

THE CASE FOR A PRINCE ALBERT AND REGION ALCOHOL STRATEGY



A Call to Action to collectively develop and implement a comprehensive alcohol strategy to reduce unnecessary harms and improve community safety.

! **Prince Albert spent approximately \$1,249/person on beverage alcohol in 2011.**

! **Saskatoon residents spent \$805/person on beverage alcohol in 2011.**

! **Moose Jaw residents spent \$731/person, a City with a comparable population.**

! **The Saskatchewan Provincial average was \$703/person on beverage alcohol.**

The dollar value per person was calculated based on population age 15 years and over.

Several areas that need attention are **chronic alcoholism, binge drinking, youth and underage drinking, liquor compliance and establishments and impaired driving.** Each of these can be viewed through lenses of **education/prevention, supports and treatment, harm reduction opportunities and enforcement opportunities.**

- **62%** of Hub discussions involve the abuse of alcohol according to CMPA statistics.
- **552** of the 5,595 lodged in cells were youth.
- **\$2,548,994** of the Prince Albert Police Service's budget was consumed between May 2009 - 2012, for the arrest and lodging of **5,595** people solely for public intoxication.
- **45%** of Prince Albert City Police arrests are for public intoxication compared to **22%** in Regina, **17%** in Saskatoon and **7%** in Moose Jaw.
- **1,341** hours of policing services was spent on public intoxication arrests in 2012. This translates to a loss of **55 days** of policing services NOT spent on proactive enforcement and crime prevention.
- **\$3,799,391** in costs across multiple sectors was incurred by 25 frequent users of service over 3 years.
- **54%** of the 921 youth surveyed, reported engaging in binge drinking by age 16.
- **67.9%** of Prince Albert students in grade 10 reported binge drinking compared to **49.4%** of students in the Canadian sample in the same grades.
- Though the percentage of youth being arrested is on the decline, the number of youth that are intoxicated at the time of their arrest is on the rise. **919** youth over three years were intoxicated at the time of their arrest.
- **37.5%** of our violent crime related to alcohol/drug abuse over three years, 2010 - 2012 inclusively.
- The majority of violent crime occurs between 10pm and 4am.
- **5,205** calls for police service to our 50 liquor licensed establishments, from 2010 to 2012, at an approximate cost of **\$873,607**, for police resources only. The highest volume included Intoxicated Persons, Evictions, Disturbances, Impaired Drivers, Violence and Property Crime.
- **\$34,743,440** is spent on alcohol sales in Prince Albert (per capita examples listed above)
- **9.2%** or 458 emergency room visits from June to August 2012, were the result of alcohol or drug abuse.
- **33%** of the intakes received by Prince Albert Ministry of Social Services involved substantiated allegations of alcohol and/or drug abuse, over a 3 month study period in 2012.
- **22,876** reported impaired driving occurrences over 3 years in RCMP data within Saskatchewan, with **10,462** within North District (north of Rosthern) and **1,123** calls for service for impaired driving within Prince Albert over 3 years.

The media may be present AFTER the focus group has ended. It is your choice engage in an interview if requested, or not.

If this data moves you as it has us, please question it, learn it, and understand it so that you can in turn be a building block within our community to stimulate informed conversation, support and action. We collectively need to use these facts and the voices from the focus groups and the community to increase the momentum to become a healthier, safer and vibrant place for all to thrive. Thank you.