



NIGHT ECONOMY TOWN HALL

Night Economy Town Hall



Land Acknowledgement

The City of Toronto acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

The City also acknowledges that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

African Ancestral Acknowledgement

The City of Toronto acknowledges all Treaty peoples – including those who came here as settlers – as migrants either in this generation or in generations past – and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery.

We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.

Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Night Economy Presentations
 - Economic Development and Culture
 - City Planning and Municipal Licensing and Standards
 - Social Development, Finance and Administration (SafeTO)
 - Toronto Public Health
- Question and Answer
- Closing Remarks

Night Economy Review



Purpose

- Toronto's night economy provides employment opportunities, cultural activities, and entertainment experiences to residents and visitors between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- A coordinated, strategic approach is vital to ensuring that Toronto's night experience is safe, positive, sustainable and inclusive.
- This Town Hall will share the findings of the Toronto Night Economy Review and provide an opportunity for discussion.

Background

- In 2018, the City began reviewing licensing and zoning regulations.
- This work included background research, data analysis, a review of regulations in different cities, and preliminary stakeholder consultations.
- In December 2021, a staff report called for a review to help inform strategies for enhancing Toronto's night economy.



Cross-Divisional Approach

- Led by City Planning (CP), Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS), and Economic Development and Culture (EDC) the City conducted the Night Economy Review to:
 - Explore new ways to activate space and enhance livability for everyone who works at night or is interested in cultural or social experiences.
 - Create strategies that promote safe and enjoyable communities for all.
 - Update the definitions, rules, and licensing for bars, restaurants and entertainment venues.
 - Change regulations that define where these businesses can operate in Toronto.

Consultation Sessions

- In March and April 2023, over 3,300 people took part in a survey and consultations.
- On June 5, City staff shared what was heard during these consultations.
- On September 6 and 7, the City hosted two virtual meetings to gain feedback on draft zoning and licensing by-law amendments.



Consultation Participants

Residents and
Community
Organizations

Diverse Voices from
Equity-Deserving
and Racialized
Communities

Artists, DIY, Event
Producers, and
Cultural Organizers

Hospitality Business
Owners and
Operators

Entertainment and
Nightlife Industry
Workers

Business
Improvement Areas
(BIAs)

What We Heard

Findings from the 3,000+ survey respondents included:

- Torontonians participate strongly in hospitality and the arts at night.
- Cost, transportation, and access to nearby activities are the most frequent barriers to participation in nighttime activities.
- Support for nightlife offerings not centered on alcohol, including family-friendly and outdoor activities, is widespread.



What We Heard

- Conflict related to sound and noise is one of the biggest concerns shared in consultations by operators, residents, and night economy patrons alike.
- Most survey respondents (80%) agreed that nightclubs should be permitted outside the downtown core.
- Operators emphasized the need for flexibility, hybridity, adaptability, and autonomy.

What We Heard

- Prohibitive barriers for small businesses and DIY ("do-it-yourself") event organizers include the high cost of renting space and producing events, the lack of available spaces, and lengthy licensing and permitting application processes.



Updating Current Regulations

- On December 13, 2023, City Council adopted three complementary staff reports:
 - Recommended Amendments to Zoning By-laws for Bars, Restaurants, and Entertainment Venues as part of the Night Economy Review – Final Report
 - Recommended Amendments to Chapter 545, Licensing for Bars, Restaurants, and Entertainment Venues as part of the Night Economy Review
 - Supporting the Growth of the Night Economy

Moving Forward



Annual Night Economy Town Hall



Night Economy Internal and External Working Group



Centralized communications (Good Neighbour Guide for Late-Night Business)



Embed City-wide strategic plans (e.g., SafeTO / Our Health, Our City) into the priorities of Night Economy

