

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

Webinar 6: March 5, 2026

**Municipal Alcohol Policy: Bridging Theory, Practice,
and Community Impact — A Saskatchewan Example**
**Politique municipale en matière d'alcool : faire le lien
entre la théorie, la pratique et l'impact sur la
communauté — Un exemple en Saskatchewan.**



**University
of Victoria**

Canadian Institute
for Substance
Use Research

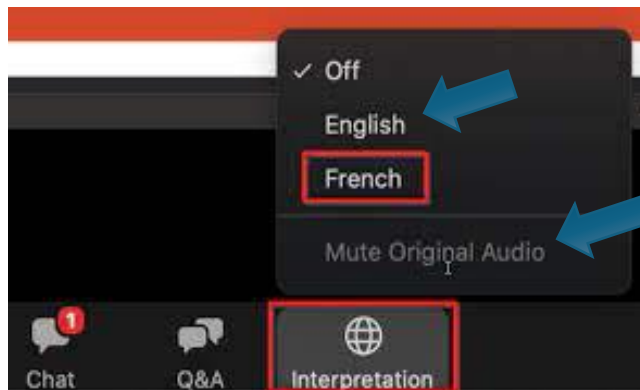
Institut canadien
de recherche sur
l'usage de substances

CA⁺PE
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 disponible sauf pendant la période des questions / Simultaneous French interpretation is available except during the Q&A segment.



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.

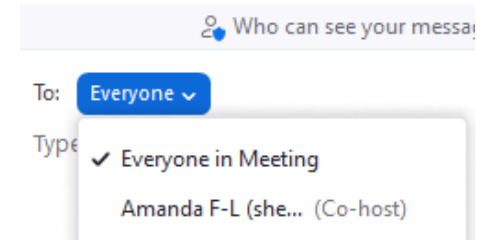
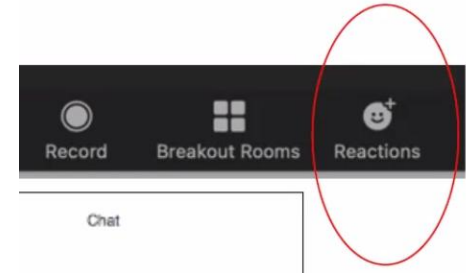
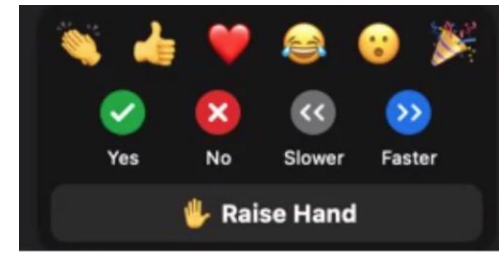
The views and opinions expressed as part of this presentation are those of the presenters and do not necessarily represent those of our funders or other organizations acknowledged.

Today's session

- This webinar includes two presentations and Q&A, 75mins total.
- The presentation component 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**

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

Glenda Beauchamp, Manager of Restorative Justice, Ministry of Justice

Joan Johnson, Consultant, Northern Alcohol Strategy

Andrea Cowan, Consultant, Northern Alcohol Strategy

Jim Woodcock, Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator, City of Prince Albert

Anna Dinsdale, Community Safety and Well-Being Manager, City of Prince Albert

Lauren Rusk, Senior Epidemiologist - Population Health, Insights for Better Health, Saskatchewan Health Authority

Dr Ahmed Faress, Medical Health Officer, Saskatchewan Health Authority

Megan McConnell, MPH Practicum Student

Northern Alcohol Strategy

Social issues are inter-connected.

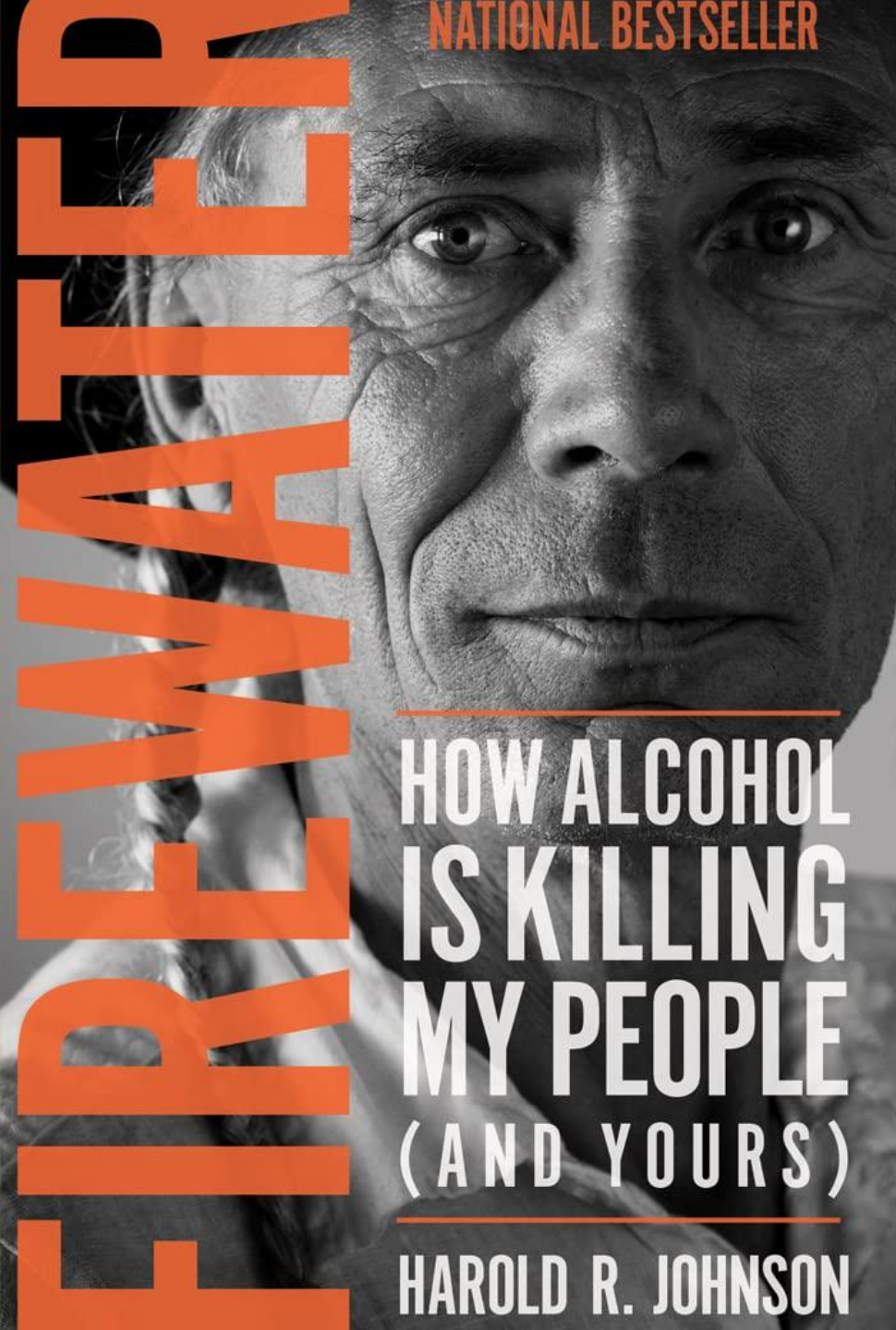
When communities address alcohol, every sector is positively impacted.

Joan Johnson

Glenda Beauchamp

Andrea Cowan





What is the Northern Alcohol Strategy (NAS)?

