



# Alcohol Policy **UPDATE**

A Quarterly Newsletter  
of the Alcohol Policy Network

Feel free to copy & distribute  
Special Issue, August 1999

## We want to **hear from YOU...**

The Alcohol Policy Network marked its fourth anniversary in August and we think it's time for a "check in." We'd like to know what you think of our products and services, what impact they've had on your work and where we should go from here. This issue of *Alcohol Policy Update* is devoted to assessing your needs and priorities. Please take a few moments to answer the questions below and fax back to us by **September 15, 1999**. A summary of the results will be included in a forthcoming issue of *APU*.

1. Which of the following Alcohol Policy Network products and services have you received/used over the *past four years*? Please check all that apply.

- Information and referral
- APOLNET Web site
- Teleconferences
- Presentations
- Meetings/Networking Opportunities
- Workshops/Seminars/Conferences
- Alcohol Policy Update*
- Communities Take Action!*
- One-on-one consulting
- APN representation/participation in committees
- Priorities, Developments in Alcohol Policy in Ontario*
- Contemporary Drug Problems Special Issue* on alcohol & injury
- Directory of Substance Abuse and Injury Prevention Contacts*
- Policy Action Packs
- APN-facilitated work groups/volunteer committees
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- None

Comments:

2. Which of the following APN products and services have you received/used in the *past 12 months*? Please check all that apply.

- Publication
- APOLNET Web site
- Presentation/Display
- Training event
- Information & referral
- Networking event
- Consulting advice
- Teleconference
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- None

Comments:

3. In general, how would you rate APN's products and services:  
SA=Strongly Agree, A=Agree, D=Disagree, SD=Strongly Disagree, DK=Don't know

	SA	A	D	SD	DK
Relevant	1	2	3	4	5
Timely	1	2	3	4	5
Comprehensive	1	2	3	4	5
Credible	1	2	3	4	5
High quality	1	2	3	4	5
Practical	1	2	3	4	5
User-friendly	1	2	3	4	5
Innovative	1	2	3	4	5
Useful	1	2	3	4	5
Accessible/low-cost	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

4. How would you rate APN's products and services overall?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5  
 Excellent      Very Good      Good      Fair      Poor

Comments:

5. How would you rate APN staff?

SA=Strongly Agree, A=Agree, D=Disagree, SD=Strongly Disagree, DK=Don't know

	SA	A	D	SD	DK
Knowledgeable	1	2	3	4	5
Up-to-date on issues	1	2	3	4	5
Responsive	1	2	3	4	5
Approachable	1	2	3	4	5
Reliable	1	2	3	4	5
Helpful	1	2	3	4	5
Get things done	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

6. What impact has APN had on your work? Please check all that apply.

- Keeps me up-to-date on issues
- Connects me to colleagues
- Connects me to needed/useful resources
- Helps me to better understand the policy process
- Helps me to participate in policy debates/decisions
- Helps me to promote healthy public policy with respect to alcohol
- Helps me to have an impact on health and safety in my community
- Provides me with opportunities to share my knowledge & skills
- Helps me to develop new knowledge and skills
- Helps me to identify gaps, needs & opportunities for collaboration
- Helps me to prevent/reduce overlap and duplication
- Provides me with useful advice/feedback
- Helps me to perform my job better
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- No impact.

Comments:

7. In your opinion, which APN products and services (see previous page or APN primer) are the *most* useful / have the greatest impact?

Product/Service	Reason it is useful
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Comments:

8. In your opinion, which APN products and services (see previous page or APN primer) are the *least* helpful / have the lowest impact?

Product/Service	Reason it is not useful
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Comments:

9. What changes do you see ahead for alcohol policy and/or public health over the next 1-2 years?  Don't know

10. What impact will these changes have on your job / the substance abuse prevention field?  Don't know

11. What impact will these changes have on your / the field's professional development needs?  Don't know

12. What changes should APN make to better meet these emerging needs?

a. Products & Services  No Change  Don't know

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Structure  No Change  Don't know

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Mission, Philosophy, Priorities  No Change  Don't know

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Other

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. In your opinion, where should APN focus its energies in the coming year?

