



## REPORT

Report Date: November 22, 2021  
Contact: Margaret Wittgens  
Contact No.: 604-673-8227  
RTS No.: 14782  
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20  
Meeting Date: December 8, 2021  
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services

FROM: General Manager, Arts, Culture & Community Services  
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Extension to Drinker's Lounge Alcohol Consumption Pilot

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to designate certain public places over which the City has jurisdiction as places where liquor may be consumed;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment by Council a By-law to amend the City Land Regulation By-law to designate these places, generally as set out in Appendix A.

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

In the context of public health restrictions due to COVID-19 and the lack of indoor gathering places in the Downtown Eastside (DTES), a temporary outdoor parklet was created at 111 Princess Ave outside the Drinker's Lounge, a community-based managed alcohol and harm reduction program operated by Portland Hotel Society (PHS). The purpose of the Drinker's Lounge parklet was to provide a safe outdoor space for people drinking in the area, and it was part of a broader community harm reduction initiative aimed at bringing community partners together to provide more welcoming and safe public infrastructure. The creation of the parklet also aimed to decrease drinking at the bus stop in front of the Astoria hotel, an issue that was drawing public attention and complaints from local business owners.

In February 2021, Council passed a by-law to permit public consumption of alcohol at the Drinker's Lounge parklet from March 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021, which was then extended to

December 31, 2021. In tandem, the City helped support through one-time grants an increase in operating capacity for the Drinker's Lounge to be able to manage the parklet.

Due to the success of the Drinker's Lounge parklet, staff recommend that Council extend the by-law for public consumption of alcohol until March 31, 2021. This will enable the parklet to continue as long as the currently funded operational plan allows, while staff continue to work with partners on a sustainable, long term funding and operational plan for the Drinker's Lounge.

### ***COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS***

**June 22, 2021:** Council approved, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow a pilot for liquor consumption in three additional public plazas.

**May 18, 2021:** Council approved, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow a pilot for liquor consumption in three public plazas and to extend the pilot for liquor consumption at the parklet at 111 Princess Ave ("Drinker's Lounge") to December 31, 2021, 7 days a week.

**February 24, 2021:** Council approved, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow a pilot for liquor consumption at a proposed parklet at 111 Princess Ave ("Drinker's Lounge") from March 1 to July 31, 2021, and instructed staff to bring the by-law forward for enactment. Council also approved a Social Policy grant totalling \$25,000 to the PHS Community Services Society to expand the Drinker's Lounge Community Managed Alcohol Program (CMAP), providing operational support and oversight of the parklet, and directed staff to report back in Q2 2021 on the implementation of the parklet and program, and consider opportunities for extension.

**October 7, 2021:** Council endorsed the application of the Drug Users Liberation Front (DULF) and the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) for a federal section 56 exemption for a compassion club model to supply safer drugs to people who use drugs.

**November 25, 2020:** Council directed a federal exemption pursuant to section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) be sought to decriminalize personal possession of illicit substances within the City's boundaries for medical purposes, in order to address urgent public health concerns caused by the overdose crisis and COVID-19.

**July 29, 2020:** Council approved, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to allow a pilot for liquor consumption in four public plazas.

**July 27, 2020:** Council passed a motion to support the decriminalization of poverty and community-led safety initiatives, and to work with partners to prioritize community-led harm reduction and safety initiatives in the areas of mental health, substance use, homelessness and sex work.

**June 23, 2020:** Council directed staff to prepare a by-law pursuant to Section 73 subsections (2), (3) and (4) of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act, to allow a pilot for liquor consumption in select public places under jurisdiction of the City. Staff were directed to create limited spaces for responsible consumption of alcohol in public, and to consult with VPD, VCH, internal stakeholders, local Business Improvement Associations and businesses, to recommend appropriate locations and hours for consumption of alcohol in specified public spaces.

**December 20, 2018:** Council approved over 30 recommendations outlined in the Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force Report, including immediate actions in the areas of harm reduction, safe supply, peer networks, treatment, Indigenous healing and wellness, low barrier employment, and collective action for change.

**April 2001:** Council approved The Four Pillars Strategy, a model that continues to guide the City's work in mental health and substance use and includes a harm reduction approach to all substances including drugs and alcohol.