Regulatory Changes to Business Licensing and Zoning By-laws

City Planning Division

&

Municipal Licensing and Standards Division



Background

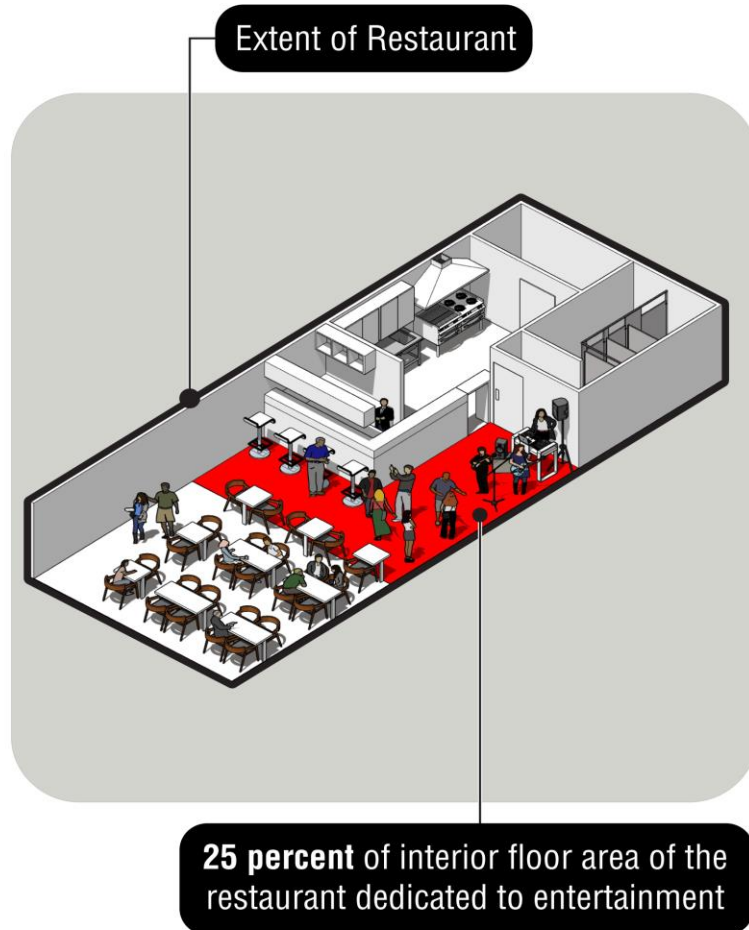
- In December 2023, City Council adopted two related items ([2023.EC8.13](#) and [2023.PH8.2](#)) modernizing licensing and zoning regulations for bars, restaurants and entertainment venues
- This updated approach will reclassify venues and is intended to foster new business opportunities, add to vibrant communities across the city, and stimulate Toronto's economy outside of the downtown core
- Amendments to licensing and zoning by-laws will be effective **January 1, 2025**

City's Night Economy to get a boost as Toronto City Council approves new ways to generate growth

News Release

December 15, 2023

New Zoning Regulations- Eating Establishments



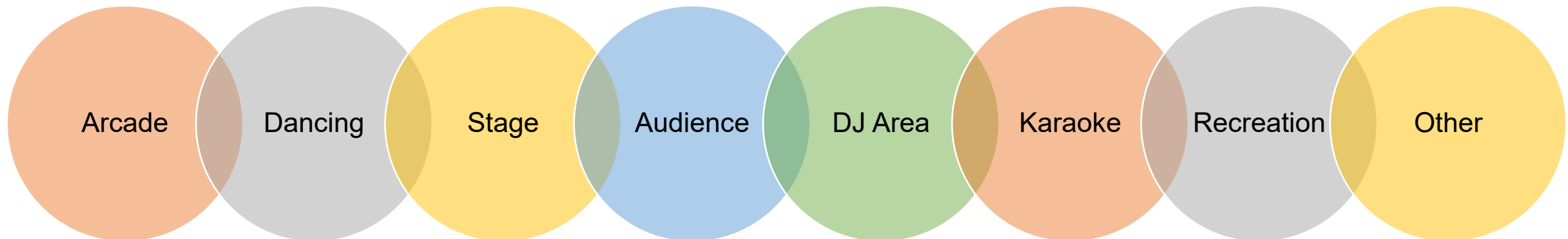
Existing	New – January 1, 2025
6% maximum area for entertainment	25% maximum area for entertainment

Entertainment Inside Eating Establishments

Benefits of increasing the permitted maximum entertainment area from 6% of the establishment to 25%:

- Easier to understand and communicate across the industry
- Easier to measure for both business owners and enforcement
- Maintains that the eating establishment remains the primary use

Note: Industrial areas (except those located on major streets) continue to have entertainment areas limited to 6% interior floor area



New Zoning Regulations for Nightclubs



Existing

**Nightclubs
permitted
downtown only**

**New –
January 1,
2025**

**Nightclubs
permitted city-
wide in
commercial
zones**

Subject to conditions

New Zoning Regulations for Nightclubs (continued)

Nightclub Zoning Benefits

Can reduce the clustering of nightclubs in the downtown area by allowing more opportunities in other parts of the city

Permits a full range of entertainment options in commercial zones

Reduces the barrier to business operators getting the correct nightclub businesses license

Nightclub Zoning Regulations

Must be in a commercial zone

Must be in a non-residential building

Limited to 400 m². (4,300 sq. Ft.) if located on a lot within 6.1 m. (20 ft.) from a residentially zoned lot.

- Offices, storage rooms, and staff rooms excluded from maximum

Maximum of one nightclub per building

Must be located on first storey or basement

Other Entertainment Zoning

- Requirements for amusement arcades streamlined to be consistent with other entertainment venue requirements.
 - **Before:** Must be in a very large building like a mall, cannot be near a school, and cannot be near another arcade.
 - **As approved:** Can be in any building and distance requirements do not apply. Same size limitation of 400 square metres that applies to other entertainment uses located close to residential applies to amusement arcades.
- Definitions for entertainment-related uses modernized and consistent with licensing changes.
- Area-specific zoning regulations continue to prevail over general city-wide regulations (example: nightclubs not permitted in Parkdale).

Overview of Licensing Updates

In 2022, the City licensed 13,453 food and entertainment establishments, making up approximately **12 percent of all City-licensed establishments in Toronto**. Two key elements:

1. Clarifying and modernizing rules

- Updating and adding new licence categories to reflect modern uses
- Aligning category definitions with zoning to make compliance easier
- Removing licence and fee requirements for certain retail food establishments and right-sizing other fees

2. Strengthening compliance and enforcement

- Implementing Activity-Based Licensing (ABL) to enable more precise enforcement
 - Additional requirements, like a noise control plan, will need to be met if certain licensees have higher impact activities (e.g., later hours, liquor service, etc.)

