

2019  
Jurisdictional Scan: Alcohol Practices

**Do you permit the use of alcohol in day use areas in parks?**

JURISDICTION	REPLIED	YES/NO	CONTACT NAME
B.C PARKS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	Bob Austad

COMMENTS:

1. **Under what legislative authority is this permitted? E.g. Parks Act? Gaming and Liquor Act, Ministerial Order, Permit, signage?**  
If permitted it would be under the Liquor Control and Licensing Act as a special permit, but except by exception (very rare) we don't approve in day use areas.
2. **Are there different types of permits available? E.g., would this be allowed under a special event permit, vs all day-users?**  
No
3. **If your jurisdiction doesn't allow liquor consumption in day-use areas, have you considered this change in the past? What lead you to this?**  
Discussed but never put forward to Deputy or Minister. We still perceive the downside to be to great in taking on liability and having control beyond what we currently have to deal with in registered campsites and group campsites, where liquor can be consumed
4. **Did you consult with the public or stakeholder?**  
n/a
5. **What were the impacts, if you did make this change?**  
n/a
6. **Other comments?**  
We feel consumption in a campsite or group campsite is enough of an public opportunity. Having to then put more resources and C&E staff into day use areas to monitor and manage would be more expensive and we are sure our park related occurrences would dramatically increase if liquor was permitted in day use areas.

ALBERTA PARKS	Inquiring Jurisdiction	NO	<a href="#">Caroline Crell</a>
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COMMENTS:

1. **Under what legislative authority is this permitted? E.g. Parks Act? Gaming and Liquor Act, Ministerial Order, Permit, signage?**  
Could be permitted under the Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act - owners of parks can designate public picnic sites where alcohol may be consumed with food
2. **Are there different types of permits available? E.g., would this be allowed under a special event permit, vs all day-users?**  
Special events permits can be issued where serving and consumption is authorized through a liquor licence - however, these are rarely issued.
3. **If your jurisdiction doesn't allow liquor consumption in day-use areas, have you considered this change in the past? What lead you to this?**  
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4. **Did you consult with the public or stakeholder?**

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5. **What were the impacts, if you did make this change?**

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6. **Other comments?**

Alberta has been utilizing temporary liquor bans (since 2004) at select sites (up to 10 locations, vary by year) for the May long weekend. Cannabis use is permitted within registered campsites and in public areas where tobacco is permitted (e.g. 5 meters of washrooms, playgrounds, sports or playing fields, outdoor pools, etc.).

**SASKATCHEWAN PARKS**



NO

Bruce McCannel

COMMENTS:

1. **Under what legislative authority is this permitted? E.g. Parks Act? Gaming and Liquor Act, Ministerial Order, Permit, signage?**

- The Alcohol and Gaming Regulations Act (s. 106(1)) generally permits alcohol in a private place, which would include a trailer, campsite, cottage, rental accommodation, etc. and appurtenant land
- The Parks Act (Saskatchewan), allows enforcement and eviction pursuant to The Alcohol and Gaming Regulations Act
- The Parks Regulations, 1991 establishes a permittee's private right to use of a campsite; and
- Section 107.1 of The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act allows the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport to impose an alcohol ban in a campground

2. **Are there different types of permits available? E.g., would this be allowed under a special event permit, vs all day-users?**

- Yes, alcohol may be considered as part of a special use permit, and would also require a liquor license.
- Alcohol and cannabis are not permitted in day-use areas. However, where there is a special event (e.g. wedding, festival) a permittee may serve alcohol if they obtain a liquor license, and under any special conditions stipulated by the park (e.g. quiet times, closing time, etc.).

3. **If your jurisdiction doesn't allow liquor consumption in day-use areas, have you considered this change in the past? What lead you to this?**

Unsure

4. **Did you consult with the public or stakeholder?**

N/A since alcohol use is generally defined in The Alcohol and Gaming Regulations Act.

5. **What were the impacts, if you did make this change?**

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6. **Other comments?**

- The only recent changes, respecting alcohol, was the adoption of the May long weekend alcohol ban, in 1995.
- It was seen as extremely helpful in curbing the high levels of vandalism and hooliganism that were occurring in the parks at that time, and helping to make the campgrounds more family friendly.
- Alcohol is generally allowed in private areas such as campsites, cottages, rental accommodations, and privately licensed areas as well as the outside area connected to those spaces (e.g. the campsite). With new cannabis laws, cannabis is generally permitted in the same circumstances as alcohol.
- The one primary exception is our May long-weekend alcohol ban (which now

includes cannabis). The ban prohibits alcohol and cannabis from campgrounds on the May long weekend. The ban does not apply to private cottages, licensed establishments and rental accommodations.