### ***CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

### ***REPORT***

#### ***Background/Context***

Illicit drinking in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) has historically been an issue due to a number of factors, including increasing gentrification and lack of public spaces to gather, as well as restrictions on liquor licenses and few places to access affordable alcohol. Consequently, drinkers in the DTES who are homeless or precariously housed have few places to gather and socialize, a situation exacerbated by COVID-19 public health restrictions on indoor gathering.

The bus stop in front of the Astoria hotel has been serving as a de facto place for people who drink to gather since it has seating, shelter from the rain, and is located close to the Astoria liquor store that sells affordable alcohol. Although the bus stop has been the most accessible option for drinkers due to the lack of viable alternatives, it is unsafe for drinkers and for others using the bus stop for public transit, and public complaints about drinking at the bus stop were increasing.

To address the need to create a safe alternative space for drinkers in the DTES, the City brought together a diverse group of partners to explore options and advance some tangible solutions. In August 2020, a Steering Committee was formed, including partners from:

- Strathcona Business Improvement Area (BIA)
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- PHS and staff from the Drinker's Lounge
- VANDU and people with lived experience,
- Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House (DTES),
- First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)
- WISH
- Strathcona Community Policing Centre
- Strathcona Residents Association
- Park Board

Four key action areas have emerged from this community collaboration, with a focus on creating safer places for illicit drinkers:

1. Drinker's Lounge Parklet (operated by PHS)

2. Astoria Washroom Trailer Program (operated by WISH)
3. Access to Street Furniture
4. Connections to Green Space (Oppenheimer, MacLean Park)

These four action areas were implemented over the last year as follows:

1. The Drinker's Lounge Parklet

The intention of the Drinker's Lounge parklet was to create a safe space for drinkers in the neighbourhood that could also be an alternative to the bus stop near the Astoria Hotel. The Steering Committee identified PHS's Drinker's Lounge at 111 Princess Ave as a great partner and location for a safe outdoor space. Their existing community managed alcohol program could help steward and manage a public space for people to gather, access food and safer forms of alcohol, as well as provide access to a washroom, services and programming.

In addition, the success of the City's pilot project to allow consumption of alcohol in designated plazas in the summer of 2020 provided a model for a similar initiative in the DTES. In early 2021, Engineering installed a parklet outside the Drinker's Lounge and Council approved a by-law amendment to allow public consumption of alcohol at the 111 Princess Ave parklet.

At the same time, staff worked with PHS staff and the Steering Committee to create a comprehensive program and operational plan for an expansion of the Drinker's Lounge. The Drinker's Lounge received \$75,000 in one-time grants from the City to add a mental health worker (1.2 FTE) to supervise the parklet and further increase hours of operation from 10am-3pm to 9:30am-4:30pm Monday to Friday; provide stipends at \$70/day to peers to set up and take down furniture, clean up the parklet, and provide outreach to peers drinking at the bus stop. In addition, stipends have helped to provide honoraria to peer brew masters at \$20/hour and provide food and drink vouchers to distribute to drinkers during outreach as incentives to visit the parklet and learn more about the program. The Strathcona BIA also provided \$5,000 to be used to create wayfinding signage around the DTES and near the Astoria so drinkers could find their way to the Drinker's Lounge.

The parklet has been in operation since March 2021 and is resourced to continue until March 2022. However, the by-law amendment to allow public consumption of alcohol expires at the end of December 2021. Given the success of the parklet, which is outlined in the next section, staff are recommending a by-law extension until March 31, 2022 to sustain the current program and use of this space.

2. Astoria Washroom Trailer Program

In June 2021, a Washroom Trailer Program (WTP) opened adjacent to the Astoria where the DTES Neighbourhood House operates a community garden program. The washroom is open from 7:30am to 2:30pm during the day – designed with drinkers as the primary focus – and overnight from 11pm to 6am – designed with a focus on sex workers and women, trans and gender diverse people. All who access this program, including drinkers, now have a safe place to use the washroom, access harm reduction supplies, information and supports, and access to referrals and services as needed. The WTP provides staff supervision, as well as meaningful employment for people with lived experience to monitor the washrooms and build relationships with local community members including drinkers at the Astoria. In

addition, PHS Drinker's Lounge staff and peer outreach workers also regularly ensure drinkers who use the WTP are aware of the Drinker's Lounge parklet and program.