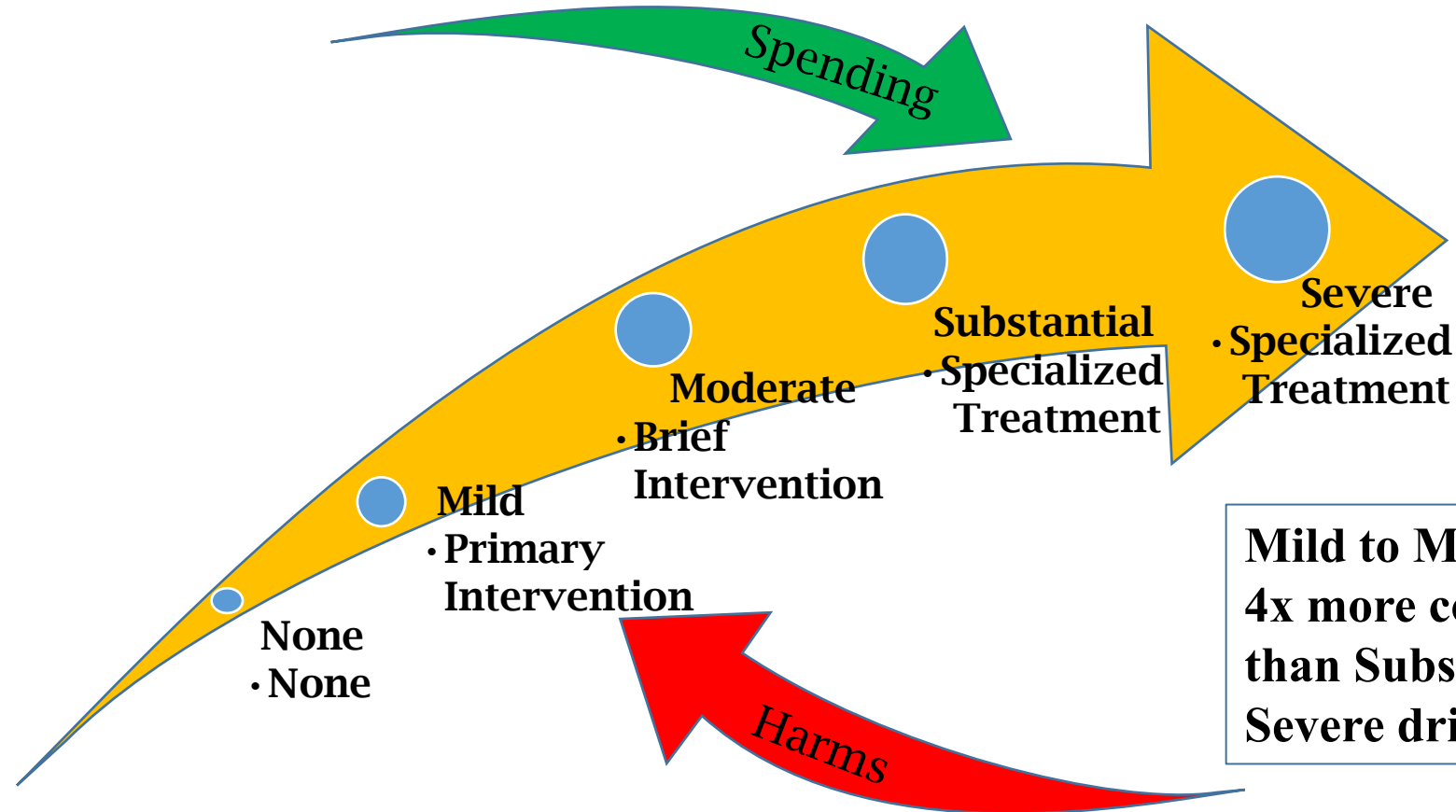
- Inspired and founded by Harold Johnson's book 'Firewater' and the Change the Story messaging
- **Started in and for** community to reduce alcohol harms in Lac La Ronge region
- Became part of CSWB to offer support across Saskatchewan, partnered with SGI Traffic Safety

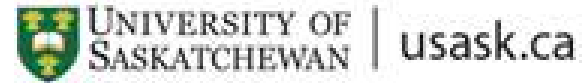
How NAS has evolved

- La Ronge pilot project
- Now involves support across Saskatchewan and population level discussions
- Can offer: research, data support, learning opportunities, partnership support



Alcohol Use Spectrum





Alcohol Strategy Partners



First Nations &
Tribal Councils



College of Physicians
and Surgeons
of Saskatchewan



saskatchewan
preventioninstitute

Lac La Ronge region CAMP

Community Alcohol Management Plan (CAMP)



**Lac La Ronge
CAMP**

Steering Committee Representation:

Chamber of Commerce
Community Corrections
Early Childhood Intervention Program
LLR Community Mobilization
Lac La Ronge Indian Band

Social issues are interconnected.
When communities address alcohol abuse, every sector is positively impacted.

Three communities working together:

Town of La Ronge

Northern Village of Air Ronge

Lac La Ronge Indian Band



LLRIB Child & Family Services
LLRIB Health Services
Local Area Pharmacists
Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Social Services
Ministry of Justice
Northern Alcohol Strategy

Northern Lights School Division
Northern Municipal Services
Northlands College
Northern Village of Air Ronge
Population Health Unit
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Town of La Ronge
Victim Services
Youth

Prince Albert's Community Alcohol Strategy

Focus areas:

1. Promoting family-friendly events and alcohol-free activities
2. Encouraging safe and responsible consumption of alcohol when it is served
3. Supporting intervention and treatment for those needing support



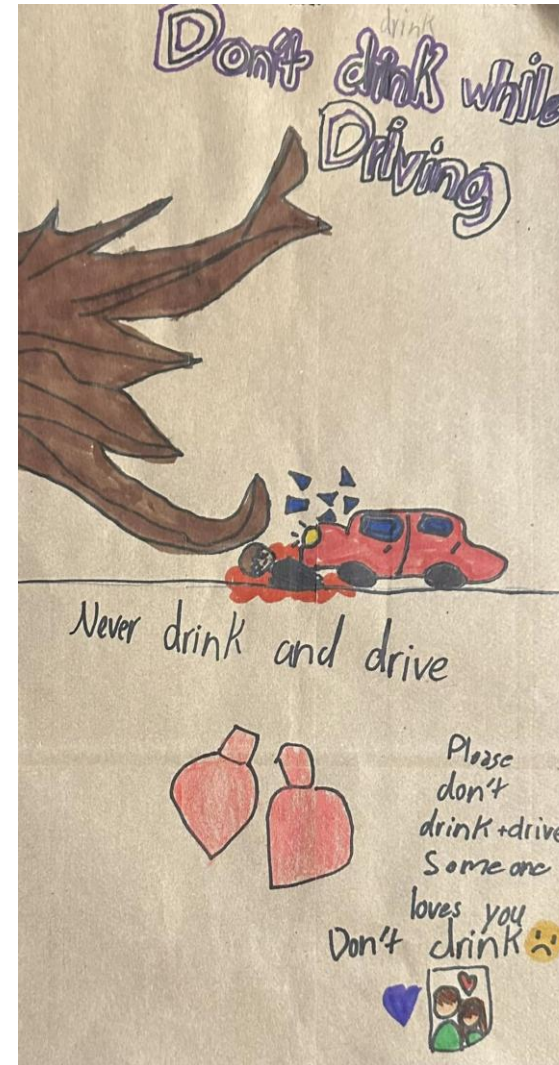
*Inviting individuals
in our communities
to create positive
change*



Photo courtesy of Spencer Sterritt/paNOW

Liquor bag project

- Work with local alcohol retailers & schools to distribute alcohol bags with unique messaging from youth
- Starts conversations in schools about impaired driving
- Reminds those buying alcohol about impacts of impaired





Creighton/Flin Flon CAMP

- Community surveys
- Engage with youth re: impacts of drinking
- Promote mocktails at liquor retailers



NAS Grant Portal

Funding supports locally led:

- Projects/initiatives
- Trainings
- Strategy planning

aimed at helping Saskatchewan communities reduce harms from alcohol



Municipal bylaws & data tracking

SASKATOON STARPHOENIX

pinion Business Arts Longreads Shopping Newsletters Bridges Puzzmo ePaper Obi

Saskatchewan

La Ronge alcohol strategy success makes some ponder shorter bar hours

Emergency room visits related to alcohol in La Ronge were eight per cent lower in March 2019 compared to November 2017.

