



PROMOTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
A Framework for Alcohol Policy and Public
Health in Ontario

Background

- OPHA originally adopted a position paper on alcohol policy in 1996
- Alcohol Workgroup reviewed this position paper in late 2001
- The Workgroup decided that the 1996 position paper was still fundamentally sound

Background - continued

- However, the Workgroup felt that people had become complacent about alcohol policy issues
- In addition, there was emerging scientific evidence on alcohol policy, and finally there appeared to be important pressures on alcohol policies from private interests and government

Background - continued

- Therefore, the workgroup decided to revisit and renew OPHA's alcohol policy position
- 2002-2003 – literature review and revisions
- November 2003 – document formally adopted by OPHA membership

Three cornerstones of healthy public policy with respect to alcohol:

1) Effective controls on alcohol

- alcohol prices and taxes that promote moderation
- controls on liquor sales and service that safeguard public health and safety
- policies that protect groups at risk
- regulations that promote responsible alcohol advertising, promotion and sponsorship practices
- effective deterrence, monitoring and enforcement

Three cornerstones of healthy public policy with respect to alcohol:

2) *Supportive environments*

- federal and provincial leadership in, and support for, the prevention and reduction of alcohol related-problems
- an effective, integrated and client-focused addictions treatment system
- preventive policies that move beyond alcohol to address the broader determinants of health

Three cornerstones of healthy public policy with respect to alcohol:

3) *Inclusive decision-making*

- policy processes that are open, transparent and sensitive to community perspectives, as well as business and economic interests
- decisions that reflect concern with public health and safety

OPHA Commitment

The OPHA commits itself to strengthening the public health voice in debates and discussions regarding alcohol policy by using the foundation outlined in this paper.