### 3. Street Furniture on Hawks at Hastings

To provide safer, alternative seating to the bus stop, the City installed three picnic tables along Hawks beside the community garden and washroom trailer program. These picnic tables are intended to provide an alternative public place for people in the area to gather and socialize. The picnic tables include umbrellas to provide some shelter from the rain and staff are currently exploring alternatives for improved weather protection. The site is overseen by Astoria staff who provide outreach and encourage people using this public seating area to access the washroom and make connections to services as needed.

### 4. Connections to Green Space

With Parks staff participating in the Steering Committee, feedback was provided into additions to space at Oppenheimer and MacLean Park to consider increasing safe spaces for people to sit and socialize. Additional furniture such as picnic tables and logs to sit on were added to both parks. The Steering Committee also provides a forum for Park Board to consult with the Drinker's Lounge staff, VANDU and people with lived experience on how to create and maintain safer public spaces for local DTES residents.

## ***Strategic Analysis***

Since the launch of the parklet in 2021, PHS has been gathering data to assess the impact of the project and City staff have also engaged partners to evaluate the parklet.

### Reported Outcomes:

- People who use the parklet at the Drinker's Lounge appreciate the space and have shared comments such as, "I can't believe the City created this space for us!" PHS staff have reported extremely positive feedback from their members and people who use the parklet, illustrated by the constant use of the space.
- The Drinker's Lounge has connected with 20-30 drinkers per week, with approximately 100+ visits to the parklet per week.
- 20+ new members have joined the community managed alcohol program, mostly self-referrals.
- There were many celebrations and community events held in the parklet during the summer, including a community barbeque marking the official opening of the site. The event was attended by a total of about 50 people.
- There has been an increased capacity for referrals including:
  - 5 referrals to Kilala Leleum counselling
  - 3 to Drug and Alcohol Meeting Support for Women (DAMS) outreach
  - 5 to housing
  - 10 to detox services
- There has been an increase in programming at the Drinker's Lounge from Kilala Lelum – an urban Indigenous health and healing cooperative that provides culturally safe health care and cultural programming - including Elder services, with a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) position secured but waiting to be filled.

- PHS has received one complaint from a nearby office about the noise from drumming during a cultural program.
- Finally, there's been less reported use of the bus stop near the Astoria Hotel as a place to drink and socialize

This community harm reduction initiative has also helped establish and strengthen partnerships with a number of community groups, in particular between the Drinker's Lounge, Kilala Leleum, VANDU's program for illicit drinks – EIDGE – Eastside Illicit Drinker's Group for Education, the DTES Neighbourhood House and WISH. These strengthened partnerships have in turn led to better access to programs and services and the creation of welcoming and safe public infrastructure both for drinkers and for other DTES residents who have limited access to places to gather.

### Sustainability of Drinker's Lounge Expansion

The \$75,000 PHS received from the City in one-time grants for the Drinker's Lounge will enable current operations to continue until March 31, 2022, pending Council's direction on the bylaw extension.

After March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, PHS will require additional funds to continue the existing services at the parklet. Staff have initiated conversations with Vancouver Coastal Health and others to continue the funding beyond the end of March.

PHS is also applying for grants to help sustain and extend their programs. In the future, they are hoping to be able to hire another staff person to better support the parklet's extended hours, add more peer outreach on weekends, and add more peer outreach to other areas in the DTES including the Main and Hastings area.

### Public Input

In the summer of 2020, the City provided \$5,000 for engagement with Drinker's at VANDU and the Drinker's Lounge, which resulted in gathering information via a focus group of about 25 people that was used to inform the creation of a space that would be well suited to and used by drinkers. Drinkers shared that the primary reason for drinking at the bus stop was because their friends gathered there, and that they would prefer to gather somewhere that had more comfortable seating, a washroom, programs and activities.

Since the Drinker's Lounge parklet has been implemented, we have received strong positive feedback from the people who use the parklet, our partners like the Drinker's Lounge and WISH, and also from the broader Steering Committee. The parklet is not only providing a safe place for drinkers, it is also providing them a place to create community, participate in programming, and access harm reduction and other services as needed. Finally, we've heard clear feedback from drinkers that providing safe, local public infrastructure intended for them to use has made them feel more like valued members of our city.

### ***Financial Implications***

The City maintenance of the parklet is being addressed through existing operating budgets within Engineering Services.

The extension of the by-law to support the Drinker's Lounge parklet does not have any immediate financial impacts to the Drinker's Lounge as funding is already in place to support the parklet operations until March 31 2021.