Prince Albert limits liquor store hours

Apr 23, 2024 | 12:45 PM

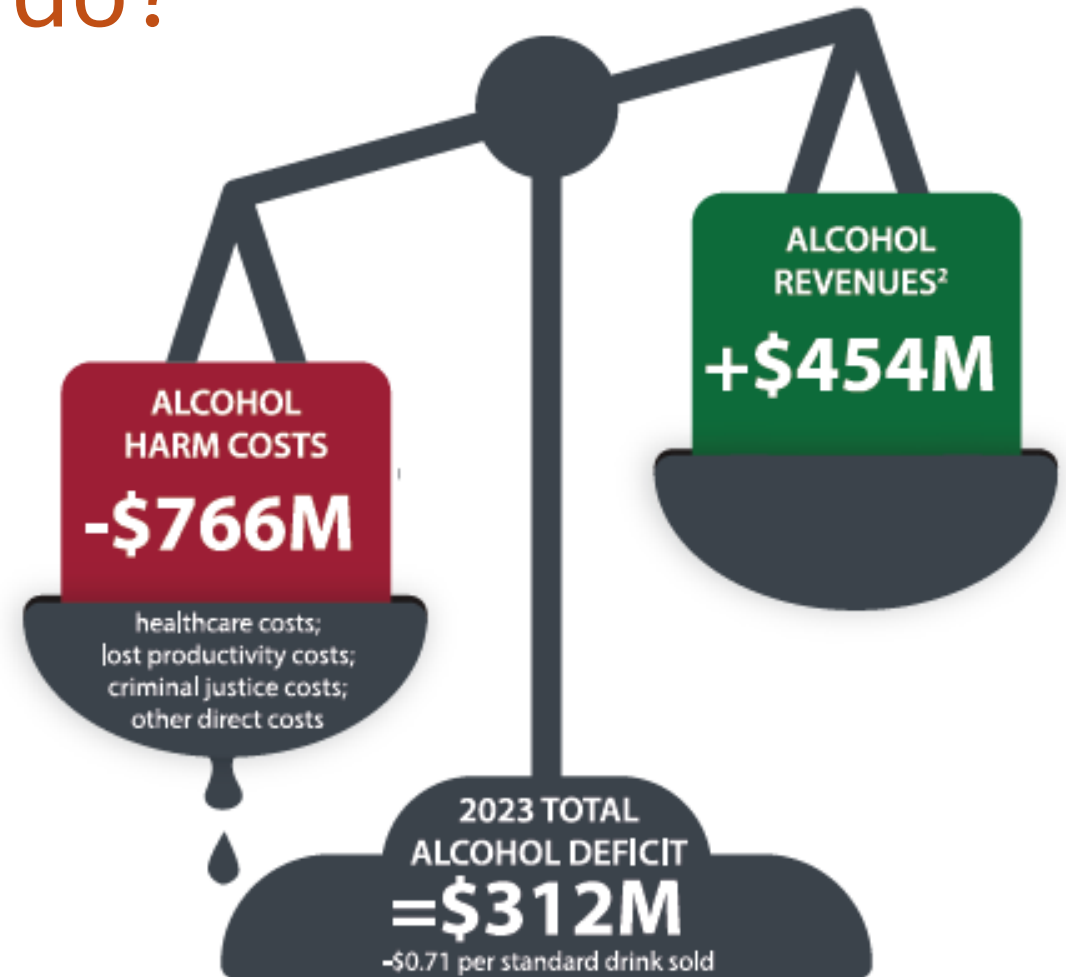
Liquor stores in the City of Prince Albert will no longer be allowed to open before 10 a.m. and must close at 11 pm.

Council passed third reading of the bylaw making the change at their regular meeting on Monday night, a change that has been pushed for by the local Community Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee for years.

What can municipalities do?

Initial steps

- Identify key stakeholders
- Assess community readiness
- Offer education/resources
- Understand jurisdictional responsibilities

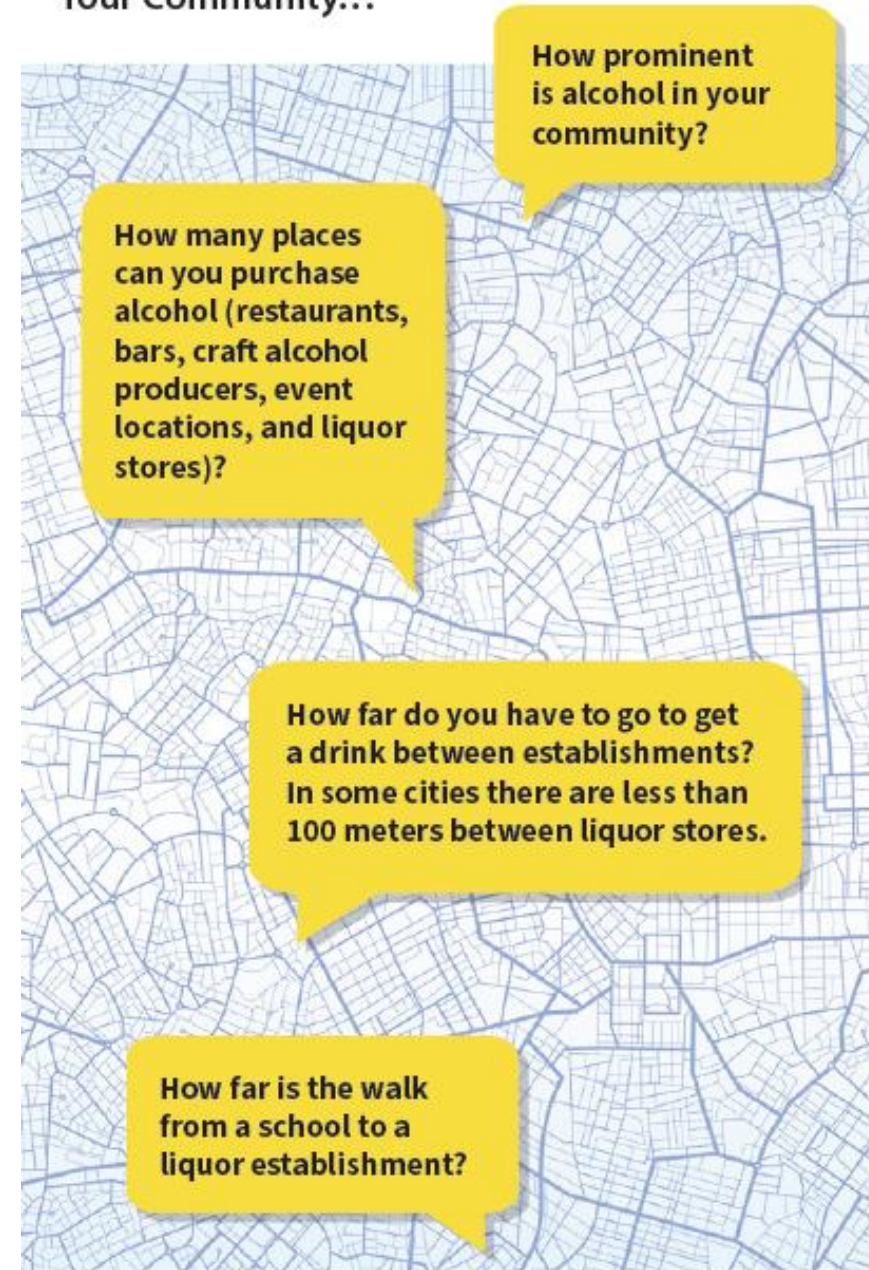


Lead discussions

Aside from local government officials, stakeholders could include:

- Alcohol establishment owners
- Business owners
- Cultural groups
- Community members
- Health services staff (emergency services, public health)
- Indigenous peoples and neighbouring First Nations
- School representatives
- Law enforcement (peace officers, by-law officers, police services, RCMP)
- Media
- Non-government organizations
- Other municipalities

Consider Mapping the Impact of Alcohol in Your Community...



