




# COMMUNICATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members Board of Health
<b>DATE:</b>	September 27, 2023
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Municipal Alcohol Policy Revision Update (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Julie Prieto Director, Epidemiology and Wellness Division Public Health Services
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

This communication provides the Board of Health with an update on the City of Hamilton's Municipal Alcohol Policy revision and informs members of the intent to provide recommendations for an updated Municipal Alcohol Policy to Public Health Committee in August 2024.

Municipal Alcohol Policies are tools that align with provincial liquor laws and outline the safe and appropriate use of alcohol on municipal properties. These policies reduce City liability for events with alcohol on City properties, define responsibilities of third-party event organizers to reduce alcohol-related harm, and reduce exposure to risk and the potential for host liability. Municipal Alcohol Policies acknowledge societal use of alcohol in social and leisure activities and aim to influence the drinking environment by encouraging lower-levels of drinking, responsible consumption and positive social norms around alcohol consumption in the community.

The City of Hamilton's current Municipal Alcohol Policy was developed in 2011 and requires updating to address changes associated with the *Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 15, Sched. 22*, and the changing alcohol landscape in Ontario. In December 2019 (see Report BOH19032, Municipal Actions to Reduce Harms Associated with Alcohol Use), Council directed Public Health Services staff to a) initiate a review of the 2011 Municipal Alcohol Policy including the formation of a cross-departmental working group; and, b) report back with recommended updates to the Municipal Alcohol Policy. Initiation of the review was put on hold in 2020 due to the public health response to COVID-19.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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Planning to revise the Municipal Alcohol Policy has begun, and starting in September 2023, a cross departmental working group will be initiated to coordinate the revision. The working group includes representation from Healthy and Safe Communities, Planning and Economic Development, Public Works, and Corporate Services. The revision will be completed in 2024 and will include community and stakeholder consultations on proposed updates to the Municipal Alcohol Policy.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Melissa Biksa, Manager, Mental Well-Being and Substance Use Program, Public Health Services at Ext. 6709 or [melissa.biksa@hamilton.ca](mailto:melissa.biksa@hamilton.ca).

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Not Applicable.