For this program and public gathering space to continue as a place for drinkers in the DTES past March 31, 2021, more sustainable funding sources will need to be secured. Staff are in conversation with senior levels of government and Vancouver Coastal Health about options for funding this program. City staff are advocating for this program and expansion to be fully funded through Vancouver Coastal Health in the long term.

### ***Legal***

Section 73 of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act (BC) gives the City the authority to designate, by by-law, public places as places where liquor may be consumed, subject to certain requirements as set out in the Act and the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation.

### ***CONCLUSION***

The Drinker's Lounge parklet has resulted in positive outcomes for drinkers in the DTES and staff recommend extending the by-law amendment until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 in line with current available funding. Staff will continue to work with Vancouver Coastal Health, senior levels of government and PHS to find additional funding for the expansion beyond March 31 2022 in recognition of the importance of this program for drinkers and the broader community in the DTES.

\* \* \* \* \*



**EXPLANATION**

**A By-law to amend the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735  
regarding extension of end date for Designated Area 4**

The attached By-law will implement Council's resolution of December 8, 2021 to amend the City Land Regulation By-law to extend the end date for Designated Area 4 to March 31, 2022.

Director of Legal Services  
December 8, 2021

**Drinker’s Lounge – Parklet/Outreach Operations Plan 2022**

**PHS Community Managed Alcohol Program (CMAP)**

The PHS CMAP strives, first and foremost, to provide a culturally safe and legal community space for people who have a severe alcohol use disorder; who live in abject poverty, and who sometimes drink non-beverage alcohol products such as mouthwash or rubbing alcohol.

Many of the CMAP members are homeless or living in unstable housing. Those that do have housing may not be allowed guests; living spaces are typically very small. These conditions mean that for this population social drinking becomes an illicit issue simply because it often occurs on public property: parks, sidewalks and empty lots. In contrast, CMAP creates a licit setting with oversight (health and social support) and community. This high-risk population of Drinker’s are predominantly indigenous community members and suffer loss of health and spiritual wellbeing. CMAP has a strong cultural component supported by our Culture Saves Lives program as well as connections to Elder programming.

Consuming non-beverage alcohol as a result of severe addiction profoundly destabilizes a person’s life, increasing the likelihood of homelessness, stigmatization, violence, police interactions, emergency trips to the hospital, and eventually mortality. Many of those with severe alcohol use disorder are polysubstance users and are at increasing risk for overdose and death. Across Canada, Managed Alcohol Programs (MAPs) demonstrate increased quality of life, decreased violence and police interaction and decreased visits to the emergency room.

Importantly, the unique difference between CMAP and other MAPs is the central role that the members (Drinker’s) play in determining the program’s focus – thus the Community in front of MAP. PHS manages a variety of peer-facilitated services, but CMAP is by far the most peer-directed in terms of program focus. Some of the most marginalized people in the DTES have created a space where they can draw a sense of mutual recognition, support and worth. Staff and Peers engage in an outreach effort to connect with members of the DTES community who drink illicitly; connecting them to the socialization and service components of the CMAP program. Members consistently report an important sense of agency and ability that comes from the outreach and program maintenance roles. Members continually innovate new programming (A pancake breakfast program was started by FoodSafe-trained members and folks are currently developing a sewing group..!).

CMAP also delivers beverages to residents in social housing – this has been especially important during COVID to encourage residents to minimize interactions.

CMAP members are connected to additional supports such as cultural medicine, health services and Ministry programs. Finally, CMAP is very successful at motivating Drinker’s to switch from non-beverage alcohol options (e.g. hand sanitizer, rubbing alcohol) to beverage alcohol. Members can exchange non-beverage alcohol for brewed wine and beer. Our PHS physician provides oversight and regularly meets with CMAP members with the objective to provide client-centred care while reducing the harms of daily alcohol consumption.

