

HEALTH FOR ALL: BRIDGING MUNICIPAL ACTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

WINTER 2018

Timiskaming Health Unit is pleased to introduce our first edition of our email newsletter for municipalities.

Written for elected officials and municipal staff, we will highlight local opportunities for municipalities to affect the health of their communities through their decision-making. We appreciate any feedback and at any time invite questions, comments or conversations about ways that Timiskaming Health Unit can support your work.

In this issue:

[Cannabis Retail: Opt in or Opt out?](#)

Much remains unknown about municipalities' ability to apply restrictions to cannabis retailers, funding available to municipalities and implications for the broader community of this decision required by January 22.

[Smoke-Free Ontario Act 2017: what does it mean for municipalities?](#)

October 17 saw the new SFOA come into effect, with a number of changes applicable to municipalities.

[Resources](#)

Presentations and evidence briefs are two examples of supports available from Public Health to support municipalities in considering how decisions may impact the health of the community.

[Health in All Policies: Example](#)

Walking has benefits for everyone in a community. Municipalities can support residents' ability to walk by considering the effect of plowing schedules and routes and keeping popular walking routes clear of snow and ice. We all have a role in promoting health.

[For Your Community Members](#)

Information that is relevant to your ratepayers: local telephone data collection taking place in 2019 as Timiskaming participates in the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System.

CANNABIS RETAIL: OPT IN OR OPT OUT?

The Ontario Government is providing municipalities with the opportunity to decide whether or not to allow cannabis retail outlets within their municipality. The deadline to opt-out is January 22, 2019. Municipalities are automatically opted in if no resolution is passed and submitted to the Alcohol Gaming Commission of Ontario by this date. For more information on the process for opting out, as well as reasons for and against, please visit: [Cannabis Retail Outlet Considerations for Municipalities in the District of Timiskaming.](#)

SMOKE-FREE ONTARIO ACT 2017: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR MUNICIPALITIES?

Municipalities have been leaders in protecting and promoting health with respect to tobacco. Given that tobacco is still a leading cause of death, with one of Ontario's

highest smoking rates in Timiskaming, and the emerging issue of e-cigarettes, action at multiple levels is still needed. For information on the new SFOA and how to get your free new signs read on.

The [Smoke Free Ontario Act \(SFOA\) 2017](#) prohibits the smoking of tobacco, the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) to vape any substance, and the smoking of cannabis (medical and recreational) in enclosed workplaces and enclosed public places, as well as other designated places in Ontario, to protect workers and the public from second-hand smoke and vapour.

Of interest to municipalities:

- Smoking and vaping of *any substance* are not permitted: on the outdoor grounds of [community recreational facilities](#) or in public spaces within 20 metres of the perimeter of the facility grounds, on or within 20 metres of [playgrounds](#), [sporting areas](#) and in public areas within 20 metres of the perimeter of [schools](#). [Learn more](#).
- Signage is available from the Timiskaming Health Unit. [Contact Joel Tessier, Tobacco Enforcement Officer](#), with questions or to arrange for pick-up of signs.
- Municipalities can restrict smoking and vaping of tobacco and cannabis beyond what is in the SFOA on property that is owned by the municipality and beyond into public areas within the municipality. To learn more, [contact Laurel Beardmore, Tobacco Control Coordinator](#).
- Municipalities are the employers and the proprietors of those areas and have obligations under the SFOA 2017 to ensure that:
 - No one smokes/vapes in any of those areas;
 - They give notice to all persons that smoking is prohibited in those areas;
 - They post required signs throughout these areas, in a conspicuous manner, and not be obstructed from view;
 - There are no ashtrays or similar equipment in those areas;
 - A person who refuses to comply does not remain in any of those areas. If a person still refuses to leave, the police can then be called, and the person could be arrested and also charged under the Trespass to Property Act.

Thanks for all you do to protect and promote health.

RESOURCES

Presentations from public health. If your council or staff would like a meeting with or presentation from public health on any of these topics or other areas related to municipalities' ability to promote health, [please contact Rachelle Coté](#). Public health can offer evidence briefs, examples from other communities, and data about various aspect of a community's health to help municipal decision-makers promote health.

HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES: EXAMPLE

Walking is a healthy, inclusive, affordable and sustainable mode of transportation for children, youth, families and seniors. *Walkability* is a measure of how easy, safe, and enjoyable it is to walk in a neighbourhood and can have a large impact on walking behaviour and willingness to use walking for transport and recreation. By considering and promoting walkability, municipalities play an important part in boosting this healthy behaviour.

Help make your community walkable this winter for all residents by ensuring snow and ice are removed from sidewalks. For more information on walkable communities contact Crystal Gorman at gormanc@timiskaminghu.com or visit Canada Walks at www.canadawalks.ca/about/walkability



FOR YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The **Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System**—also known as RRFSS—is an ongoing local health telephone survey conducted by numerous Ontario health units and the Institute for Social Research at York University. Timiskaming is taking part for the first time in 2019, to gather local population health data that can help us all better serve our communities. Some of your residents may be getting a survey call starting in the new year (Jan to August) from a research firm to collect data on a range of topics that will help inform local decisions for healthy spaces and people. [Learn more.](#)