Consider policy options that address community needs

- **Policy Option:** Reduce the hours of sale
- **Policy Option:** Municipalities can determine alcohol use in public parks

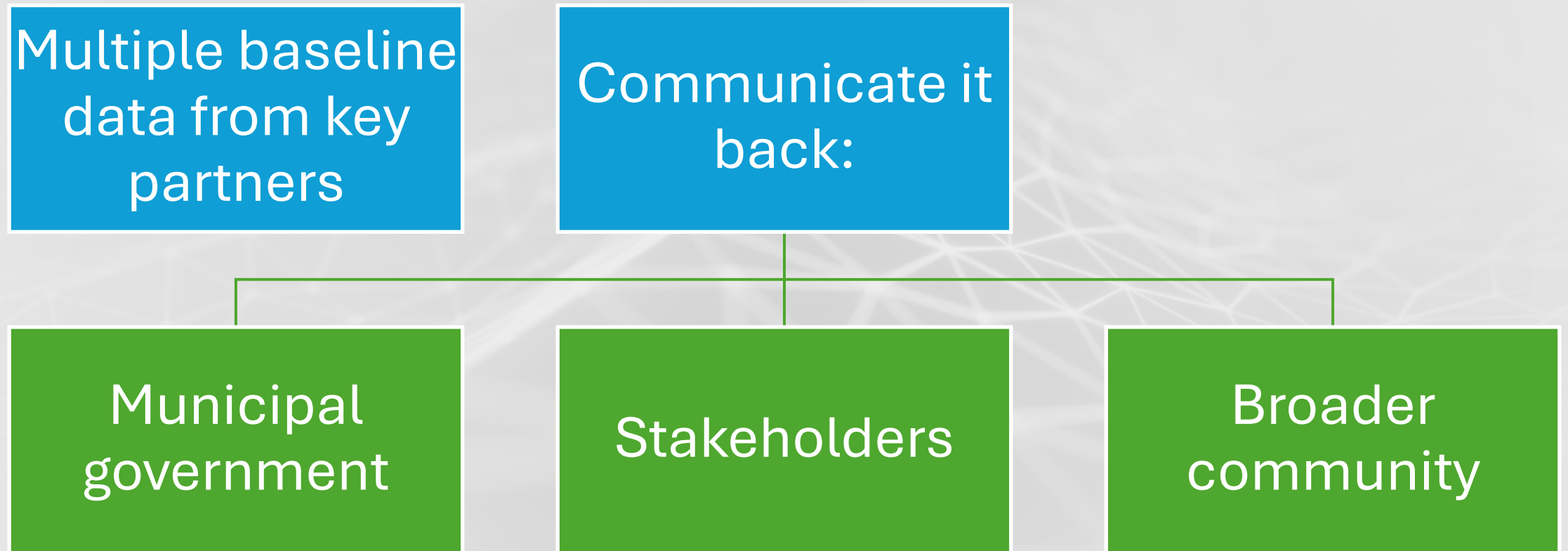


Consider policy options that address community needs

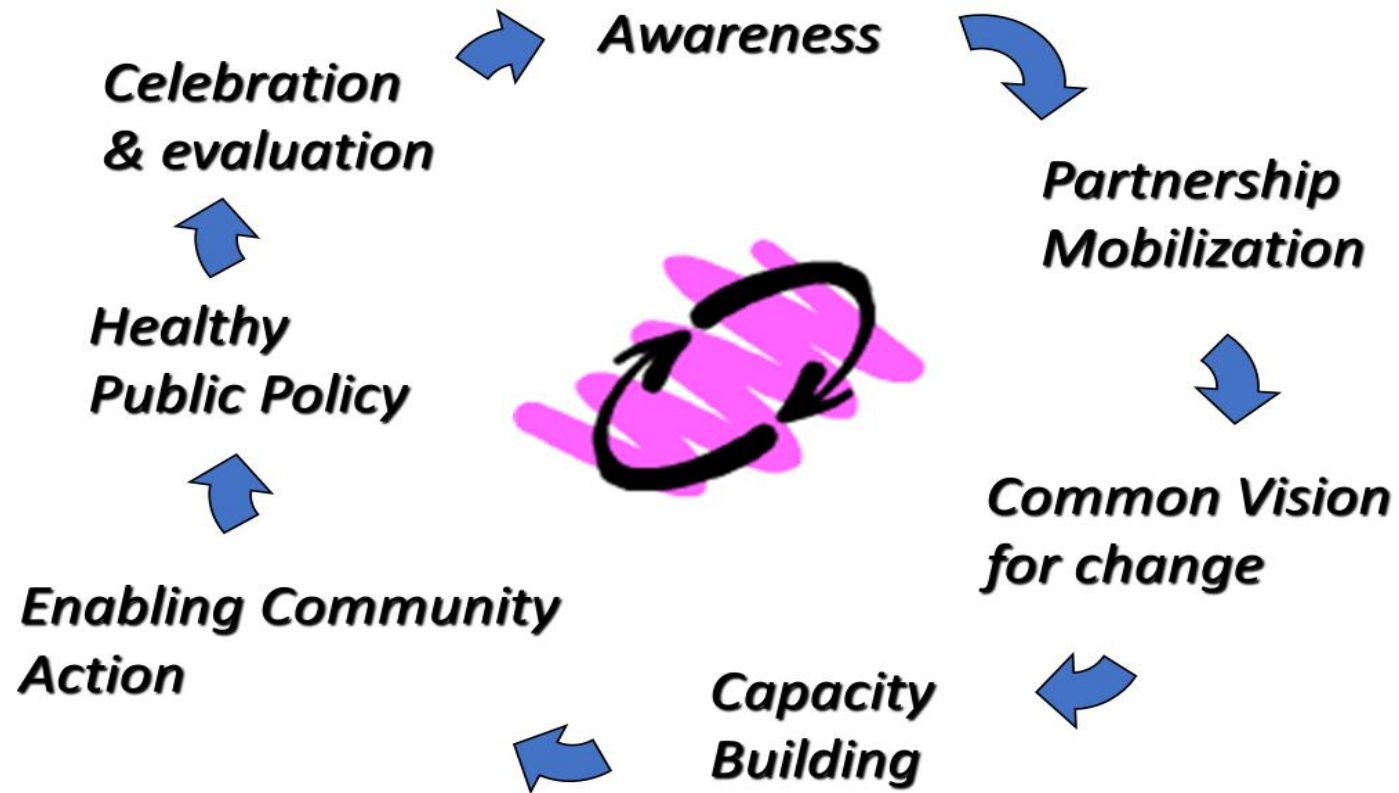
- **Policy Option:** Municipalities can control alcohol in public spaces and event settings (incentive alcohol free with discounted venue rentals, mandate Serve-It-Right, etc.)
- **Policy Option:** Limiting alcohol marketing and sponsorship

