



Quebec Regional Symposium

March 27, 2017

Presented by the University of Sherbrooke, Longueuil Campus

Participants: UQAM, University of Montréal, HEC Montréal, Polytechnique, École de Technologie Supérieure, University of Québec in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, the University of Sherbrooke and Bishop University. (total number of participants: 19)

Symposium Goal

To share the various initiatives currently underway in Quebec that are aimed at reducing the harms associated with alcohol consumption.

Discussion Topics

The type of security services used during social events where alcohol is served.

The duration of campus social events where alcohol is served and the space available in the various rooms. Also, students' mental health.

Cooperation between the campus, security services and school administration is very important. It is the key to successful social events. The difficult part is the media, which covers these orientation activities from a sensationalistic perspective.

Results

The pros and cons of having an in-house rather than a private security service were discussed.

We came to realize that the better solution was to try to keep students on campus for as long as possible to avoid the issues that arise prior to and after social events. This might help avoid the “pre-drinking” and overconsumption issues that happen in bars or apartments after social events. It may also be a good way of preventing drug use, because if we detect a pusher, we can tell him or her to leave, whereas we have no control in a bar. We are then in a position to more effectively ensure the safety of our students because we are in control of the event and can take measures to ensure their well-being. In essence, what we are trying to do is avoid students having to leave campus. When activities are held elsewhere, we lose control over them. What's more, attendance during Friday morning classes is low. Finally we also discussed the fact that alcohol abuse is linked to student mental health and that issues of this sort become additional challenges (alcoholism, social anxiety, performance anxiety).

We understand that cooperation with security services is a major issue. We need to think of ways and strategies to make student events safer, particularly during frosh week.

Next Steps

Recruit a second Quebec PEP-AH representative by May 1.

Participate in national events to discover the tools and strategies being used elsewhere in Canada.



Create a toolkit to help institutions and student associations better understand the project and offer them PEP-AH material to help them reduce the harms related to alcohol overconsumption.

