

# External Committee Report

## Municipal Alcohol Project

### September 2024

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The committee met on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Community Youth Development Centre at 1:30 to discuss a plan for the upcoming year.

The Harm Reduction Check List for from Pictou MAP group is in draft form for our group to use. We would like to pilot the checklist at an event, such as an ATV rally or the beer garden at the curling club.

Harm Reduction Champion awardees – would be great if we can use the group we used as a pilot for the checklist as the champion this year.

Election letter of support to the CAOs and councils will be drafted soon requesting continued support and participation from each municipal unit.

Election questions, the group will partner with the Chamber, if they are hosting a public forum to have harm reduction questions added to the list of questions asked of the candidates.

Some action items for the future of the committee:

- Update the former Alcohol Report for Amherst
- Try to get our councils to adopt policies from across the country
- Track court reports with alcohol involved and children are present

Next meeting: August 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 either at the Youth Centre or by zoom.

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The committee met again on Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 by Teams meeting link.

The yearly Alcohol Forum is being prepared now and will probably be in person this year and not online. The most likely location would be Halifax.

The group would like to make connections with the Indigenous Communities near us including Fort Folly and Millbrook. We hope to gain connections and build relationships for better understanding of addictions in the Indigenous communities.

The group also feels that more community conversations and engagement will be needed going forward. We can develop key messages that are similar to those for mental health and addictions and homelessness and any other harm reduction messaging. That way the messages are the same for each group and more impactful going out to the public. Focus on improving determinants of health for all.

We will also be doing a membership drive to bring in people from other organizations. We will share our terms of reference.

The Nova Scotia Loyal campaign that was just introduced ... There is enticement for more Air Miles by buying alcohol products. Disappointing that the government would promote something that is harmful to health and can cause specific cancers for profit.