New Licensing Regulations

Eating or Drinking Establishment



Updated definition to enable flexible/hybrid business models and align with zoning bylaws

For example: dine-in restaurants and bars

Take-Out or Retail Food Establishment



New definition captures establishments that sell food or drinks for consumption off-site

For example: convenience stores and bakeries that have limited or no seating for patrons

Amusement Establishment



New definition streamlines amusement-related businesses into a broader category

For example: billiard halls, bowling alleys, and trampoline centres

New Licensing Regulations (continued)

Entertainment Place of Assembly



New licence category to expand current categorization of “Public Halls”

New category and definition aligns with zoning bylaws and focuses on patrons attending venues as an entertainment experience/audience member, clearly distinguishing it from a bar or restaurant

For example: live music venues, performing arts spaces, theatres, banquet halls, and event venues

Entertainment Establishment / Nightclub



New definition specifies the purpose of establishment and aligns with zoning

Enhanced requirements for metal detectors

Nightclubs that are also Eating or Drinking Establishments must secure multiple licences

Activity-Based Licensing (ABL)




ABL is a framework based on complexity or extent of business activities in which **licensees with a higher impact, as determined by their business activity, must meet additional requirements**

- ABL will apply to Eating or Drinking Establishments and Entertainment Places of Assembly
- Those with expanded services (e.g., capacity of 150+ persons) must complete additional licensing requirements, including a noise control and patron management plan
- ABL is intended to reduce nuisance for neighbours and safety risks for patron and help reduce administrative burden on lower impact establishments
- MLS will be developing a proactive approach to enforcement using the ABL model and implement a follow-up inspection process for higher impact classes after licence issuance or renewal




Support During Transition Period

Changes will take effect on **January 1, 2025**

Throughout 2024, the City of Toronto will help businesses transition by:

		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notifying licence holders about upcoming changes• Sending licence renewal notices ahead of licence expiry date	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Answering questions from business operators• Sharing information from City of Toronto's "Good Neighbour Guide for Late-Night Businesses"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Migrating current licence holders into updated categories• Transitioning licence holders according to annual renewal date

Support During Transition Period (continued)

		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updating information on City webpages and 311	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing templates for noise control plan and patron management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating public education materials

Contact us

For additional questions or comments about these upcoming changes, please email:

nighteconomy@toronto.ca

Good Neighbour Guide for Late-Night Businesses



Background

- The Good Neighbour Guide is intended as a comprehensive resource for late-night businesses (operating between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.).
- It presents relevant information and provides resources intended to support operators in running a safe establishment that also benefits the surrounding community.
- The Good Neighbour Guide was created by the City of Toronto's Music Office and Visitor Economy Office.

Contributors

The following were consulted:

City Planning	Economic Development and Culture (EDC)
Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS)	Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA)
Transportation Services	Toronto Building
Toronto Fire	Toronto Paramedic Services
Toronto Police Services	Toronto Public Health (TPH)
Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)	Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)

GOOD NEIGHBOUR GUIDE FOR LATE-NIGHT BUSINESSES



Prepared by the
Night Economy Internal Working Group

JANUARY, 2024

Guide Content

Topics Covered Include:

Opening your Late-Night Establishment

Minimizing Sound and Noise

Resident and Neighbour Relations

Keeping your Venue Safe

Keeping your Venue Organized

Transportation to and from your Establishment

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

Further information on the City of Toronto's ongoing work to support the night economy, including all relevant documents, reviews, and opportunities to get involved, can be accessed through the following link: [Night Economy Review – City of Toronto](#). For questions related to this document, please contact nighteconomy@toronto.ca.

Note: This Guide is an evolving document. Please carefully note the “last updated” date on the cover page as well as dates connected to resource links you may be accessing. While best efforts have been made to offer up-to-date information and to present resources that are reliable and recent, it's possible that information from third-party links may be unavailable. The content of this document will be reviewed and updated semi-annually.

1. OPENING YOUR LATE-NIGHT ESTABLISHMENT

Opening a late-night establishment can be even more complex than starting a more conventional daytime business. One complicating factor is that many commercial processes – for example obtaining a liquor license and ensuring that your establishment is in an appropriately zoned area – are governed by different levels of government (i.e., municipal, provincial, federal). This section will provide late-night business owners and entrepreneurs with basic resources (from all levels of government) to help open a late-night business, and information about the City of Toronto's relevant municipal processes.

The City of Toronto's webpage, [How to Start a Business](#), provides entrepreneurs with resources for starting a business, with comprehensive information ranging from creating a marketing plan to determining tax requirements. As business requirements require knowledge/input from other levels of government, it is recommended that you also refer to the Government of Canada's [Starting a Business](#) online guide and the Government of Ontario's [Small Business Site](#) which provides advice, support and information on government regulations.