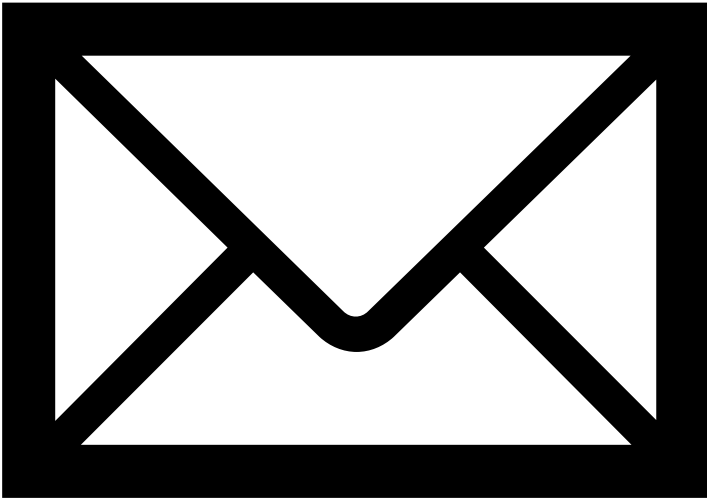


Measure impact



Best Practice in Community initiatives





Thank you!

northernalcoholstrategy@gov.sk.ca

CITY OF PRINCE ALBERT

Liquor Store Hours of Sale Bylaw Review

March 5, 2026

Introductions

We Are:

- Lauren Rusk
 - Senior Epidemiologist, Sask. Health Authority
- Megan McConnell
 - Masters of Public Health Student, University of Saskatchewan
- Anna Dinsdale
 - Community Safety and Well-Being Manager, City of Prince Albert
- Jim Woodcock
 - Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator, City of Prince Albert
- Dr. Ahmed Faress
 - Medical Health Officer, Sask. Health Authority

Introduction

Prince Albert

- Saskatchewan's third largest City (approx. 40,000)
- Located 130km North of Saskatoon
- Major service centre for Northern Sask. Due to location ("Retail" Pop. Approx. 150,000)
- City is approximately 50% First Nations & Metis
- City also has a comparatively young population

Alcohol Use In Prince Albert

- Alcohol use in Prince Albert is substantial
 - Residents of Prince Albert drink an average of 15 alcoholic drinks per week
 - Significantly above the provincial (12.6) and national (13.3) averages
- Between April '23 and June '25 Prince Albert consumed an average of 1.6 million alcoholic drinks a month
- Good News: Over the last three years there has been a decline in alcohol consumption in Prince Albert

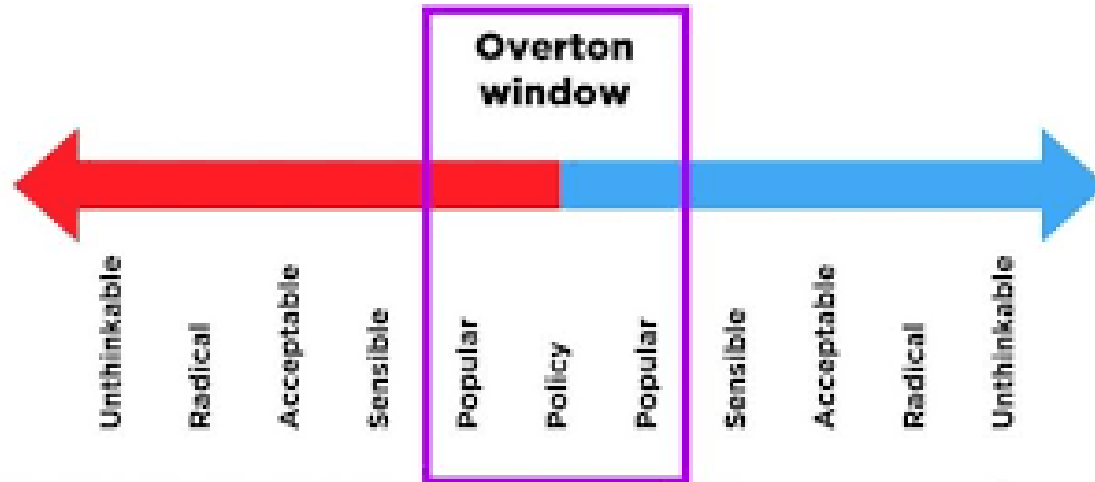
Impact of Alcohol on Prince Albert

In the years preceding the bylaw implementation, worrying statistics regarding the prevalence of alcohol related harms within the community began to emerge:

1. 2023-2024: The rate of crude hospitalizations entirely caused by alcohol in Prince Albert^{1,2} surpassed both the provincial and national averages
2. 2022: Prince Albert Police Service indicated that the majority of their arrests are linked to intoxication³

- As such, consideration was given as to what policy might be useful to mitigate these alcohol related harms

Policy Window



Prince Albert Bylaw Established

- June 1st, 2024 - Liquor Store Hours Bylaw
- Restricted permitted hours of sale at Prince Albert Liquor Stores between 10 am-11 pm
- Previously, liquor stores could operate between 8:00am-3:00am as per provincial regulations⁴

Prince Albert Bylaw Established Cont...

- Alcohol Monitoring Table established with representatives from partner agencies (ex: City Police, SHA) to monitor any unintended consequences
- Evaluation of the bylaw began one year after implementation, using pre- and post-implementation data provided by partner organizations from the Alcohol Monitoring Table

ED Presentations Analysis - Methods

- **Completed by:** SHA and the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Academic Family Medicine led by Dr. Jeffrey Irvine
- **Objective:** To assess if the bylaw was associated with changes to the volume/proportion of Emergency Department (ED) visits to the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital
 - **Pre-bylaw period:** June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024
 - **Post-bylaw period:** June 1, 2024 - May 30, 2025

ED Presentations Review - Methods

Data Sources:

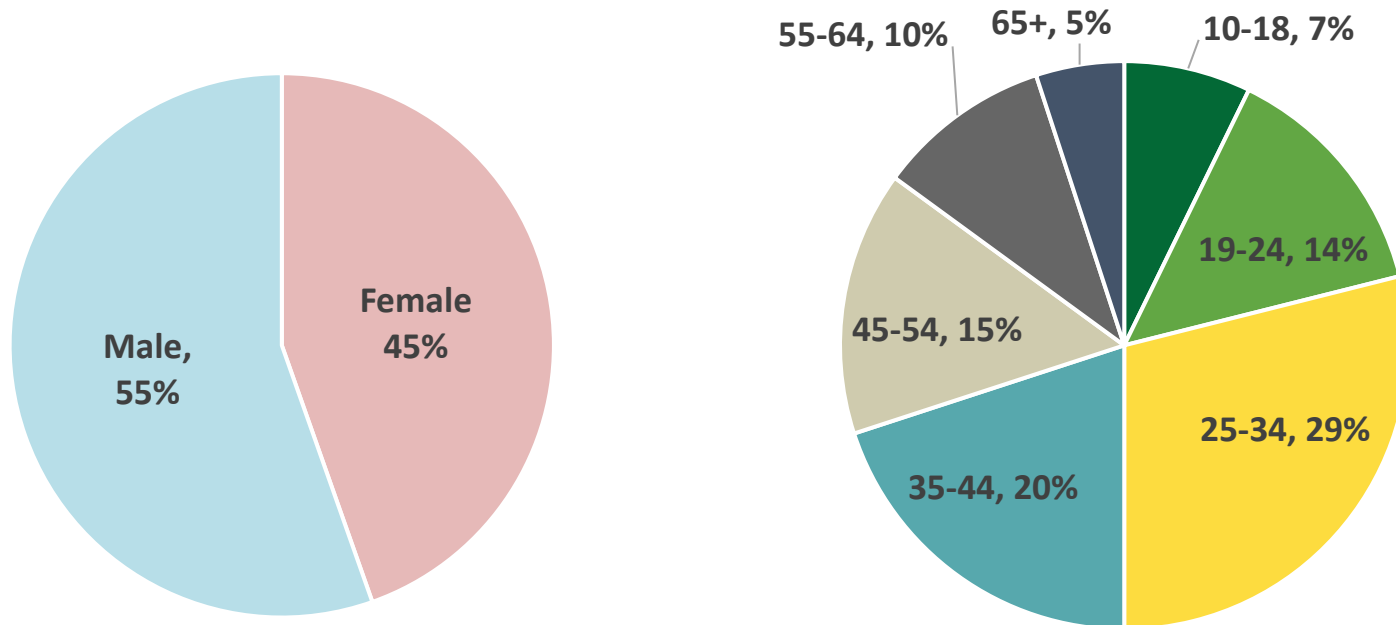
1. **National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS):** Records of presentations to the ED for conditions wholly attributable to alcohol (ICD-10 codes for alcohol poisoning, alcohol withdrawal, etc.)
2. **Chart Reviews:** Records of presentations to the ED for conditions partially related to alcohol (ICD-10 codes for assault, motor vehicle collisions, etc.)

