

March 19, 2014

Campbell River Municipal Alcohol Policy Review Seeks Community Input

Have you attended a community or private event where alcohol was served and wondered who is responsible for making sure that rules are followed and everyone is safe?

The Campbell River Community Addictions Dialogue and Action Committee is conducting a review and update of the municipal alcohol policy and invites public input.

The City of Campbell River's current municipal alcohol policy will be updated with community input to ensure special occasion licences and procedures for hosting a special occasion event on City property maintain municipal standards for health and safety at events where beer, wine or liquor will be served.

Take a moment to complete an online survey on how this policy could best serve the community. The survey is available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MunicipalAlcoholPolicyCityofCampbellRiver>

The municipal alcohol policy update is separate from the recent provincial review of BC's Liquor Control and Licensing Act; it applies only to special occasion licences in the City of Campbell River.

Anyone interested in joining the steering committee for this project is invited to the next meeting on Monday, March 24 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the Campbell River Community Centre, Room 2. For more details and to register your attendance, please contact Sonya Jenssen by email: sjenssen@wedler.com or by telephone at 250-334-3263.

This project has been funded by BC Healthy Communities, a province-wide, not-for-profit organization that facilitates the ongoing development of healthy, thriving communities – partly by providing grants to develop municipal alcohol policies in British Columbia communities. These policies focus on requirements for obtaining a special occasion licence for events held on municipal government property, and streamlining the licence application process. Each community proposes terms and conditions relevant to their municipality and consistent with provincial legislation.

Fast Facts on Special Occasion Licences and Municipal Alcohol Policies

- Applying for and purchasing a special occasion licence is necessary to sell alcohol in beer gardens, at weddings, birthday parties, community celebrations and other events in otherwise unlicensed locations such as parks and community halls.
- The applicant for the licence is responsible for the event and must be either an individual or a designated representative from a sports club, service club or other non-profit group or organization.
- More than 25,000 special occasion licences are issued in BC every year.
- A municipal alcohol policy addresses public health and safety concerns while raising awareness of the roles and responsibilities for alcohol provision and consumption. Conditions can include a requirement to have a safe ride home plan for event participants and procedures for the prevention of underage drinking. The City of Campbell River policy outlines guidelines and conditions for events where alcohol is served in City facilities or on City property.

###

Media contacts

Mary Catherine Williams, The John Howard Society of North Island
250-286-0611 Email: maryc@jhsni.bc.ca

Sonya Jenssen, Administration
250-334-3263 Email: sjenssen@wedler.com