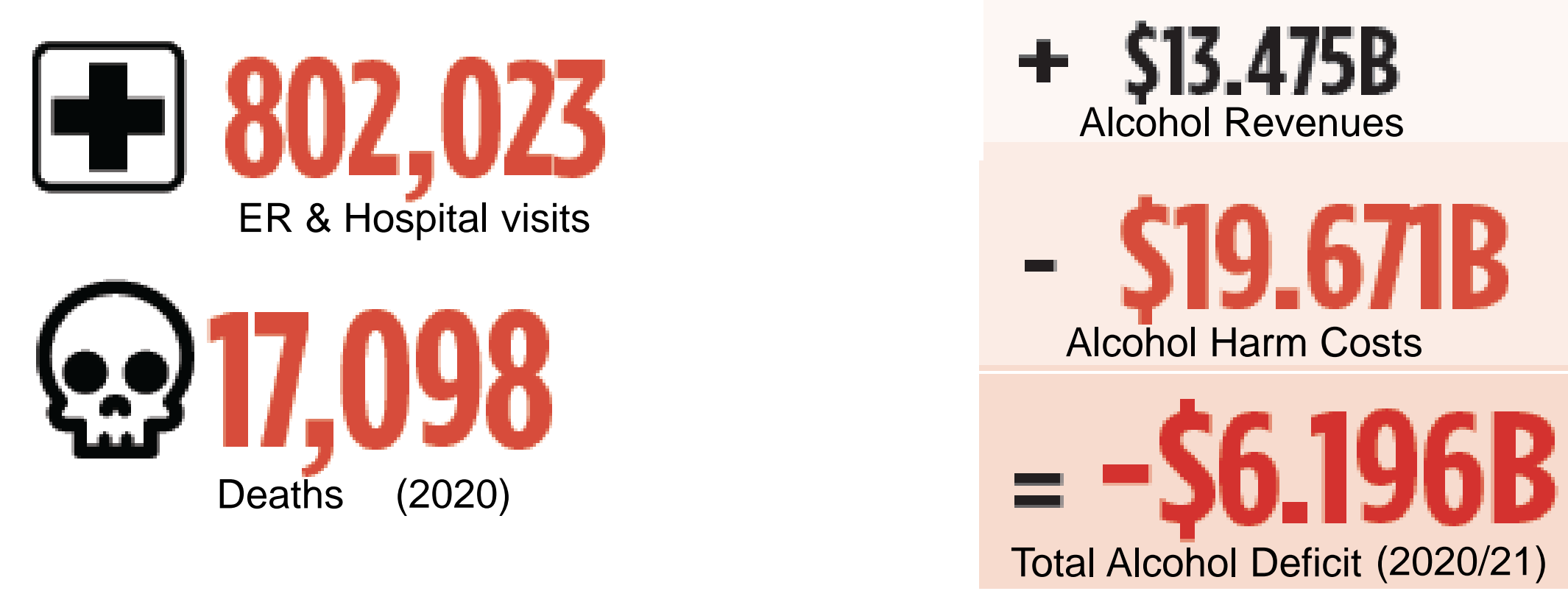


Alcohol Control Policies for Public Health: Best Practice Policies in the Canadian Provinces and Territories

Farkouh, E., Price, T., Priore, I., Vishnevsky, N., Wettlaufer, A., Farrell-Low, A., Giesbrecht, N., Asbridge, M., Gagnon, M., Shelley, J., Sherk, A., Shield, K., Solomon, R., Stockwell, T., Thomas, G., Thompson, K., Naimi, T.

Alcohol harms and costs in Canada



Policy context

Alcohol use is causally linked to >200 health conditions and injuries (e.g., cancer, liver disease, suicide, road injuries) in addition to social harms (e.g., sexual violence, interpersonal violence, crime).

Evidence-based **alcohol control policies** are the primary modifiable means of preventing and reducing alcohol-caused harms.

In Canada, provincial and territorial **governments** have broad legislative authority over many alcohol policy areas, yet policies vary widely.

Research methods

The Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) provides a point-in-time snapshot of **existing alcohol policies** in all 13 provincial and territorial governments.

Alcohol policies were assessed according to a set of 11 evidence-based alcohol **policy domains**.

