

BUT THE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS:

DRINKING IN PUBLIC SPACES
RATIONALE:

"ALLOWING DRINKING IN PARKS, BEACHES AND PLAZAS IS A MORE EQUITABLE APPROACH."

See the report: www.cisur.ca

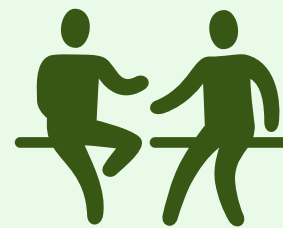


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While some people may enjoy having a drink at the park or beach, it is important to remember the presence of alcohol is not necessary for enjoyment to occur, and for some may detract from it.



Encouraging or facilitating the use of alcohol to connect with others during high stress situations such as COVID-19 may further normalize alcohol as a coping strategy.



Implementing sanctioned spaces for alcohol consumption that aren't developed in conjunction with vulnerable groups who typically drink outdoors may lead to further criminalization and harms within these communities.



Those who are in vulnerable groups/living in lower income neighborhoods are more likely to experience harms from others' drinking, including in public places, so allowing public drinking could magnify existing health and social inequities.

DRINKING IN PUBLIC SPACES
RATIONALE:

**"IT WILL
SUPPORT THE
HARD-HIT
HOSPITALITY
INDUSTRY."**

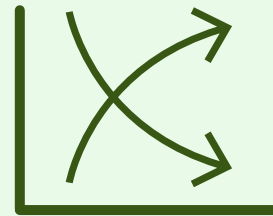
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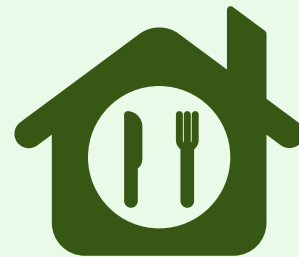
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BUT THE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS:



While alcohol sales from restaurants, bars, and pubs in BC have fallen during COVID-19, liquor stores have seen significant sales increases.



While some people might buy takeout drinks from pubs and restaurants to drink in public spaces, it's more likely they will continue to buy cheaper alcohol from liquor stores at the expense of the hospitality industry.



Unless regulations are in place to encourage people to buy alcohol from nearby restaurants, pubs or food trucks, they are likely to purchase it from a cheaper liquor store.

DRINKING IN PUBLIC SPACES
RATIONALE:

**“LOTS OF
PLACES IN
WESTERN
EUROPE DO
THIS AND
HAVE NO
PROBLEMS.”**

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BUT THE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS:



Many European countries with more "liberal" drinking cultures actually have much higher rates of alcohol consumption and suffer from more alcohol-related harms than in North America, including alcohol-related diseases like cancer.



More permissive attitudes towards alcohol and its broad availability in parts of Europe also contribute to increased rates of underage drinking and binge drinking among youth.



European research has shown that drinking outdoors increased the likelihood of experiencing harms from other peoples' drinking, especially for women and vulnerable groups.



Some European countries that allow public alcohol consumption, such as France and the Netherlands, actually restricted public drinking to stop the spread of COVID-19.