



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteer Servers Exempt from Mandatory Training

In conjunction with other municipalities, Parkland County has successfully lobbied the provincial government to remove the requirement for non-profit and volunteer service groups to have mandatory training in serving alcohol at community events.

Last fall, through the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC), Parkland County asked the Alberta Government to exempt non-profit community associations from the mandatory Alberta Server Intervention Program (ASIP). Last week, AAMDC advised the exemption had been accepted.

According to Parkland County Mayor, Phyllis Kobasiuk, this is a positive step for all communities in Alberta.

“Non-profit community associations have limited resources to meet this requirement and most of their functions that involve the sale and service of liquor are limited to community members,” she said. “By putting demands and specific training requirements on those members, it greatly reduced the number of people to work events and communities were suffering because of it.”

Started in 2004, ASIP was developed to help curb problems with underage drinking, over-consumption of alcohol and impaired driving, as well as reduce the risk of violence by training

servers on handling these issues. The program also required all events have trained servers on hand when alcohol is being served. This proved problematic for many volunteer organizations.

“The goals of the ASIP are valuable and worthwhile, however many volunteer based groups will struggle with meeting the requirements of mandatory certifications and courses because of limited human resources and funds,” detailed the Parkland County request. “Volunteer based community organizations are integral to ensuring strong, healthy and viable rural communities. These organizations also ensure that rural municipalities can maintain and enhance a strong quality of life for residents. The effects of this and any other onerous mandatory requirements on volunteers is another burden that limits the ability and willingness of volunteers to make contributions to their communities.”

The AAMDC request initiated a review of the program, and the ASIP policy has since been amended to “exclude individuals operating under either a Class C or a Community Public Resale Special Event license from the mandatory training requirements.”

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