

No. 57 -2016

MOTION/RESOLUTION

Moved by L. MacDonald

Seconded by Carl Ban

WHEREAS alcohol is the second leading cause of death, disease, and disability in Canada and causally linked to over 60 diseases and injuries;ⁱ and

WHEREAS the ^{economic and CB}cost of substance misuse is incurred at every level, including direct health care, law enforcement, our judiciary system, our social system, lost productivity, and premature deaths, amounting to an estimated \$473 per year in cost to each and every Canadian due to alcohol; and ⁱⁱ

WHEREAS 61.7% of people in the NWHU catchment area exceed Canada's Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines (45.3% Ontario-wide);ⁱⁱⁱ 23.3% of adults report episodes of heavy drinking in the past year (17.9 Ontario-wide);^{iv} and hospitalization rate from alcohol misuse in 2015 was 232.5 per 100,000 in NWHU; which is significantly higher than in Ontario (48.4 per 100,000).;^v and

WHEREAS 54.1% of students under the age of 18 partake in underage drinking (31.0% Ontario-wide)^{vi}; and 76% of students in grades 9 to 12 in Northwestern Ontario have had 5 or more drinks on at least one occasion in the past 12 months;^{vii} and

WHEREAS the Regulatory Modernization in Ontario's Beverage Alcohol Industry initiative (2014), through the Ministry of Finance and the Alcohol Gaming Commission of Ontario, has increased alcohol availability in Ontario through initiatives including VQA wine in Farmers' Markets, support to industry, increased hours of sale and removal of special event and festival restrictions;^{viii} and

WHEREAS the privatization of alcohol sales in grocery stores has set a precedent for further privatization across multiple venues throughout Ontario making alcohol more available and exposing our children to a perception of alcohol being a normal and ordinary commodity; and

WHEREAS alcohol is no ordinary commodity and decisions about its promotion and availability should be made within the broader context of alcohol's known negative societal, economic and health risks;^{ix} and

WHEREAS local boards of health are required under the Ontario Public Health Standards to develop health promotion and protection strategies to mitigate against the risks of alcohol consumption and boards are held accountable under the MOHLTC Accountability Agreements for reporting on local alcohol consumption rates; ^x

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the Northwestern Health Unit pass a resolution asking Their contributing municipalities to develop or update their municipal alcohol policy to address where possible the issues of availability and marketing of alcohol.

~~FURTHER THAT the Board of Health for the Northwestern Health Unit share their concerns around alcohol with the community and with their MPP by means of an open letter.~~

AND FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to all municipalities in the Northwestern Health Unit catchment area.

Handwritten signature/initials

	Yea	Nay	Abstained	Disclosure of Interest
C. Baron	✓			
D. Brown				
Y. Kirlew		✓		
L. MacDonald	✓			
J. Roy	✓			
J. Ruete	✓			
P. Ryan	✓			
T. Sachowski	✓			
S. Smith	✓			
B. Thompson				

Date: June 22, 2016

Chair.....

Handwritten signature: Julie Roy

ⁱ World Health Organization. (2009). *Global Health Risks: Mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks*. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/global_health_risks/en/index.html

ⁱⁱ Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), 2015. *Alcohol Availability Advocacy Package*. Retrieved from email June 15, 2015.

ⁱⁱⁱ Public Health Ontario. Snapshots: Self-reported rate of exceeding either low-risk alcohol drinking guidelines. Toronto, ON: Agency for Health Protection and Promotion; 2015 Dec 14 [cited 2016 May 26]. Available from: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Snapshots/Pages/Health-Behaviours---Alcohol-Use.aspx#.V0b70iGVkQM>

^{iv} Public Health Ontario. Snapshots: Self-reported heavy drinking rate. Toronto, ON: Agency for Health Protection and Promotion; 2015 Dec 14 [cited 2016 May 26]. Available from: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Snapshots/Pages/Health-Behaviours---Alcohol-Use.aspx#.V0b70iGVkQM>

^v Inpatient Discharges 2008-2015, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, IntelliHEALTH Ontario, Date Extracted: June 7, 2016; OHMRS 2008-2015, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, IntelliHEALTH Ontario, Date Extracted: June 7, 2016

^{vi} Public Health Ontario. Snapshots: Self-reported underage drinking rate. Toronto, ON: Agency for Health Protection and Promotion; 2015 Dec 14 [cited 2016 May 26]. Available from: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Snapshots/Pages/Health-Behaviours---Alcohol-Use.aspx#.V0b70iGVkQM>

^{vii} COMPASS Survey

^{viii} Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), 2015. *Alcohol Availability Advocacy Package*. Retrieved from email June 15, 2015

^{ix} Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), 2015. *Alcohol Availability Advocacy Package*. Retrieved from email June 15, 2015

^x Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), 2015. *Alcohol Availability Advocacy Package*. Retrieved from email June 15, 2015