



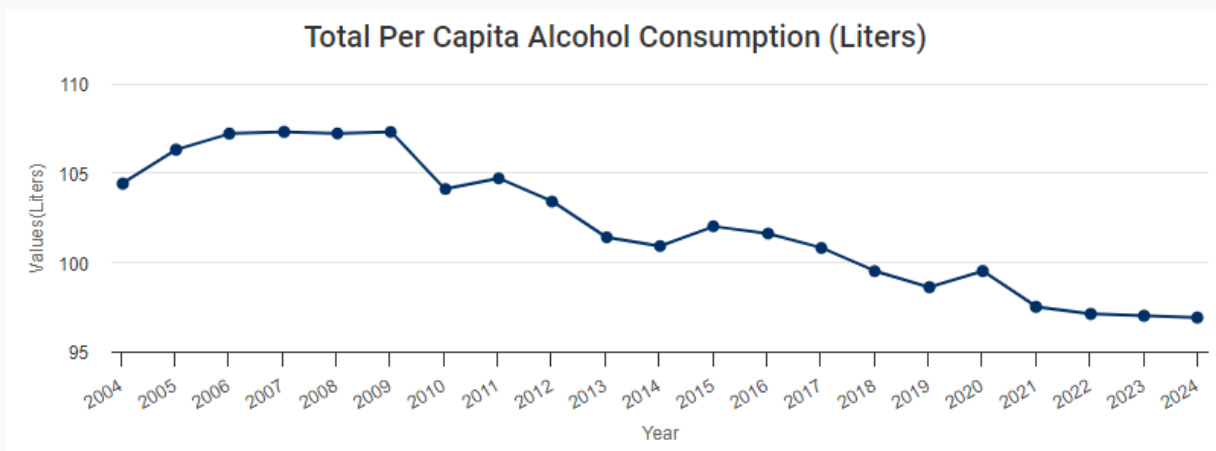
RE: A Framework to Advance Inclusive Economic Development in Toronto

No More Noise Toronto, a grassroots organization, advocates for a better sounding Toronto through a data and process-oriented approach. I would like to offer my thoughts on this Framework to Advance Inclusive Economic Development in Toronto as it pertains to the Night Economy.

A definition of the Night Economy that I heard was: anything not 9 to 5, which is broad and inclusive. The Night Economy has been suffering since before the pandemic and there is a worldwide movement to support it. However, our concern is that the development of the Night Economy must be wider and offer more choices than “scenes” which need loud amplified sound and alcohol to be profitable.

Of the three pillars of the proposed IED framework, inclusive entrepreneurship and asset ownership is the one that could provide the night economy what it needs. We encourage the city to work with stakeholders and community groups to advance inclusive economic development with the objective that economic opportunities and outcomes improve across Toronto’s population.

Alcohol sales have declined since 2009. So support of alcohol sales and those establishments that survive on alcohol sales is clearly not sustainable.



Source: <https://www.ibisworld.com/ca/bed/per-capita-alcohol-consumption/15001/>

As we have many new residents from different countries, we need to understand what they want to do when they are not working. Many equity deserving groups, as well as many others, it seems do not need or want alcohol to have a good time. In the report, it states that the IED could focus on specific industries and I put forward that they focus on economic development for the Night Economy. This industry can provide skill development, asset ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities for small and medium businesses that host communities are proud to have as neighbours and where there is mutual benefit.

As the report states, economic growth has not been equally or equitably shared. When people make less money, they have less discretionary funds, they are working more, often in poorer health which again reduces disposable income to spend. We need to support these equity seeking groups and provide good

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jobs that are rewarding and fulfilling. More low paying precarious service-based jobs is not what we need. Let's develop film, music and culture and all of the support businesses that those industries need.

While there may not be a recognized process that outlines when and where local economic development strategies should be developed and implemented, nor is there an established playbook of studied and broadly understood policy – this is where the opportunity lies.

Think creatively, involve community groups and stakeholders to advance economic development and the neighbourhood level to understand what each community wants and needs to include in the Action Plan for the Toronto Economy.

Only together can we protect the night and the day, and make Toronto a vibrant destination city that healthy and beneficial for everyone.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Buday,

Founder, No More Noise Toronto