



Board Report

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Working with the Grey Bruce communities to protect and promote health

Table of Contents

Mitigating the Risk to Municipalities from Changes to Alcohol Regulations..... 1

Opioid-related Deaths in Grey Bruce..... 2

Mitigating the Risk to Municipalities from Changes to Alcohol Regulations

Recent provincial regulatory changes regarding the sale, service and consumption of alcohol will impact local communities. These changes include, in part:

- Special Occasion Permit (SOP) events will have extended hours for sale of alcohol, will not be required to serve food and will not have to physically separate areas of alcohol service from the rest of the event.
- Tailgate Events, in which attendees supply their own alcohol, will be allowed at professional, semi-professional or post-secondary sporting events.
- Municipalities now have the authority to designate public spaces for the consumption of alcohol through a local by-law. Designated public places can include parks and beaches.

With greater access to alcohol, consumption will increase and so too will associated harms. These changes present risks to municipalities, including both increased direct cost through policing, paramedic services and property damage, as well as increased liability. Municipalities have the authority to limit these risks by requiring Special Occasion Permit events held on municipal property to implement mitigation measures.

In November 2019, the Ontario Public Health Association's Alcohol Workgroup released a report and corresponding recommendations for municipalities about what mitigation measures are available for use in response to some of the provincial changes. They recommend municipalities adopt, at a minimum, the following provisions to the Municipal Alcohol Policy in order to reduce the potential harms arising from the recent provincial regulatory changes:

- Specify the times permitted for alcohol service and retain previous permissible times.
- Prohibit events sanctioned under a Tailgate Event Special Occasion Permit.
- Maintain existing minimum pricing requirements in light of recent policy changes that have effectively lowered the retail price of alcohol.
- Require that food be made available (i.e. do not permit alcohol-only events).
- Require that designated alcohol service and consumption areas be physically separated from non-designated areas.

Public health staff have updated the Grey Bruce Municipal Alcohol Policy template to reflect these and other needed changes. In the coming months, public health staff will engage directly with municipal staff to support Municipal Alcohol Policy updates in accordance with the Alcohol Workgroup's recommendations.

Opioid-related Deaths in Grey Bruce



May 2017 to June 2019

In May 2017, the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario began collecting detailed information about opioid-related deaths. Between May of 2017 and June of 2019, 24 Grey Bruce residents died from opioid poisoning. Almost all of these deaths were accidental and the newest available information collected about these accidental opioid-related deaths is summarized here.

Demographic Characteristics



43% Nearly half of the deaths occurred among **45 to 64 year-old males**



82% Around 80% of those who died **lived in a private residence** (status unknown for 13%)



52% At least half of those who died were **unemployed** (status unknown for 26%)

Circumstances Surrounding Deaths



70% **Fentanyl and carfentanil** contributed to 70% of these deaths



65% At least 65% of those who died were **alone at the time** (status unknown for 17%)



61% of those who died, **died in their home**



25% Evidence of **injection drug use** was found in 25% of fatal poisonings



61% **Resuscitation** was attempted in 61% of cases



35% **Naloxone** was administered in 35% of cases