

MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL POLICIES

REPORT CARD



PRESENTED TO COUNCIL ON APRIL 16, 2012

PURPOSE

The Municipal Alcohol Policies: Options for NS Municipalities is intended to be a resource for, primarily, municipal leaders and staff who want to make a difference in their communities by changing the culture of alcohol through local municipal policy.

COMPLETED/OPERATIONALIZED - 18%

The Town establishes hours of operation for a business that serves alcohol through development agreements

The Town and Gown committee brings together municipal, university and enforcement officials to identify priority areas for reducing alcohol harm

IN-PROGRESS - 18%

Through municipal bylaws and policy development, municipalities can create policies that restrict or prohibit the advertising of alcohol on municipal owned land, facilities and/or at municipal events.

Municipalities can partner with universities to create and enforce effective alcohol policies

MOVED FORWARD - 64%

Through sign and land-use bylaws, municipalities can control the location, size and type of signs that are displayed in front of liquor establishments

Towns can collaborate and support licensed establishments to reduce hours of operation

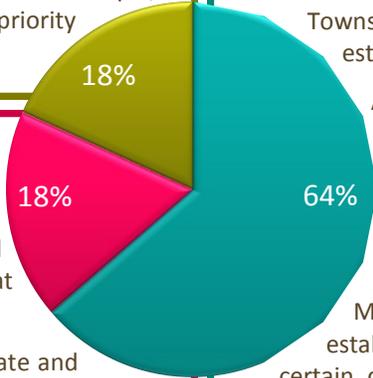
A business that sells alcohol can be restricted to certain zones but cannot be prohibited from the municipality entirely. One way to improve control over bar locations is through strict, although not fully prohibitive, rezoning criteria in the municipal planning strategy

Municipalities can determine that licensed establishments be prohibited from operating within a certain distance of an area frequented by children and youth (such as a school, day care, community facility or other such venue)

Municipalities can define a single detached dwelling as having a specified number of bedrooms. Dwelling that exceed the specified number receive a different definition. A municipal minimum standards bylaw can limit the number of people in the dwelling

Develop an informed landlord bylaw that holds landlords accountable for their tenants' behaviour

A municipality can work closely with its landlords and encourage them to proactively inform their tenants that the misuse of alcohol that harms neighbours and other tenants will not be accepted and is grounds for eviction. If financial and human resources are available, a landlord licensing system could be explored



The following recommendations were MOVED FORWARD to be considered in the Municipal Planning Strategy Review:

- Through sign and land-use bylaws, municipalities can control the location, size and type of signs that are displayed in front of liquor establishments
- Towns can collaborate and support licensed establishments to reduce hours of operation
- A municipality has the authority to regulate the location of all development through zoning. A business that sells alcohol can be restricted to certain zones but cannot be prohibited from the municipality entirely. One way to improve control over bar locations is through strict, although not fully prohibitive, rezoning criteria in the municipal planning strategy
- Municipalities can determine that licensed establishments be prohibited from operating within a certain distance of an area frequented by children and youth (such as a school, day care, community facility or other such venue)
- Municipalities can define a single detached dwelling as having a specified number of bedrooms. Dwellings that exceed the specified number receive a different definition. A municipal minimum standards bylaw can limit the number of people in the dwelling

The following recommendations were MOVED FORWARD to be considered in the Core Area Action Plan:

- Municipalities may be able to follow the Town of Antigonish's example and develop an informed landlord bylaw that holds landlords accountable for their tenants' behaviour
- A municipality can work closely with its landlords and encourage them to proactively inform their tenants that the misuse of alcohol that harms neighbours and other tenants will not be accepted and is grounds for eviction. If financial and human resources are available, a landlord licensing system could be explored