Inclusion Criteria:

- Patients 10+ years of age, with addresses (RES codes) linked to Prince Albert and surrounding RMs (RM of Buckland, RM of Prince Albert)
- Only a patients first visit of the day was included

Results: Alcohol Related Visits to Victoria Hospital ED

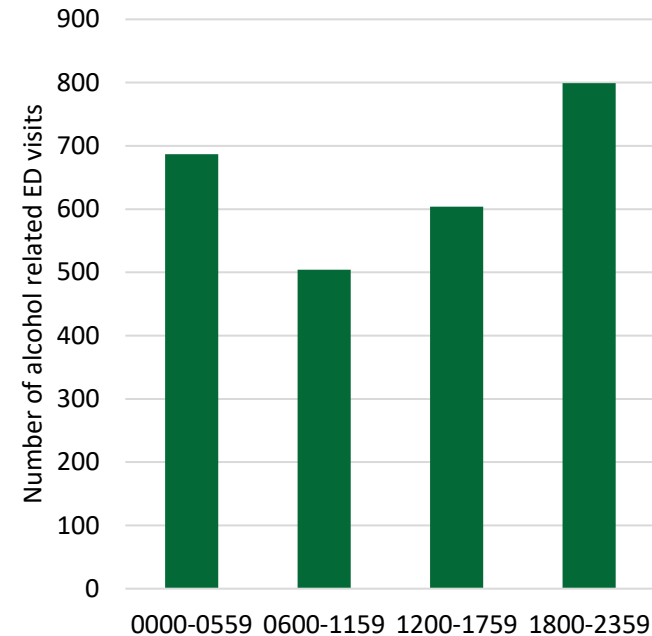
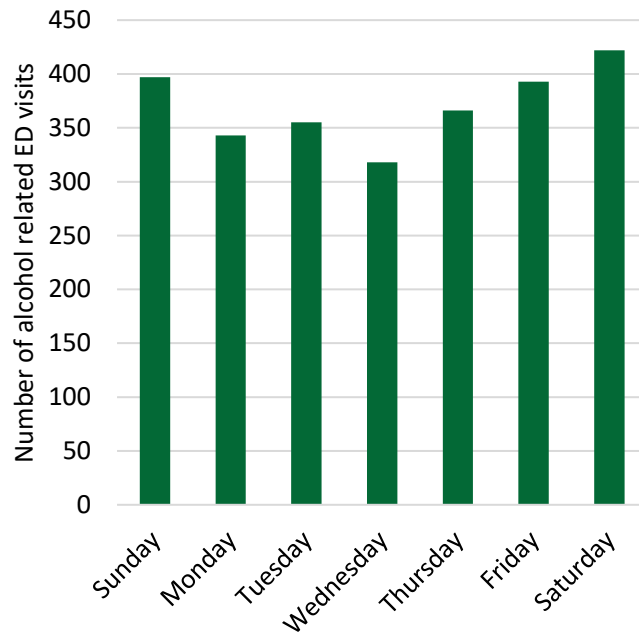
DEMOGRAPHICS



Source: Saskatchewan Health Authority

Results: Alcohol Related Visits to Victoria Hospital ED

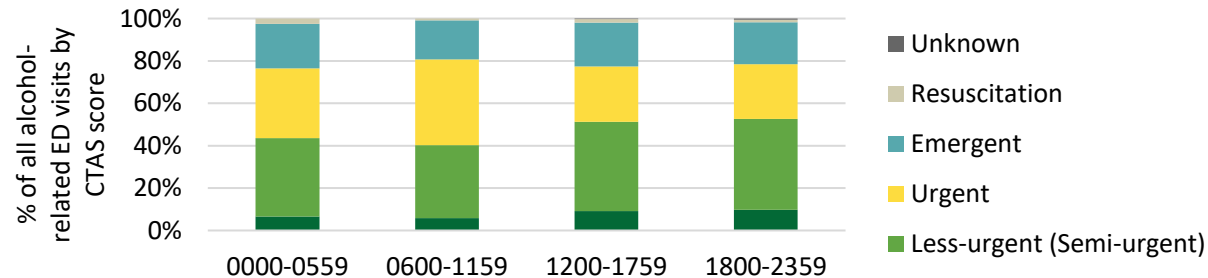
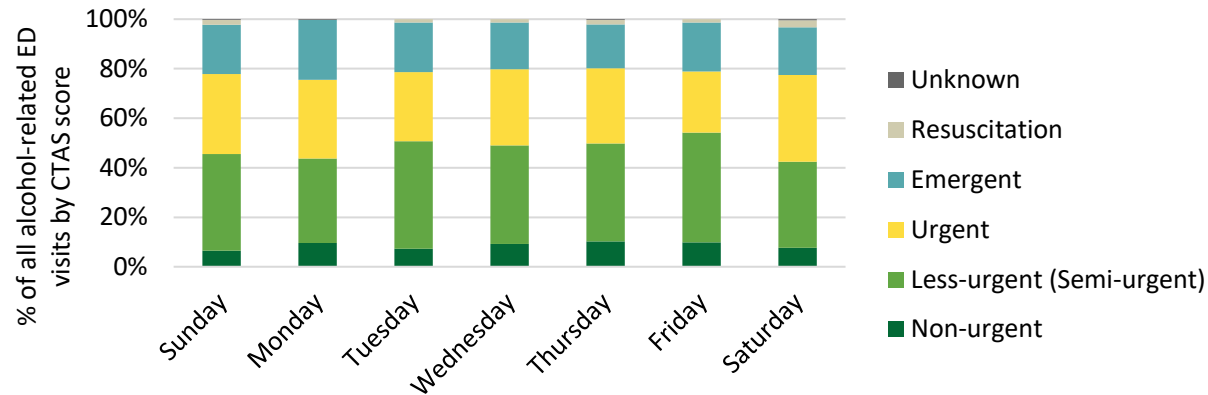
TEMPORAL CHARACTERISTICS



