

Building a cross-jurisdictional, intersectoral Community of Practice (CoP) to support policy change that promotes public health: Experience from the Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) project.

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Policy issue

Alcohol is a major cause of health and social harms.

Public policies are important structural determinants of health that shape how and where alcohol is produced, sold and consumed, and **influence alcohol use and harms**.

The Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) results show that provincial, territorial and federal governments have yet to adopt many of the **evidence-based alcohol policies available**.

Essential to improve alcohol policy is to make research evidence easily accessible to those who have power to **change policies**.

Policymakers and practitioners across Canada expressed a need for **tailored knowledge mobilization** activities to support their work and overcome barriers to policy adoption.

Intervention

Canada-wide **network for people interested in alcohol policy**.

A cross-jurisdictional, intersectoral **Community of Practice (CoP)** designed in consultation with participants launched January 2022.

Objective: to facilitate knowledge-exchange, dialogue, partnerships, connections, and collaboration.

Target group: those working in/interested in public health, health services, alcohol regulation and distribution, road safety, justice, non-governmental organizations, researchers, peer organizations, and people with lived/living experience (PWLLE) of alcohol harm.

Activities

- Webinars, roundtables, networking events every 4-6 weeks.
- Working groups: alcohol warning labels; alcohol strategies/action plans.
- Regular emails highlighting alcohol policy news and publications
- A digital communications platform that allows members to share information and resources.

Evaluation and Impact

Evaluation includes analysis of the membership database, knowledge product downloads, event participation, engagement between members, and feedback surveys.

3,200 views of webinar recordings

6,800 downloads of webinar materials and resources

27,000 visits to the CAPE webpage

- Over **600 people** have joined the CoP from provincial, territorial, Canada-wide and international jurisdictions.
- Member affiliations and jurisdictions continue to **grow and diversify**.
- Members co-create events, actively promote the CoP to others and report high satisfaction with CoP offerings.
- Members report they have:
 - Gained and applied new **knowledge**
 - established valuable **partnerships**
 - increased **collaboration** within and beyond their organization
 - feel a sense of **community**

Implications for Practice

- The CoP addresses a need for knowledge exchange and collaboration in alcohol policy, helps to bridge the gap between research and practice, and contributes to public health efforts to reduce alcohol harms.
- As transdisciplinary approaches continue to be prioritized in research and practice, this CoP offers an example that could be applied to other public health initiatives.

Further Reading and Resources

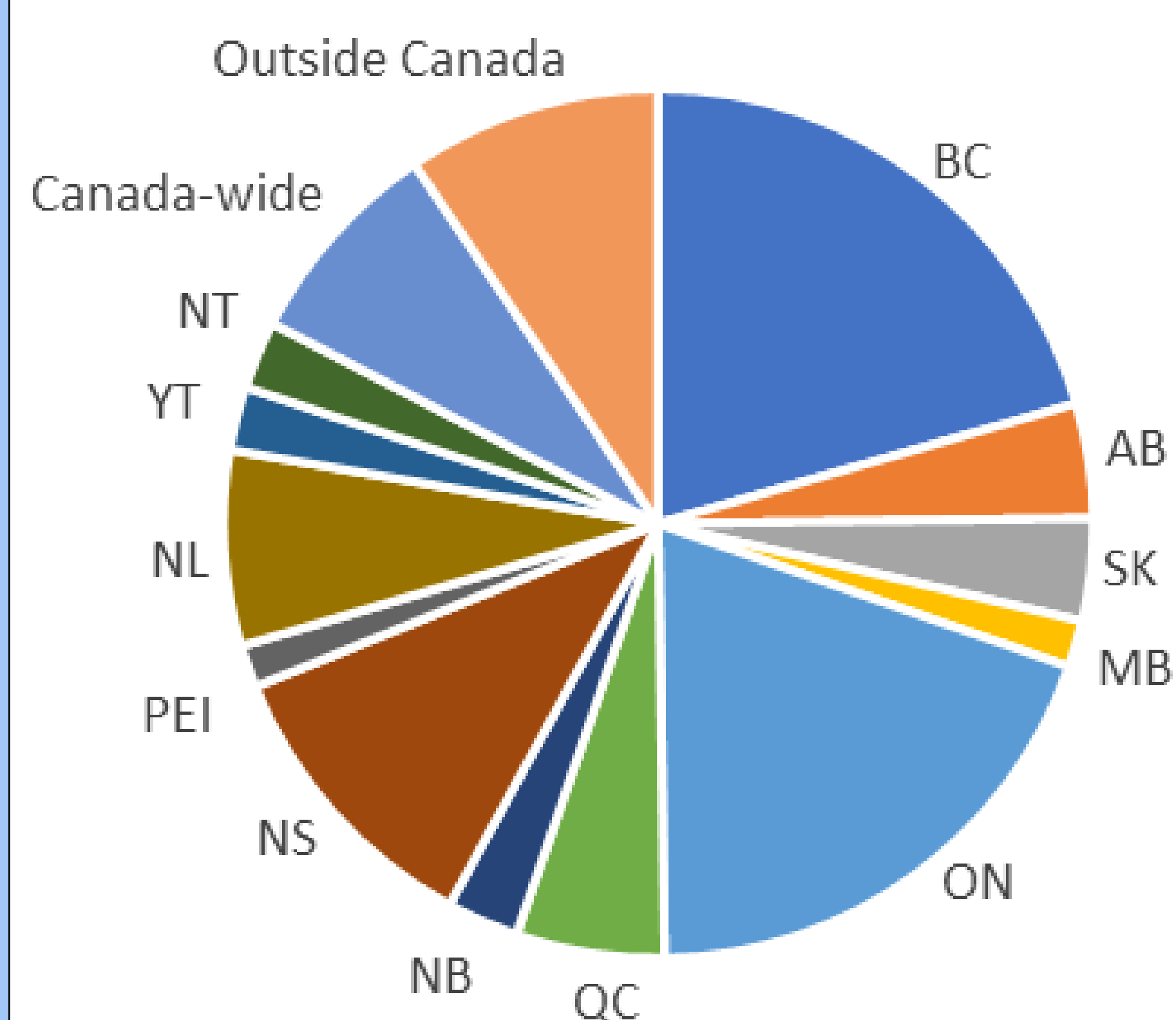
- CAPE CoP Evaluation Report ^{FR}
- CAPE CoP Terms of Reference ^{FR}