MANITOBA PARKS



NO

Elisabeth Ostrop

COMMENTS:

**1. Under what legislative authority is this permitted? E.g. Parks Act? Gaming and Liquor Act, Ministerial Order, Permit, signage?**

- We do not typically allow alcohol in regular day-use areas (only on a campsite).
- Section 10 of our Park Activities Regulation deals with the possession and consumption of liquor in provincial parks.
- [http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/\\_pdf-regs.php?reg=141/96](http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/_pdf-regs.php?reg=141/96) In it we also reference the Liquor Control Act, which is used to provide the guiding principles. In a nutshell - Liquor is prohibited in public places unless permitted. A campsite isn't considered a public place, as it is rented space, so we allow people to drink on their campsite (unless another prohibition is in place).
- Our reg. also allows us to prohibit alcohol in specific places by giving people notice. This is important in cases where there may be variability. We use signage, brochures and web information to "notify" the public with respect to the rules in our camping and group-use facilities.

**2. Are there different types of permits available? E.g., would this be allowed under a special event permit, vs all day-users?**

- For any event that includes alcohol we require people to fill out a Special Event Permit application. Info on our Special Events permit can be found here: (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/parks/park-facilities-and-services/special-parks/index.html>) We use the application as the base for the permit and attach special conditions. I have also attached a sample of some special conditions.
- If someone has booked a group-use area for day-use or for overnight use, the alcohol prohibition varies from location to location. We have a chart in our group use brochure that outlines if alcohol is prohibited or not. [https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/parks-protected-spaces/group\\_use.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/parks-protected-spaces/group_use.pdf)
- weddings, if someone wants to book a group use area for their reception, and we do not allow alcohol in that group use area, they would not be allowed to serve alcohol in that area, not even with a special events permit. If they book a group-use area where alcohol isn't prohibited, they would get a special events permit and a liquor permit.
- many open spaces and picnic areas that aren't part of an official group-use area. Open Liquor is typically banned in these spaces, unless we authorize it under a Special Event permit or other type of formal agreement. Under a special event permit we can set conditions as to when they have to stop serving and when they have to shut things down (this usually coincides with our quiet hours - 11pm), and whether or not we would require them to provide their own security. Usually they have to set up a self-contained beer garden. They have to apply for a permit under Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries who will set the parameters regarding capacity, number of toilets stalls required, conditions for the beer garden etc. and Manitoba Liquor then confirms with us prior to issuing the Liquor permit. The liquor inspector may also show up to monitor the event.
- Each event is evaluated on a case by case basis, as there is some judgement

as to whether or not things have the potential to get out of hand, how would the event impact the neighbours (are their cottages/campgrounds nearby?), etc. I would suggest we typically proceed with caution when evaluating events as we do not want to set a precedent. We also require the event organizer to take on additional responsibility when it comes to the provision of security. We have far fewer officers than we did in the 80s and 90s and other policing resources like the RCMP also have a reduced presence in many parts of the province. The corporate memory from those days has not yet completely retired from our system."

**3. If your jurisdiction doesn't allow liquor consumption in day-use areas, have you considered this change in the past? What lead you to this?**

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**4. Did you consult with the public or stakeholder?**

I would suggest that public consultation wasn't considered at the time certain prohibitions came into place, rather the approach was reactive and based on experience in trying to deal with situations that were problematic. From what I understand alcohol related rowdyism was a huge problem in the 1980s and 90s, and this was impacting the experience for other park users. The charges laid by officers were high and a case was made to prohibit alcohol on the May long weekend. A liquor ban was put into effect, and May long weekend became family friendly. Subsequently, each year we would get a few complaints that found a liquor ban on May long weekend was too restrictive, especially for people who were going to drink responsibly. Last year a decision was made to lift the ban and we have our fingers crossed that things won't get to crazy this year, now that people know. When we used to have the May long weekend liquor ban, we issued a news release, displayed signs at all our campgrounds and gave them a handout at check-in, letting people know that alcohol is prohibited that weekend.

**5. What were the impacts, if you did make this change?**

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**6. Other comments?**

We have a couple of camping bays in two of our parks that are Liquor free all season. We have signs posted at these camping bays, and a pop up appears on our reservation service. We promote them as family friendly bays, but they were specifically chosen because our enforcement staff consistently had problems with rowdy camper's in these bays that had developed reputations for becoming party places. Now they are usually the last sites to be booked, but they are no longer having to evict rowdy campers from these bays.

<b>ONTARIO PARKS</b>		NO	<a href="#">Jason Anderson</a>
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**COMMENTS:**

**1. Under what legislative authority is this permitted? E.g. Parks Act? Gaming and Liquor Act, Ministerial Order, Permit, signage?**

In the context of Ontario's provincial parks, a campsite is considered a residence, and therefore park patrons may possess an open container of liquor and consume liquor on the campsite. Open containers of liquor, or consuming liquor is prohibited in all other areas of provincial park – for example, beaches, roads, trails, and day use areas.

In Ontario, the Liquor Licence Act prohibits consumption or possession of an open container of liquor in any place other than a residence, licenced premises, or private

place.

