



# Ontario Regional Symposium

**November 22, 2019**

**Hosted by Victoria University in the University of Toronto**

## Participants

Carleton University, University of Toronto, DrinkSmart, Halton Region, Humber, McMaster University, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Public Health Sudbury, Queen's University, Region of Peel Health Department, Royal Military College, Ryerson University, Seneca College, Sheridan College, Centre for Innovation in Campus Mental Health, Toronto Public Health, Trinity College (University of Toronto), University of Guelph, University of Western Ontario, Wilfred Laurier University, York University (total number of participants: 63)

## Symposium Goal

We invited current and non-PEP-AH members to learn more about PEP-AH and join the discussion around alcohol harms reduction on university and college campuses. We aimed to hear from students and experts, share best practices, learn about on-campus initiatives and talk about strategies to help support student health, well-being and safety. Student voices are key to PEP-AH's success; we encouraged staff and faculty to bring students on their campus who are engaged in health promotion or work related to alcohol harm reduction.

## Discussion Topics

- Campus-based Partnerships for Reducing Alcohol Harms (highlighting The Caring Campus Project and upcoming Univenture Project)
- Ontario-based, Student-led Alcohol Harms Reduction Initiatives
- Overview of PEP-AH's Aims and Framework
- Student Breakout (Student Engagement and Alcohol Harms Reduction)
- Staff Breakout (Alcohol Strategy and Policy)

## Outcomes

Ontario college and university staff were able to discuss the various stakeholders and student populations that need particular consultation, the value of strategy surrounding harms reduction, how to develop this strategy and what items they can tackle now. They also discussed the importance of student voice and language when crafting messaging.

Students discussed student-specific factors that contribute to high rates of alcohol consumption and problematic alcohol use in Canada; actions and best practices to address this problem; and additional initiatives.

Ontario college and university staff and students made valuable connections through networking and discussion; developed a greater understanding of PEP-AH's framework and alcohol harms initiatives within various institutions; and navigated the value of thinking about the intersections between mental health, sexual violence, cannabis, race and racism, and alcohol.



## Next Steps

Engage with non-PEPAH attendees via e-mail to follow up with resources and an invitation to join as a PEP-AH institution.

Attendees heard from students and staff with ongoing initiatives happening on their campuses, providing them the opportunity to take this back to their respective campuses to share knowledge and potentially implement various initiatives, re-evaluate their existing programming, and better align with the PEP-AH framework and summary document.

Follow-up with attendees to provide them the keynote, student and staff presentation slides, resources, and reports discussed, to support them with disseminating the information to their teams.



**PEP-AH Ontario Regional Symposium Attendees**



**Ontario Student Panel**