^{FR} French version available

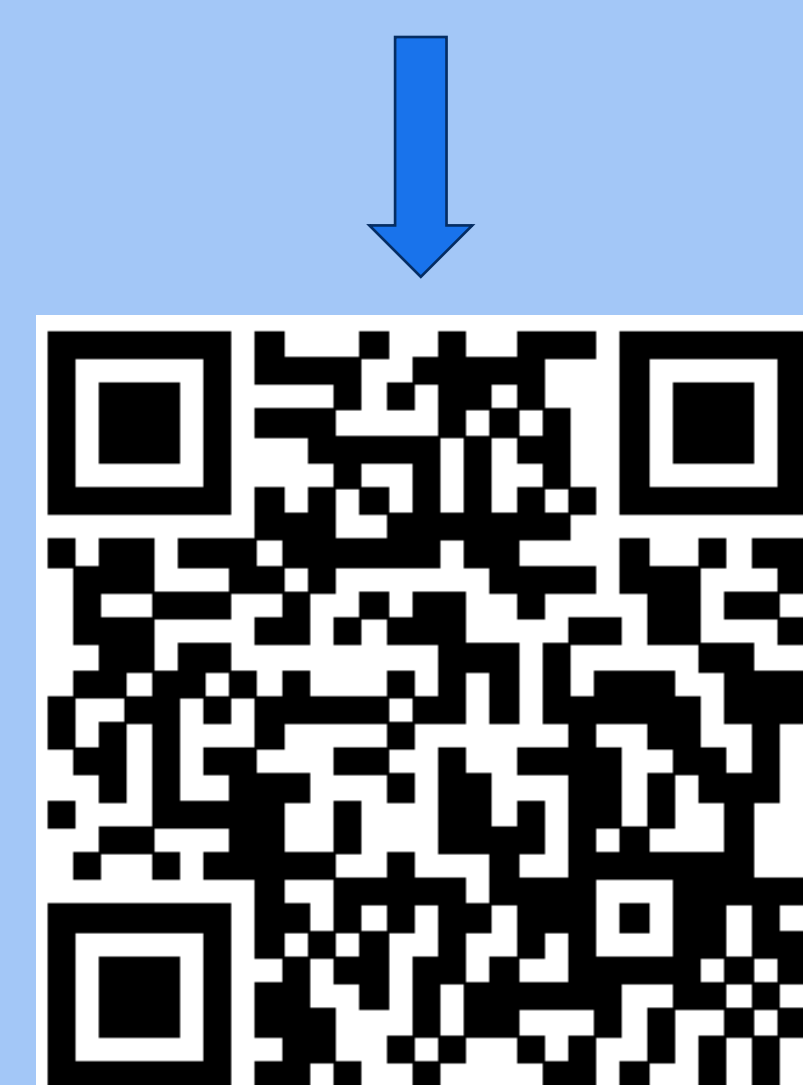
Building a community of practice to address alcohol harms in Canada: Experience from the Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation project (Price et al., 2024, Canadian Journal of Public Health)



CoP Members by Jurisdiction



Scan to join
CAPE CoP



"It's wonderful to have a tribe who are equally passionate about reducing the costs and harms related to alcohol use"

"It's always excellent, advancing my knowledge or thinking on relevant topics. I also appreciate the opportunity to engage with others in the CoP and to learn from the experts"

"I think this is a fabulous network and collaborating opportunity for those working in Alcohol Policy"

Project website
www.alcoholpolicy.cisur.ca

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CANADIAN ALCOHOL
POLICY EVALUATION