Existing businesses may be looking for innovative ways to grow their business as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. For existing eating establishments (like restaurants or bars with seating), one way to generate increased revenue is to convert part of the establishment to provide entertainment at night. Zoning By-law amendments that will come into effect on January 1, 2025, will allow eating establishments (like seated restaurants and bars) to use 25% of their space for entertainment (an increase from the existing 6% limit). Business owners looking for growth opportunities may also want to review current support programs available through the City of Toronto such as [Business Grants, Incentives and Rebates](#), [Main Street Innovation Fund](#), and [Digital Main Street](#). Additionally, restaurants, bars, live music venues, and nightclubs that include live music as an important part of their business model should explore whether they're eligible for the City's live music venue tax reduction.

Zoning

Municipalities, including the City of Toronto, have [zoning](#) restrictions on the location of certain types of businesses. Before leasing or purchasing a property, or applying for the applicable business licences, you should make sure that the zoning category of your desired location will allow all proposed future operations of your new business. Before opening a new business, it is recommended that you apply for a [Zoning Review for a Business Licence](#). Upon receiving a zoning clearance for your business, you can apply for a business licence.

Toronto Building, a City Division, provides general Zoning By-law information. For questions about [zoning](#) or uses on a specific property, you can contact Toronto Building's General Customer Experience line by calling **416-397-5330, Monday to Friday from 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.** You can also pose questions in-person by visiting the nearest [Toronto Building Customer Service](#) counter for information. Book an appointment using the following link: [Requesting an In-Person Appointment for Zoning By-law Information – City of Toronto](#) at one of the following four locations:

- Toronto and East York District – Toronto City Hall – 100 Queen St W, 1st fl. W.
- North York District – North York Civic Centre – 5100 Yonge St, 1st fl.
- Scarborough District – Scarborough Civic Centre – 150 Borough Dr, 3rd fl.
- Etobicoke York District – 2 Civic Centre Crt – Ground fl.

In addition, new construction, additions, and alterations to buildings often require a building permit (see the following Buildings Permits subsection for more information).

If your business does not comply with the requirements of the Zoning By-law, you can either modify the proposal to meet the zoning requirements, or you can seek a “minor variance approval” by making an application to the [Committee of Adjustment](#). Your application to the Committee of Adjustment should describe how your business will adhere to the best practices laid out in this Guide.

To approve any minor variance to the Zoning By-law, the Committee of Adjustment must be satisfied that:

- The general intent and purpose of the City's [Official Plan](#) is maintained.
- The general intent and purpose of the City's [Zoning By-law](#) is maintained.
- The proposal is appropriate for the development of the land and/or building.
- The variance requested is minor.

8. RESIDENT AND NEIGHBOUR RELATIONS

Building and maintaining good relationships with your establishment's neighbours, whether they're adjacent businesses or residences, is key for the longevity and success of your venue.

In this section, you will find helpful information on resident and commercial associations and general suggestions for maintaining good relationships with your neighbours. We recognize that longtime late-night business operators have very likely already taken these and other steps to ensure harmonious relations between themselves, their staff, their patrons, and the surrounding community – please treat the information and suggestions that follow simply as a best-practices checklist to review when starting out or if local circumstances change.

Residents' Associations (RAs) in your neighbourhood

Toronto is home to over 200 active residents' associations (RAs), with representation in every ward. It's good practice to familiarize yourself with the RAs near your establishment, and we suggest that you keep up to date with local RAs' key issues, meeting times, and active members. For a complete list of Resident Associations in the City of Toronto, please refer to this guide's [Section 9: Other Late-Night Business Resources of this document](#).

Positive local relationships

Here are some specific suggestions to help foster positive relationships with your neighbours:

1. Open Communication:

- Introduce (or periodically re-introduce) yourself and your business to your neighbours, BIA, and Resident Associations. Share your contact information, and that of key staff and management, and encourage ongoing communication.
- Hold or join regular meetings or informal gatherings to discuss upcoming events or changes to your business that might impact your neighbourhood.
- If your establishment operates in a building that also contains residential accommodation, provide building management with your key contact information.

2. Event Planning and Scheduling:

- Inform neighbours about upcoming events well in advance (especially if they're unusual in any way – size / scope, hours, etc). Provide details on the type of event, expected attendance, and measures you are taking to minimize disruption.
- Be mindful of the timing and frequency of events (e.g., a concentration of events requiring extended hours for alcohol service or generating unusually large crowds or impacts on parking). Avoid too many high-impact late-night events on weekdays and consider the local community's preferences.
- Try to involve local businesses or causes in your activities.

3. Security Measures:

- Implement effective security measures to ensure the safety of your patrons and surrounding community.
- Inform and work with local law enforcement to address any security concerns and maintain a visible security presence.

4. Parking Solutions:

- Ensure access to neighbouring businesses is maintained, including laneways and access to doorways, garages, exit ramps, etc.
- Be mindful of surroundings when loading and unloading your event.
- Encourage the use of public transportation or rideshare services to minimize the impact on parking on your community.