Below is a sample of weekly activities at CMAP:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------

<p><b>11:00am</b> EIDGE meeting @ VANDU</p>	<p><b>10:00am-12:00pm</b> Clinic w Dr. Hirsh</p> <p><b>11:00am</b> Drinker's Lounge w/ Culture Saves Lives</p>	<p><b>11:00am</b> Men's Wellness</p> <p><b>11:00am</b> Women's Wellness</p> <p><b>1:00pm</b> Art Groups</p>	<p><b>11:00am</b> Sacred Circle (not on cheque week)</p>	<p><b>11:00am</b> Grief &amp; Loss (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month)</p> <p>Elder Support (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month)</p>
<p><b>DAILY PROGRAMMING:</b>  <b>Breakfast:</b> 10:00am  <b>Lunch:</b> 12:00pm  <b>Brew Co-op:</b> 11am (12pm on Tuesdays to accommodate DL meeting)  <b>Co-op Contributions and Withdrawals:</b> 10:30am-11:00am &amp; 1:00pm-1:30pm &amp; 3:30pm-4:00pm  <b>MAP Pick-ups and Illicit Exchanges:</b> 9:30am-4:30pm</p>				
<p><b>DAILY JOBS:</b>  <b>Set up:</b> 9:15am  <b>Lunch Runner:</b> 12:00pm  <b>Outreach Team:</b> 12:45pm  <b>Cleaner:</b> 4:15pm</p>				

The plan for 2022 reflects the growth of the program in the last year.

### CMAP Core Funding

Until 2022, CMAP core funding has been made up of one time only grants from Vancouver Coastal Health and, more recently, First Nations Health Authority. This funding was not secure and was applied for annually. However, the funders recognize the value of the program and worked hard to secure funding each year. Recently Vancouver Coastal Health agreed to annualize their portion of the funding for CMAP. This means that PHS can begin to look ahead and plan beyond the current fiscal year and, more broadly, reflects the increasing acceptance of community-based harm reduction for Drinker's.

CMAP began 2021 running at overcapacity; reflecting both the demand for service and also the limited and year-by-year funding model. CMAP had 135 members and a regular cohort of about 40 people who actively participate in the brewing, social and cultural aspects of the program. On a daily basis we had approximately 15 people socially gathering (This number was anticipated to grow with outreach to the Hastings area). We had a waiting list for new members and required funding for staff, peer honorarium and program supplies.

With the 2021 CoV funding for staffing, parklet operations and outreach, we were able to increase the programs capacity, both in terms of membership and daily attendance. Membership has increased and the grant has allowed us to support these new members.

**Current community partnerships:**

- VCH now provides funding as multi-year core funding aimed at alcohol and indigenous needs . First Nations Health Authority provides year-to-year funding.
- Kilala Leleum (Urban Indigenous Health & Healing Cooperative). KL continues to be a close partner with CMAP. They are located mere feet away from the Drinker's Lounge and Parklet and provides Elder supports and a daily lunch program. This year KL applied for a SUAP grant that intends to provide a regular LPN role specifically geared to the Drinker's Lounge/Parklet. (note: due to the lack of available LPNs during Covid, the position still awaits filling).
- EIDGE: VANDU's Drinker's program is very closely connected with CMAP. We have both worked together to create the Alcohol Knowledge Exchange document, a foundational guide to the issues facing disenfranchised urban Drinker's and the benefits of community-based managed alcohol programs.
- WISH. WISH Drop-in Center facilitates the Astoria Washroom Project, a sister project of the DL in some ways. Though WISH services are primarily directed towards women and people of marginalized gender, the Washroom Project and its associated community areas have been an important support for Astoria Drinker's. CMAP staff and outreach have worked closely with WISH to engage the Astoria Drinker's.
- Culture Saves Lives: This PHS contracted program has provided unique cultural supports to the Drinker's -most notably regular drumming sessions on Tuesdays at the Parklet Space.

**Potential Future Partnerships:**

- Provincial funding attached to alcohol (Sin) taxes
- Partnerships with the artisanal brewery industry – these partnerships could focus on both beverage donations, financial support donations, as well as mentoring opportunity for the Brew Masters of CMAP to learn from the artisanal brewers
- Federal Ministry of Indigenous Services – this is especially pertinent to CMAP as the DTES is home to indigenous folks from every region of Canada
- Assembly of First Nations – for the same reasons as Indigenous Services.
- Research partnerships – important piece to help propagate the model
- Clinic partnerships to provide wrap around health care

---

### Proposed 2022 CMAP Parklet Program :

The CMAP Parklet currently operates 9:30am-4:30pm M-F with outreach on weekdays to the Hasting corridor.

Our goal is to sustain these hours and operations throughout 2022 .