Source: Saskatchewan Health
Authority

Results: Alcohol Related Visits to Victoria Hospital ED

CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS



Source: Saskatchewan Health Authority

Results: Alcohol Related Visits to Victoria Hospital ED

INTERRUPTED TIME SERIES

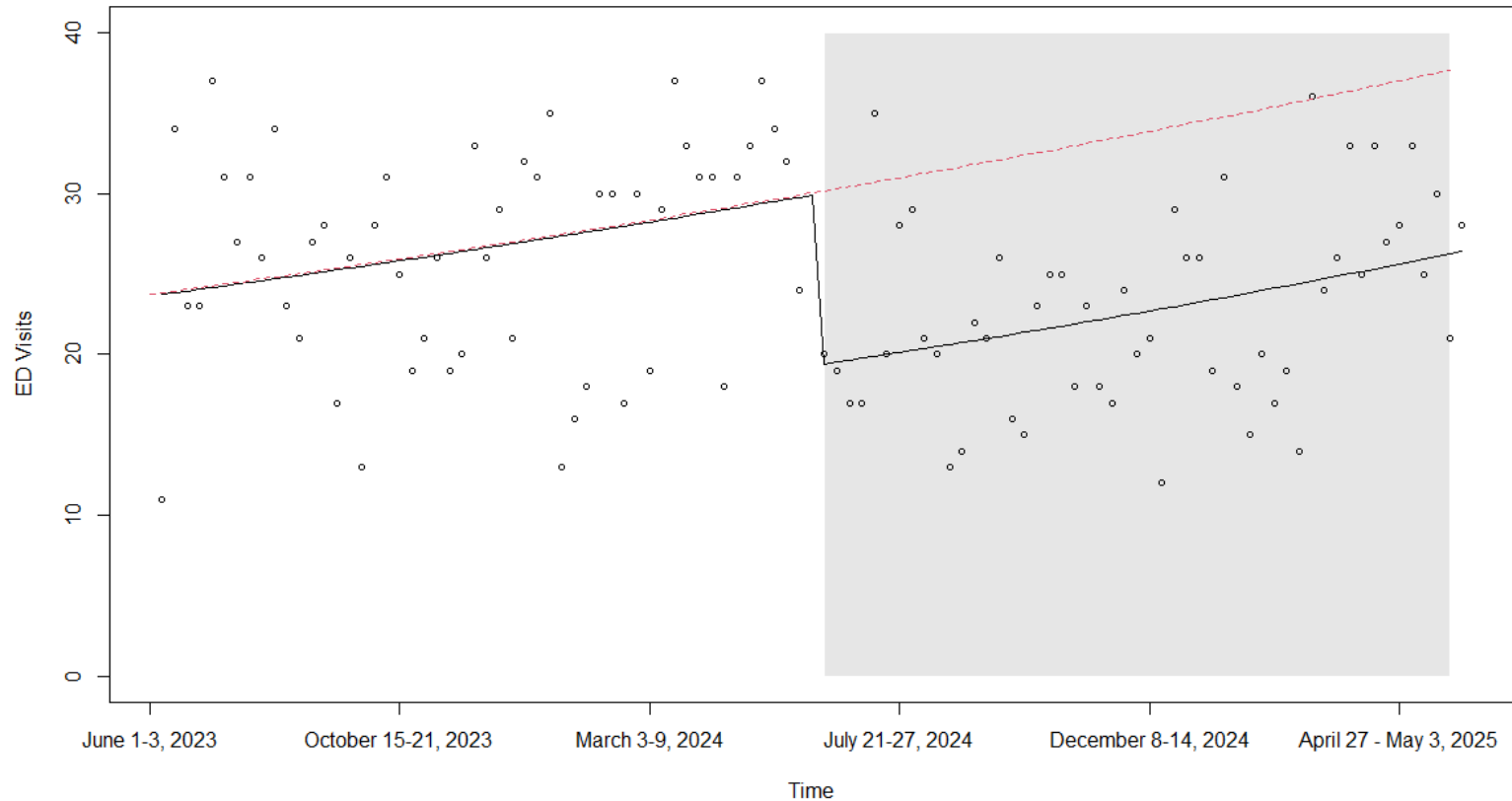
Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	z value	p value
Intercept	3.167	0.054	58.592	<2e-16
Period (pre vs post policy change)	-0.520	0.167	-3.118	0.00182
Time (trend prior to policy change)	0.004	0.002	2.555	0.01061
Period and Time Interaction (change in trend post-policy change)	0.002	0.003	0.606	0.54464

Pre-Policy Change	Post-Policy Change
Average # Visits/Week	Average # Visits/Week
27.0	22.7

Source: Saskatchewan Health Authority

Results: Alcohol Related Visits to Victoria Hospital ED

INTERRUPTED TIME SERIES



Source: Saskatchewan Health Authority

Additional Indicators

- Fire-related calls attended to by the Prince Albert Fire Department
- Alcohol related Mobile Crisis Unit Calls
- Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority data for alcohol shipments to Prince Albert between June '23 and May '25

Summary

- Post-Bylaw Changes
 - Victoria Hospital Emergency Department saw fewer patients presenting with alcohol related issues
 - Potential effect on the overall trend of fire calls in the City
 - There was an overall drop of alcohol related calls at the Mobile Crisis Unit
 - There was no change in the overall pre-existing alcohol sales trend in Prince Albert

Next Steps

1. That the City adopt a consistent approach to alcohol through a Municipal Alcohol Strategy
2. Advocating to create a Provincial Alcohol Strategy which could include indexing social-referencing prices to inflation
3. We hope this helps to open policy windows for changing alcohol policy in other communities

References

- 1. Saskatchewan Health Authority Population Health Department. 2023-24 hospitalizations 100% attributable to alcohol using the AESB Discharge Abstract Database file [Unpublished data]. Saskatoon: Saskatchewan Health Authority Population Health Department; 2025. [Cited May 2025].
- 2. Canadian Institute for Health Information. Hospitalizations entirely caused by alcohol. Canadian Institute for Health Information; 2024 [Cited 2025 May]. Available from: <https://yourhealthsystem.cihi.ca/hsp/inbrief?lang=en#!/indicators/061/hospitalizations-entirely-caused-by-alcohol/;mapC1;mapLevel2;/>
- 3. Dinsdale A. Bylaw No. 13 of 2024 - Liquor Store Hours Bylaw (RPT 24-99). Prince Albert: City of Prince Albert; 2024 April 11 [Cited June 2025]. Available from: <https://pubcitypa.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=771>
- 4. Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority. Commercial liquor permittee policy manual. Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority; 2025 June 1. Available from: <https://www.slga.com/-/media/slga/files/permits-and-licences/liquor-licencing/commercial-liquor-permittee-manual-jun-2025.pdf>

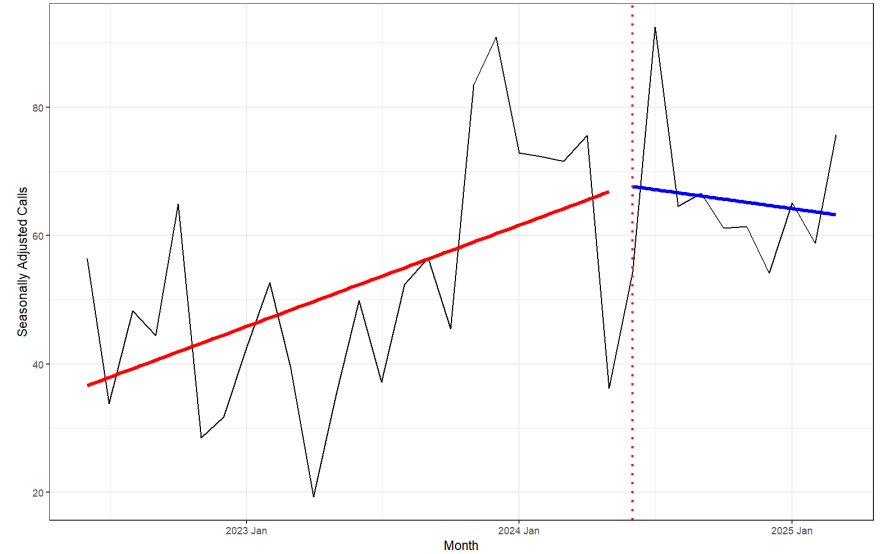
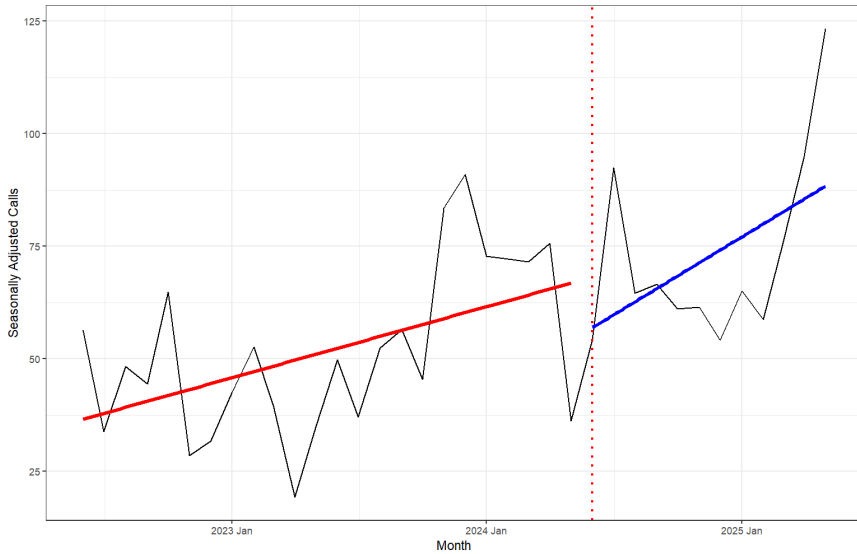
Reference Slide – Mobile Crisis