5. Community Involvement:

- Actively participate in community events and initiatives to help integrate your venue into the neighborhood and demonstrate a commitment to being a responsible community member.
- Support local businesses and engage in collaborations with neighbouring establishments to foster positive relationships.
- Consider joining your local BIA (see below). BIAs generally maintain excellent relationships with all local businesses, local RAs, and the City.

6. Quick Response to Concerns:

- Respond promptly to any concerns raised by neighbors. Addressing issues in a timely manner shows that the venue takes the concerns of the community seriously.

7. Regular Reviews and Adjustments:

- Periodically review and adjust policies based on feedback from neighbours and the community. This ongoing evaluation process demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement.

Business Improvement Areas in your neighbourhood

A [Business Improvement Area \(BIA\)](#) is an association of commercial property owners and tenants within a defined area who work in partnership with the City of Toronto to create thriving and safe business areas that attract patrons, tourists, and other new businesses. As a collective BIA, local businesses have the organizational and funding capacity to lead civic improvement, address issues, and enhance the quality of life in their neighbourhood.

Connecting with your local BIA could have many direct benefits for your late-night establishment. BIAs often have funds that they can allocate towards exterior capital improvements for businesses, including sidewalk maintenance and graffiti removal. In addition, BIAs have great organizational capacity. They often help in the organization of festivals and events by promoting them to the neighbourhood and connecting performers with businesses. Lastly, they can help late-night establishments maintain good neighbour relations by alerting residents of upcoming events and securing event approval from their local councillor.

There are over 80 BIAs across the city, which collectively comprise approximately 45,000 members. To see whether your business falls within one of these BIAs' defined areas, refer to the map above and/or access the [City of Toronto BIA List Directory](#) for a complete list of BIAs' contact information, website link, mapped area, and designated City councillor.

Other Late-Night Business Resources

Resources for
Musicians, Event
Organizers, and Live
Venue Owners

Toronto Residents
Association Directory

Toronto Association
for Business
Improvement Areas
(TABIA) and Business
Improvement
Association Office
(BIA) Info

Venue Guides from
Cities such as
London, Melbourne,
and New York

Global
Comprehensive
Guides on Event and
Venue Safety

Technical Resources
for Production Teams

Additional Information

- The Good Neighbour Guide is an evolving document and will be updated to reflect the most up-to-date information.
- Further information can be accessed through the City's Night Economy Review page (toronto.ca/nighteconomyreview).
- Questions related to this document can be directed to nighteconomy@toronto.ca.
- There is also a Resource Guide for Music Event Organizers (toronto.ca/music).

City of Toronto Resources

Promotional Opportunities

- BusinessTO and CultureTO Newsletters
- Festivals & Events Calendar
- Venue and Artist Directories

Support for your Business

- Business Webinars and Training
- Business Grants, Incentives and Rebates
- Guidance for Planning Events in Toronto Webpage

SafeTO: A Community Safety and Well-Being Plan



What is SafeTO?



SafeTO is the City of Toronto's **comprehensive ten-year plan** to advance community safety and well-being. It requires a **fundamental shift** in the way we think and act to achieve lasting and transformative change.



SafeTO provides a **roadmap** for how the City and social systems that serve Torontonians – such as community services, businesses, and healthcare, education and justice systems – can **work collaboratively across sectors** and with **all levels of government** to support community safety and well-being.



SafeTO's 26 actions span seven strategic goals:

Reduce
vulnerability

Reduce
violence

Advance
truth and
reconciliation

Promote
healing and
justice

Invest in
people

Invest in
neighbourhoods

Drive
collaboration
and
accountability

What is **community safety** and **well-being**?



Ideal state: a sustainable community where people are **safe**, have a **sense of belonging** and **opportunities to participate**



People able to **meet their needs** for education, health care, food, housing, income and social and cultural expression



SafeTO takes a **cross-sectoral, public health approach** to safety and well-being

Phase One: Implementation

ACTION
1. Embed the **Toronto Community Crisis Service** as a well-resourced, first response service city-wide

» **3** TCCS city-wide expansion in 2024

ACTION
2. Strengthen **community crisis response protocols** to better support victims and communities impacted by violence

» **3** Community Crisis Response Program service expansion and community well-being and recovery investment

ACTION
2. Develop a comprehensive, multi-sector **gun violence reduction plan**

» **1** Toronto Office to Prevent Violence

ACTION
7. Develop a comprehensive strategy to **share, integrate and analyze data** across multiple institutions

» **1** SafeTO Collaborative Analytics & Learning Environment (SCALE)

Toronto Community Crisis Service



The Toronto Community Crisis Service (TCCS) offers **free, confidential, in-person mental health supports** from mobile crisis teams. The service supports people 16 years of age and older, and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



In its first year of operations, the service received **6,827 calls** and resolved 78% of calls transferred from 911 **without police involvement**. TCCS is currently available in four areas of Toronto, and will **expand city-wide by the end of 2024**.



If you are experiencing or witnessing a mental health crisis, you can access TCCS by **calling 211** or 911. Visit **toronto.ca/CrisisService**.



Community Crisis Response Program



The Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP) works **across Toronto** to provide **direct and immediate support** and resources to communities impacted by violent and traumatic incidents.



