

Our Ask

That municipal governments support their local Public Health Unit and encourage the Provincial Government to:

- Develop a funded public health approach to cannabis legalization, regulation, restriction of access, education and harm reduction in Ontario.
- Harmonize regulatory restrictions on smoked cannabis with those on tobacco as provided in the Smoke-Free Ontario Act.
- Increase the minimum age of access to cannabis to 21 in Ontario.

That municipal governments:

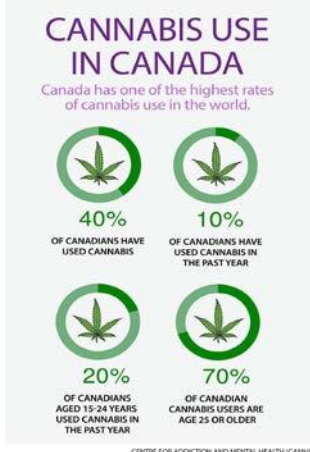
- Develop Municipal Cannabis Policies similar to those for the Municipal Alcohol Policies for the planning and implementation of cannabis-related interventions and other policy levers to reduce risk from cannabis use.

Return on Investment



- A funded public health approach to cannabis that includes prevention and education strategies allows for more control of the risk factors and a reduction in harm associated with cannabis use will result in reduced health care costs.
- Public health-focused approach on cannabis can result in a net benefit to population health and safety.

Background



- Canadian youth are among the top users of cannabis in the developed world.
- Cannabis use carries health risks, including problems with brain functioning (e.g. drug-impaired driving), respiratory problems, and dependence.
- Federal government's responsibilities focus on setting strict requirements on cannabis cultivation and manufacturing, and setting industry-wide rules and standards on types of products for sale, packaging/labelling, production practices, etc.
- Provinces and territories will be responsible for licensing and overseeing the distribution and sale of cannabis, subject to federal conditions.
- Municipalities will be responsible for many enforcement aspects, through police services, by-law inspectors and public health enforcement officers.



Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

STRONG LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Strong Local Public Health

- Ontario’s 444 Municipalities benefit from the many public health programs and services that keep them healthy.
- Under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, municipalities in a health unit are responsible for paying the expenses of the health unit in the performance of its functions and duties that are largely mandated by the province.
- Ontario’s 35 public health units work hard to deliver these essential programs and services to prevent disease and promote health in local communities.
- For more than 180 years, Ontarians have enjoyed a strong public health system that puts local communities and their health at the front and centre.

Other Key Public Health Issues



While we have highlighted the health issue on the reverse as a particularly important topic you should be aware of, there are a host of other broad public health issues that may also affect the overall health in your community. Here are a few:

- Tobacco endgame
- Oral health for adults
- Cannabis
- Opioids
- Mental health
- Alcohol
- Food insecurity

About alPHa



Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

- The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) is a not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to the boards of health and public health units in Ontario.
- Membership in alPHa is open to the 35 public health units in Ontario and we work closely with board of health members, medical and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health managers in each of the public health disciplines – nursing, inspections, nutrition, dentistry, health promotion, epidemiology and business administration.
- The Association works with governments, including local government, and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective and efficient public health system in the province.
- Through policy analysis, discussion, collaboration, and advocacy, alPHa’s members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention, and surveillance services in all of Ontario’s communities.