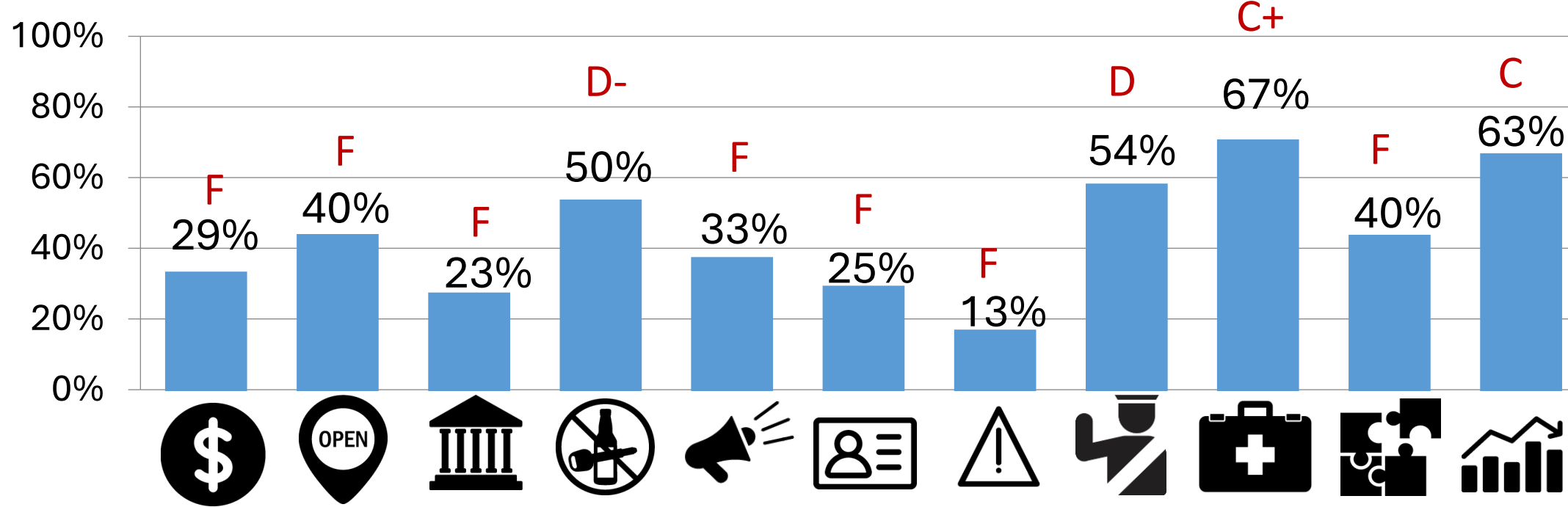
Domains were weighted according to evidence of relative impact, including effectiveness and scope.

Policy data were collected between June-December 2022.

Data were scored using a detailed rubric of **best practices**.

DOMAIN	
1. Pricing & Taxation	
2. Physical Availability	
3. Control System	
4. Impaired Driving Countermeasures	
5. Marketing & Advertising Controls	
6. Minimum Legal Age	
7. Health & Safety Messaging	
8. Liquor Law Enforcement	
9. Screening & Treatment Interventions	
10. Alcohol Strategy	
11. Monitoring & Reporting	

Average Policy Domain Scores (Provincial/Territorial, 2022)



Results

Compared to best practices, all Canadian provincial and territorial governments **scored poorly**.