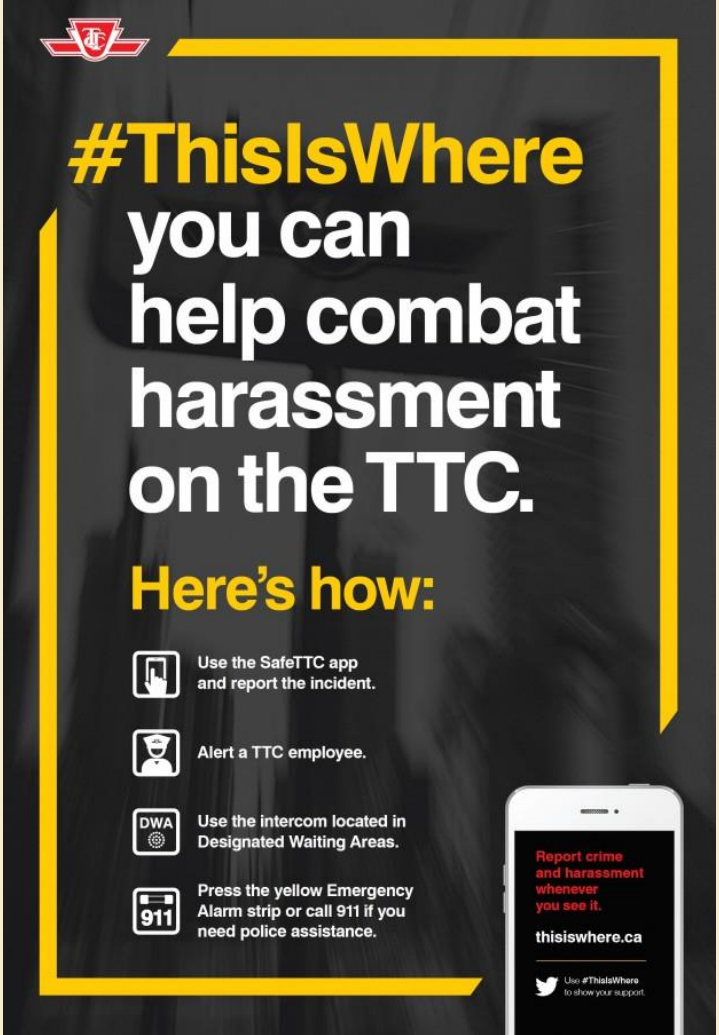
CCRP mobilizes **local resources** to address individual and group needs, coordinates **community debriefings** and facilitates **information sharing**. Long-term supports include training and education sessions, community safety planning, and fostering innovative community safety projects.



CCRP works with communities to develop safety networks and supports those impacted by violence in the recovery and healing process. Learn more at toronto.ca/ccrp.





TTC Safety

- » **TTC Board adoption of SafeTO** and direction to partner with the City on SafeTO Implementation
- » Developed a **comprehensive multi-disciplinary approach** with partners to mobilize high visibility presence, incident management and health and social supports for people in need. This includes capacity building of all frontline staff through efforts like de-escalation training.
- » The SafeTO Collaborative Analytics & Learning Environment (**SCALE**), reports on progress monthly through a public dashboard launched in June 2023 at toronto.ca/transitdata. The dashboard reports on Incidents, Interventions and Perceptions of Safety on TTC
- » Continued promotion of the **SafeTTC App**. Download it today!

A vertical graphic with a dark background and a yellow border. At the top left is the TTC logo. The main text is in large, bold, white and yellow font. Below the main text, under the heading 'Here's how:', are four icons with corresponding instructions: a smartphone icon for the SafeTTC app, a TTC employee icon for alerting staff, a DWA (Designated Waiting Area) icon for using the intercom, and a 911 icon for pressing the emergency alarm strip or calling 911. At the bottom right is a smartphone displaying the 'thisiswhere.ca' website with a red alert message and a Twitter hashtag.

**#ThisIsWhere
you can
help combat
harassment
on the TTC.**

Here's how:

-  Use the SafeTTC app and report the incident.
-  Alert a TTC employee.
-  Use the intercom located in Designated Waiting Areas.
-  Press the yellow Emergency Alarm strip or call 911 if you need police assistance.

Report crime and harassment whenever you see it.
thisiswhere.ca
Use #ThisIsWhere to show your support.

SafeTObia



WHAT IS SafeTObia?

SafeTO and the Downtown Yonge BIA have partnered on a pilot project to address community safety and well-being challenges in Business Improvement Areas (BIAs).

GOAL?

To provide BIAs in Toronto with a set of resources, tools, and solutions and build local capacity to address these issues in their communities.

WHY?

Through SafeTO consultation in 2021, the business community identified a significant increase in safety and community well-being issues during and post-pandemic.

HOW?

SafeTObia is engaging with BIAs and partners across City divisions to better understand these issues and explore solutions.

MORE INFO?

