: often addressed in MAPs or facility policies. (Municipality, MAP guidance).