\$75,000 total (PHS budget breakdown below):

- \$75,000
  - \$46,000 salaries (0.8 FTE)
  - \$21,500 for program supplies, stipends, Peer honoraria
  - \$7,500 Admin

### 2022 Budget Breakdown

Staffing:

- Continuation of mental health worker (MHW – .08 FTE) to:
  - manage the Parklet operations
  - support the extra Peer volunteer roles
  - help coordinate continued outreach to the Hastings corridor (Main & Hastings, Astoria)
  - help support the increased CMAP membership
- Continued enhancement of the program's capacity for referral and connection to services (e.g. housing, Indigenous services, primary care). The added staffing has allowed the Program Manager (in-kind resource) to facilitate more robust referrals (including treatment, counselling, women's services & housing).

Peer Honoraria/Stipends

- Honoraria to peers operating the Brew Coop, stipends the daily volunteer outreach roles and the set up/break-down of the parklet furniture as well as daily site clean-up. Elder honoraria to provide culturally appropriate support and connection for participants.

Program Supplies

- Purchasing brewing supplies, food
- Outreach and the Incentives for Astoria, Main & Hastings Drinker's to join Drinker's Lounge (such as food or vouchers for a canned beer)
  - Continue to create new trusting relationships as well as habits for the Drinker's that currently frequent the Astoria area and Main & Hastings
  - Outreach from CMAP will offer vouchers and incentives (incl. food) to migrate over to the Drinker's Lounge
  - Drinker's will learn that they can buy into the Brewer's Coop as well as becoming volunteers and, potentially, brew masters

## **Workplan/Activities**

Staff and Peers will continue to perform the following outreach and member activities 5 days/week.

- Building relationships and community with Astoria and Main & Hastings Drinker's; providing education, support and membership to the program
- Staff will provide an assessment of each individual needs and assist with referrals and connection to health care, housing, cultural medicine. Member services include:
  - Group workshops and cultural programming for members aimed at addressing the traumas associated with alcohol use
  - Wound care, nutrition and health monitoring
  - Physician oversight for establishing MAP care plan with members
- Peer volunteer roles include
  - set-up and take-down parklet furniture
  - regular clean-up of parklet
  - participate in brewing and alcohol exchange
  - support new members to access alcohol and services

## **Challenges in 2021**

COVID-19:

In spite of community efforts and a robust vaccination program, COVID-19 has continued to burden the CMAP community throughout the 2021. The Elder supports are crucial to sustaining community spirit, yet Elder availability has been hampered by the pandemic. The amount of need throughout the DTES for spiritual support creates an environment where there is too much need for too few Elders. It's our hope that, should this situation continue thru 2022, that we can continue to offer culturally appropriate supports under the aegis of the community Elders.

COVID-19 also affected the brew master team, shutting the brewing program for over a month, resulting in a greater than normal percentage of beer being purchased (rather than brewed) in 2021.

Grief & Loss:

Marginalized Drinker's are one of the most vulnerable groups in the DTES. Each year brings with it the loss of friends and family for CMAP members. Thankfully the program lost far fewer members in 2021 than the previous year (6 deaths in 2021 vs 12 in 2020). Regardless of total numbers, the warmth of support and community provided by the members themselves as well as Elders and others in the community (CSL, Earl Crow) continue to be so important.

VPD issues:

Very little to report here. CMAP had one negative episode with VPD in the spring (a yelling match between members that led to a heavy-handed police interaction). PHS regularly liaises

with the local enforcement teams so our goal is, in the event of future interactions, to create an awareness that using the staff team to help adjudicate disputes is a far more effective strategy for VPD officers.

### **Sustainability and Stewardship in Community**

The CMAP Parklet Expansion Pilot will have as its long-term objective the aim to secure multi-year funding and the creation of a 7 day/week program model. The Astoria Steering Committee (Partnership & Fundraising Plan Implementation) will continue to assess and evaluate efforts and work towards sustainable funding objectives.

**\*\*Note:** CMAP has also applied for a CoV Core Supports grant to operate the Parklet and outreach program on Saturdays and Sundays 9:30am-4:30pm. We recognize that the weekends - Saturday and Sunday, when the program currently struggles to offer drinker's a place to gather legally and with supports - is the part of the week with the highest likelihood of members experiencing adverse events like violence, police interactions and hospitalization. PHS with our funders and partners continues to work towards efforts to secure long-term core funding and appreciates this opportunity to pilot an outreach expansion in hopes of gaining further support for the community during weekend hours.