Visit

[downtownyonge.com
/SafeTObia](https://downtownyonge.com/SafeTObia)

Toronto.ca/Safety

SafeTO@Toronto.ca

Scott McKean | Manager, SafeTO and Justice Centres | 647-828-5985 | scott.mckean@toronto.ca



Our Health, Our City

A Mental Health, Substance Use, Harm Reduction
and Treatment Strategy for Toronto



Mental Health Landscape

In 2021, only

55%



of adults in Toronto reported 'very good' or 'excellent' mental health

a drop from

71%

in 2017.^{33,34}



Approximately

500,000

Canadians miss work each week due to a mental illness, leading to **\$6.3 billion** of lost productivity annually.⁵⁰



Among youth, just

44%



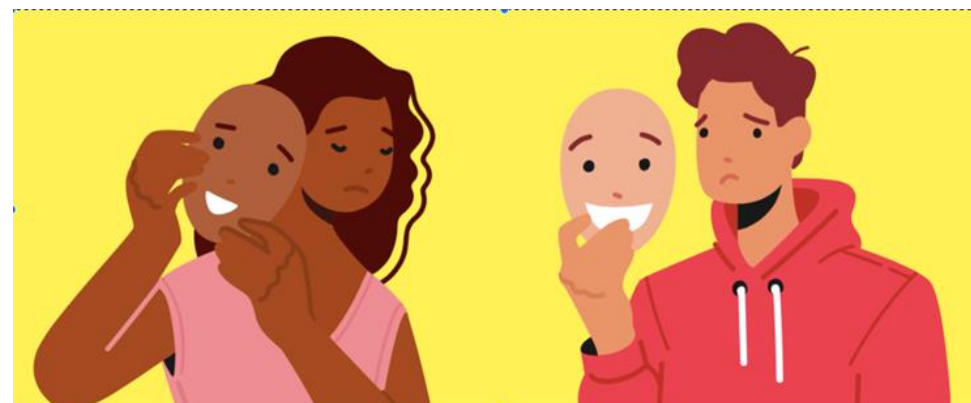
of Toronto students (grades 7-12) reported 'very good' or 'excellent' mental health in 2019.



while

17%

reported contemplating suicide in the past year.^{35,36}



Substance Use Landscape

Alcohol Related Harms

Alcohol produces some of the highest burden of drug related harms and deaths in Toronto. In an average year, alcohol is linked to:



803

deaths



4,469

hospitalizations



39,419

emergency room visits

Tobacco and Nicotine Related Harms

Public health policies have successfully reduced the number of people who smoke tobacco. Nonetheless, smoking tobacco is still on average responsible for:



2,564

deaths



11,160

hospitalizations



15,840

emergency room visits annually in Toronto among people 35 and older.⁷¹

Cannabis Related Harms

In 2022, approximately

29%

of people over the age of 16 in Ontario recently reported using cannabis for non-medical purposes in the past 12 months.⁷⁰



Drug Toxicity Crisis

The Drug Toxicity Crisis

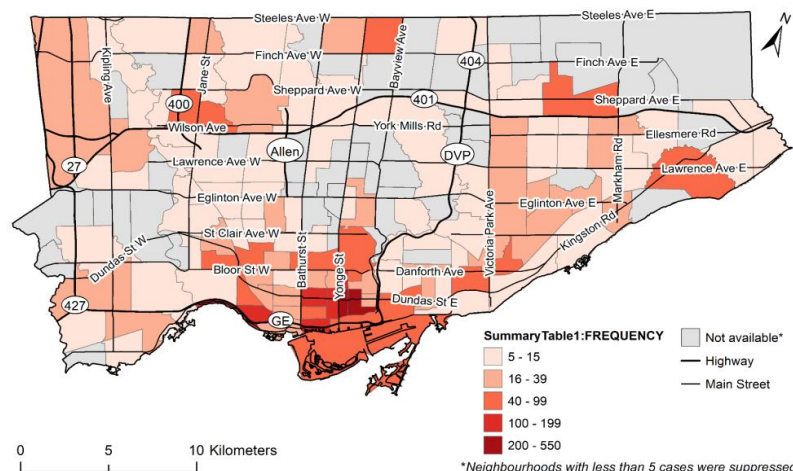
In 2022, preliminary reports estimate that

509 opioid toxicity deaths occurred in Toronto, marking a

271%

increase since 2015.⁶²

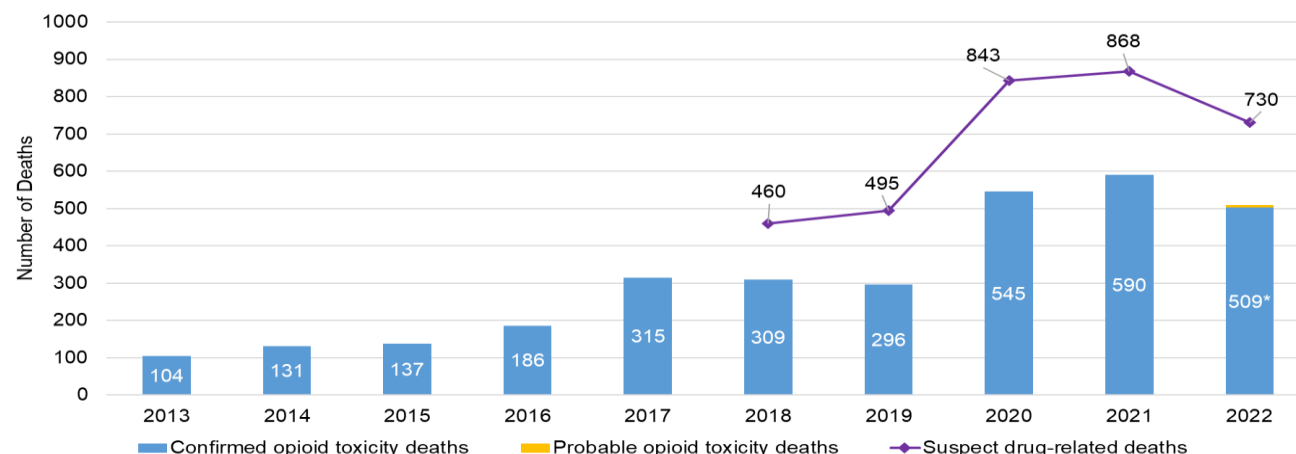
Map of suspected opioid overdose calls by neighbourhood, Toronto, July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.