*Length of time you've known about APN*

- Since receiving this newsletter  1 year or less  
 1-2 years  2-3 years  
 3+ years

13. Other comments/suggestions

*Degree of involvement with APN*

- On fax/ mailing list  
 Active committee member/volunteer  
 Hosted APN training event  
 Contributed materials to APOLNET web site  
 Used APN products & services  
 Promoted/distributed APN resources to colleagues  
 Shared/accessed resources with assistance from APN  
 No involvement  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

14. Please tell us a bit about yourself. Check all that apply.

*Where you are located*

- Toronto  Eastern Ontario  
 Northwest  Northeast  
 Southwest  Central West  
 Central East  Outside Ontario

*Access to technology*

- Personal email  Shared email  No email  
 Personal computer  Shared computer  No computer  
 Personal/Desktop fax  Shared fax  No fax  
 Desktop Internet  Shared Internet  No Internet  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Organization*

- Health unit  Addictions agency  
 Other health care  Enforcement agency  
 Alcohol industry  Community group  
 Government  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Profession*

- Public health nurse  Health promoter / educator  
 Researcher  Community activist  
 Manager  Consultant  
 Substance abuse professional  
 Injury prevention professional  
 Policymaker/policy analyst  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Degree of comfort/skill in using technology*

	High		Medium		Low
Computer	1	2	3	4	5
Fax	1	2	3	4	5
Email	1	2	3	4	5
Internet	1	2	3	4	5
Listserv	1	2	3	4	5
Teleconferencing	1	2	3	4	5
Videoconferencing	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

*Length of time in your current job*

- Less than 1 year  1-3 years  
 3-5 years  5+ years

*Length of time in the alcohol field*

- Less than 1 year  1-3 years  
 3-5 years  5+ years  
 Not in field

**Please return completed form by September 15 to**

Alcohol Policy Network  
 468 Queen Street East, Suite 202  
 Toronto, Ontario M5A 1T7  
 Fax: 416-367-2844

**Thank you!**

## APN PRIMER

### Who We Are

The Alcohol Policy Network is an Ontario-wide network of some 1,000 people and organizations concerned about the impact of alcohol on our friends, families and communities. We are governed by a coordinating committee composed of representatives from public health, police, substance abuse prevention agencies, anti-drinking and driving groups and the community-at-large that meets regularly to exchange information on developments in alcohol

policy. APN is a project of the Ontario Public Health Association.

### Our Philosophy

We believe that:

- individuals have a right to be involved in decisions that affect their health and the health of their communities.
- alcohol, although enjoyed by many, has widespread health, social and economic consequences.
- by creating a social, economic and physical environment conducive to healthy living, we can prevent or reduce

alcohol-related harm.

- by complementing harm reduction strategies with policies affecting the physical, social and economic availability of alcohol, we can promote the health and safety of all Ontarians.

### Our Mission

We facilitate the development of policies that a) prevent problems associated with alcohol use; and b) enhance the health, safety and well-being of individuals and communities across Ontario.

## Our Priorities

We have four priorities: 1) to provide technical support for the prevention of alcohol-related injuries; 2) to provide technical support for the reduction and prevention of alcohol-related birth defects; 3) to provide technical support for local policy development; and 4) to promote resource coordination, networking and information exchange.

## What We Do

### 1. Information and referral

APN's primary function is to monitor and keep the field up-to-date on developments in alcohol policy in the public and private sectors. To this end, we respond to phone and email requests for information from professionals and the public-at-large on issues ranging from emerging changes to impaired driving legislation, to the latest alcohol policy research, to information on local substance abuse prevention initiatives.