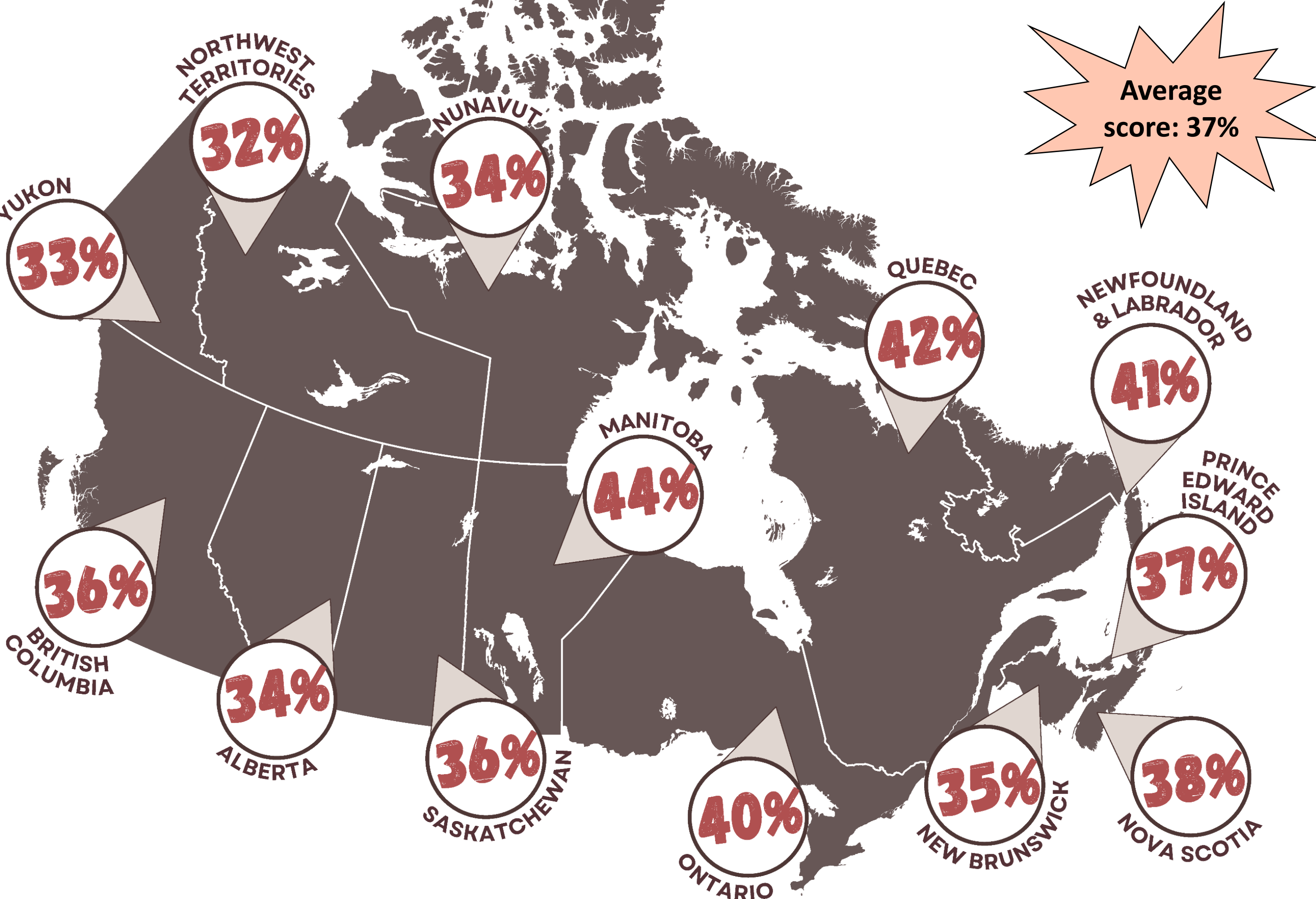
The average overall score was 37%.

Some provinces and territories **scored well on certain policy indicators**, highlighting examples of strong alcohol policies currently in place across Canada.

Analysis showed that **a score of 80% could be achieved** if a province or territory were to implement all the existing best or near best practice policies currently in place in at least one province/territory.

The **‘best existing policies’** score demonstrates the feasibility of greatly improving alcohol control policies for public health.

CAPE Scores (Provincial/Territorial, 2022)



Recommendations

By identifying and adopting best practice policies of other jurisdictions, provincial and territorial governments can strengthen their policies for improved public health.

Further Reading and Resources

- Project Methodology & Evidence Review [FR](#)
- Results Summaries for each province and territory [FR](#)
- Infographics by Policy Domain [FR](#)
- Best Practice Policy Leaders
- Policy Domain Results Summary [FR](#)
- Policy Scoring Rubric

[FR](#) French version available

Room for improvement: provincial and territorial results and recommendations from the Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation project (Priore et al., 2025, Under Review)

POLICY LEADERS (PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL, 2022)

- \$** Specific taxes on alcohol (QC, PE, BC, SK & YT)
- OPEN** Restrictions on outlet density, placement, trading hours (NU, SK, AB, NT, ON); Restrictions on alcohol takeout and home delivery (YT, NL, NT, NU)
- GOVERNMENT** Government owned and operated retail outlets (NU); Prohibited online sales (YT, NT, NU)
- WARNING** Alcohol warning labels (YT, NT); Onsite messaging, health and safety campaigns (AB, ON)
- STRATEGY** Alcohol strategy (NL, NU, NT)

Project website: www.alcoholpolicy.cisur.ca

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