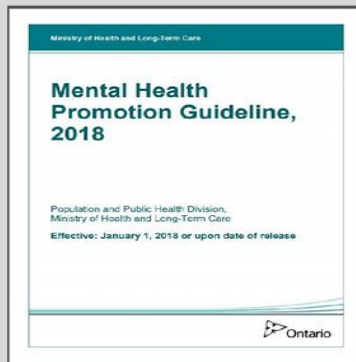
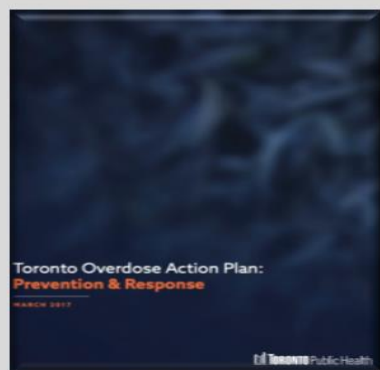
Source: Toronto Paramedic Services. Electronic Patient Care Record. July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Extracted August 30, 2023. Prepared by Toronto Public Health.



Suspect drug-related, confirmed opioid toxicity and probable opioid toxicity deaths in Toronto



Timeline to New Strategy



2005

2012



2017/2019

2018



2019

2020



2022

2023



200 participants on **18 community roundtables** which included people with lived and living experience



84 external stakeholder interviews



30 Interviews and roundtables with people who use drugs



13 City divisions, commissions and corporations consulted



Deputy Mayor's Mental Health Roundtable in June 2023



Jurisdictional scan of mental health and substance use strategies

TPH convened a Drug Strategy Reference Group to provide input on the development of the strategy and its recommendations. The strategy was also informed by discussions at the Decriminalization Reference Group and its Working Groups as well as the Board of Health's Drug Strategy Implementation Panel.



Engagements were conducted by TPH with support from the consulting firm MASS LBP.

Engagements, Consultations and Research



Our Health, Our City: Vision

Toronto is a diverse and resilient city that prioritizes the mental health, wellbeing, and safety of all residents.

Everyone can access the health care, services, resources, and community spaces they need to support their mental health and prevent substance use related harms with dignity and ease.

Mental health and substance use are addressed as health issues rather than criminal issues.

Mental health and substance use stigma and discrimination have been eliminated.



STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Promote mental health and wellbeing across the lifespan.
2. Prevent and reduce harms and deaths related to substance use across the lifespan.
3. Expand access to the full continuum of high-quality, evidence-based and client-centred services to address mental health and/or substance use issues, including prevention, harm reduction and treatment supports.
4. Advance community safety and wellbeing for everyone.
5. Improve access to housing and other social determinants of health.
6. Support mentally healthy workplaces and optimize the mental health of workers.
7. Proactively identify and respond to emerging mental health and substance use issues.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Health and community safety for everyone
- Meaningful inclusion of people with lived and living experience
- Anti-Oppression, Anti-Racism, and Decolonization
- City-wide, Collaborative, and Comprehensive
- Evidence, Innovation, and Continuous Improvement

First Year Priorities for the City

1

Housing

Advocate for ongoing and sustainable funding for shelter services and increase funding for supportive housing to help individuals experiencing homelessness. Create more affordable housing, including supportive housing for people with complex mental health and/or substance use related needs.

2

24/7 Crisis Stabilization Space

Work with community partners and provincial government to implement low-barrier crisis stabilization spaces for people with mental health and/or substance use related issues that operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week across the city as part of a full continuum of evidence-based services, treatment and wrap around supports. .

3

Responder–Hospital Protocols

Collaborate with first responders and hospitals to implement a coordination protocol that enhances the seamless transfer of individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance use crises to the most appropriate services. .

4

Expand TCCS City-Wide

Expand Toronto Community Crisis Service to be city-wide, as Toronto's fourth emergency service. .

Question and Answer



Ask your Night Economy questions in the Q and A



You can also review submissions by other participants and like the questions that you also want answered

Thank-You

Stay in touch:



toronto.ca/nighteconomy

toronto.ca/nighteconomyreview



nighteconomy@toronto.ca