### 2. Publications

We support local prevention efforts through a range of publications including:

- *Alcohol Policy Update*, a quarterly fax-newsletter on current developments in the field
- *Priorities, developments in alcohol policy in Ontario, 1995-96* (an updated version being compiled)
- *Communities Take Action!* (published with CAMH-ARF in March 1998)
- *Directory of Substance and Injury Prevention Contacts in Public Health* (published with the Ontario Injury Prevention Resource Centre)
- *Special Issue of Contemporary Drug Problems on Alcohol Policy & Injury Prevention* (in conjunction with the CAMH-ARF in Fall 1998)
- *Action Packs* on specific issues such as drinking and driving, alcohol advertising, alcohol liability, etc.
- *Directory of Potential Funding Sources for Injury and Substance Abuse Prevention Projects in Ontario* (September 1999).

### 3. Web site

APN hosts a web site called APOLNET featuring hundreds of links to research papers, resources, briefs, government bills and debates on hot issues such as privatization, alcohol taxation, impaired driving, underage drinking, municipal alcohol policy and Ontario's Low-Risk Drinking Guidelines. In May 1998, APN developed an email list of substance abuse contacts in public health to promote networking and information-sharing. We are currently looking into adding a listserv and making the site more interactive through an online forum and a networking database.

#### Meet the APN Coordinating Committee

Ana Almeida, staff  
John Bates, MADD Canada  
Denise DePape, Toronto Public Health  
Norman Giesbrecht, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health  
Marianne Kobus-Matthews, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health  
Dennis Long, Breakaway Substance Abuse Treatment Centre  
Mary Chipman, U of T Department of Public Health Sciences  
Dianne McKay, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres  
Patricia Metcalf, Ontario Community Council on Impaired Driving  
Paula Neves, staff  
Kari Sutoski, Association to Reduce Alcohol Promotion in Ontario  
Mary Ellen Szadkowski, Community representative, Sault Ste. Marie  
Bev Toye, Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving

We currently have three openings for exceptional individuals active in alcohol and injury prevention in Northwestern and Southwestern Ontario. If interested, please call us.

### 4. Teleconferences, workshops & seminars

From time to time, APN co-hosts teleconferences or workshops and seminars on topics such as liquor licensing, low-risk drinking, alcohol and youth, private alcohol delivery services, recent legislation, etc.

### 5. Consultation and training

In 1997, APN piloted a ½ day generic workshop and participants' package on the basics of alcohol policy called *Alcohol Policy 101*. The latter is delivered by the APN manager and Coordinating Committee members upon request. An online version is also available on APOLNET. In addition, APN provides consulting advice to professionals and organizations active in alcohol policy issues. In the past year, for example, we participated in the Manage the Energy 3 Conference Planning Committee and were active members of the Association to Reduce Alcohol Promotion in Ontario. We sat on working groups overseeing revisions to the SmartServe Server Training program and Ontario's drug education curriculum. We also provided advice to OPHA and others on the preparation of submissions related to alcohol policy, addictions services, mandatory core program guidelines, etc.

### 6. Partnership development and resource coordination

APN is a partner in the upcoming FOCUS Resource Centre, a virtual clearinghouse of information and assistance for FOCUS anti-drug community projects across Ontario. Over the coming months, we will also be coordinating a small group of public health practitioners and researchers looking at the links between alcohol and cancer. The committee, chaired by APN founding member and noted alcohol policy researcher Norman Giesbrecht, will be preparing a report to be considered at an upcoming policy conference hosted by the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition. Finally, we are working with a small group to coordinate the province-wide dissemination of the Low-Risk Drinking Guidelines.

## How To Reach Us

For more information about our products and services, or to get on the APN mailing list, contact Paula Neves, Project Manager or Ana Almeida, Assistant Manager/OPHA Conference Coordinator at the Alcohol Policy Network, Ontario Public Health Association, 468 Queen Street East, Suite 202, Toronto, Ontario M5A 1T7. Phone: 416-367-3313 ext. 27 or 23. Fax: 416-367-2844. Email: [apn@web.net](mailto:apn@web.net). Web: [www.apolnet.web.net](http://www.apolnet.web.net).