- Statistically significant* decrease in the proportion of calls related to both alcohol and drugs

Implementation status	Total Calls in PA	Total Calls Related to Alcohol in PA	Total Calls Related to Drugs in PA
Pre-Bylaw	9,493 (88.0%)	1,763 (18.6%)	986 (10.4%)
Post-Bylaw	8,865 (87.8%)	1,265 (14.3%)	555 (6.3%)
Change	-0.2%	-4.3%	-4.1%

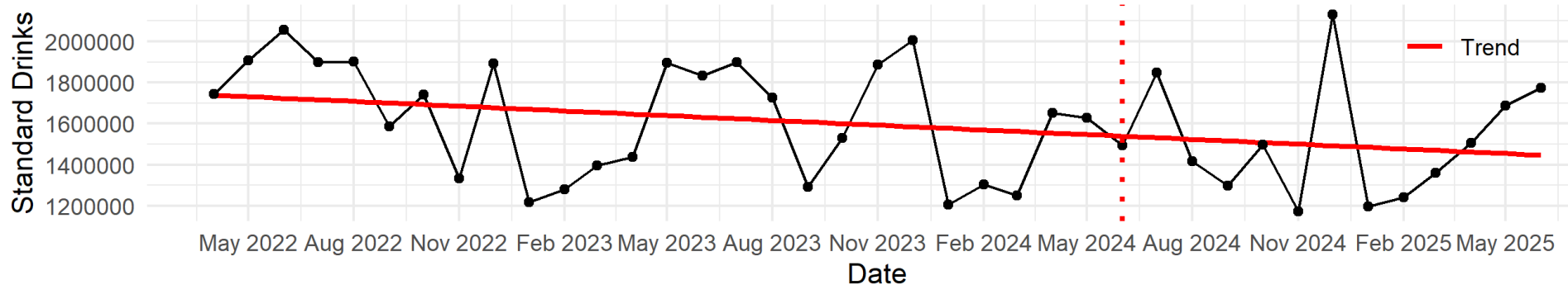
*p<0.0001

Reference Slide – PAFD



Reference Slide: Sask. Liquor and Gaming Authority

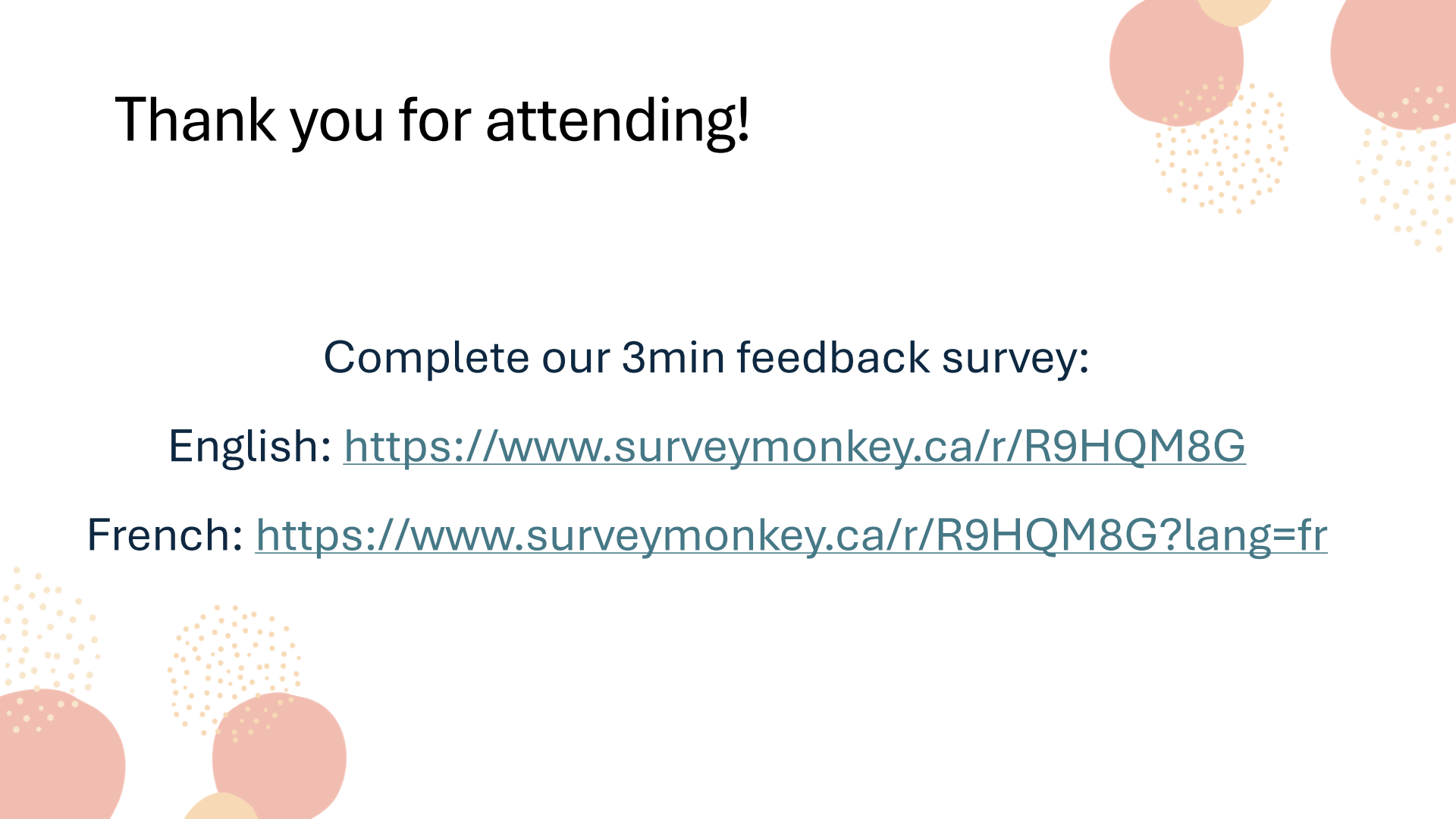
SLGA: Alcohol Shipped to Prince Albert by 1 Standard Drink Equivalency
April, 2022 - June, 2025



- Consistent downward trend in alcohol shipped to Prince Albert between April 2022 and June 2025
- There was no statistically significant change to this trend attributable to the date of the Bylaw change

Q&A





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>