Additionally, there are approximately 40 provincial parks that prohibit the possession and consumption of liquor for the Victoria Day weekend and the ten days preceding Victoria Day. This is achieved by a regulation under the Liquor Licence Act.

**2. Are there different types of permits available? E.g., would this be allowed under a special event permit, vs all day-users?**

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**3. If your jurisdiction doesn't allow liquor consumption in day-use areas, have you considered this change in the past? What lead you to this?**

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**4. Did you consult with the public or stakeholder?**

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**5. What were the impacts, if you did make this change**

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**6. Other comments?**

Recently the Ontario government announced an intention to explore revisions to the Liquor Licence Act to enable municipalities to permit consumption of alcohol in municipal parks. The revisions are not intended to apply in provincial parks.

<b>SEPAQ (QUEBEC)</b>		YES	<a href="#">Mylene Pronovost</a>
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COMMENTS:

**1. Under what legislative authority is this permitted? E.g. Parks Act? Gaming and Liquor Act, Ministerial Order, Permit, signage?**

Under "Régie de l'alcool, des courses et des jeux", the ministry organization that issues alcohol permit in the province. For more information :

<https://www.racj.gouv.qc.ca/en/a-propos-de-la-regie/laws-and-regulations.html>

**2. Are there different types of permits available? E.g., would this be allowed under a special event permit, vs all day-users?**

Yes, depending on needs, there is different permits. For example, if we organize a special activity for one day, we can ask for this type of permit (allowed for a specific date), but generally, we have "sport event" permit. It is the same kind of permit arenas have : we sell alcohol for on-site drinking in a few of our Visitor Centers (with terrasse, most of the time, or for Visitor Centers who provided food services).

<b>NEWFOUNDLAND &amp; LABRADOR PARKS</b>			
<b>NOVA SCOTIA PARKS</b>			
<b>PARKS NEW BRUNSWICK</b>			
<b>P.E.I PARKS</b>		NO	Shane Arbing

COMMENTS:

**1. Under what legislative authority is this permitted? E.g. Parks Act? Gaming and Liquor Act, Ministerial Order, Permit, signage?**

On PEI, alcohol consumption is not permitted in day use area. This is policy adopted

by Parks and signs are in place indicating this. We are actually updating signs to include cannabis use well.

We do have two exceptions:

- a. We have two food service providers located in two beach day parks which we have given permission to obtain a liquor licence (fancy beach canteens with a separate seating areas where beer/alcohol has to be consumed in.). Permission is outlined in their license agreement. It is their responsibility to apply for and secure the license from the Province. This arrange has been in place for 6-7years with no issue.
- b. We do allow alcohol by special permit in one particular park which has a multi-purpose event center. In this case, the event operator must have secure a liquor license.

**2. Are there different types of permits available? E.g., would this be allowed under a special event permit, vs all day-users?**

See above

**3. If your jurisdiction doesn't allow liquor consumption in day-use areas, have you considered this change in the past? What lead you to this?**

No

**4. Did you consult with the public or stakeholder?**

**5. What were the impacts, if you did make this change?**

**6. Other comments?**

<b>GOVERNMENT OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES PARKS</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>NUNAVUT PARKS</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>YUKON PARKS</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>PARKS CANADA</b>	<b>✓</b>	NO	Michael Nadler

**COMMENTS:**

**1. Under what legislative authority is this permitted? E.g. Parks Act? Gaming and Liquor Act, Ministerial Order, Permit, signage?**

We manage under the authorities in the Canada National Parks Act and permissions are granted at the site level by superintendents. We post signage.

**2. Are there different types of permits available? E.g., would this be allowed under a special event permit, vs all day-users?**

Yes, we can allow the consumption of alcohol at special events through a permit. This is normally within a building or a contained area. For example, for a wedding.

**3. If your jurisdiction doesn't allow liquor consumption in day-use areas, have you considered this change in the past? What lead you to this?**

We simply follow provincial and territorial laws.

**4. Did you consult with the public or stakeholder?**

There may have been public consultations many years ago, but there have not been recently. We did not go to public consultation on Cannabis. We simply follow provincial and territorial laws.

**5. What were the impacts, if you did make this change?**

**6. Other comments?**

Under superintendent's orders, we prohibit alcohol consumption at a number of campgrounds across the country on busy weekends. We may do the same for Cannabis. We do this to mitigate the risk of conflict between campers due to noise or other activities.

**Response Rate:** 7/13 for **54%**

**Key Findings:**

- Responding jurisdictions, other than Sepaq, do not generally allow alcohol in their day use areas.
- Most jurisdictions simply abide by the larger provincial mandates on alcohol usage in public spaces
- Some jurisdictions prohibit the use of alcohol on busy weekends even in campsites to avoid conflict.

**Future Questions to Ask:**

- Has the alcohol ban in campsites on major weekends been effective in mitigating conflict?

**Links to Resources:**

- [Original Summary in Excel](#)
- [Manitoba Special Event - Activity-Specific Conditions](#)
- [Manitoba Special Event - General Conditions](#)