

ONTARIO'S TAILGATE LEGISLATION

Seeking Input from Residents and Taxpayers

The Municipality of Central Manitoulin is seeking feedback from residents and taxpayers on whether it should adopt a municipal tailgating by-law.

Before making a decision, Council would like to hear from the community about the potential benefits and concerns associated with allowing tailgating at approved sporting, cultural, and community events.

What You Need to Know

Ontario has introduced legislation that gives municipalities the **option** to permit tailgating at approved events. A municipality is not required to adopt a tailgating by-law.

It is important to understand that this legislation **does not allow people to consume alcohol at random events, parks, parking lots, or other public places.**

A municipal tailgating by-law would only allow tailgating:

- at **specific sporting, cultural, or community events;**
- in **designated outdoor areas** approved by the Municipality;
- **only after an event organizer has applied for and received a municipal permit;** and
- **subject to all permit conditions and applicable provincial laws.**

Every approved event would be required to meet the Municipality's permit requirements, and organizers would be responsible for complying with all conditions established to protect public safety and ensure the event is properly managed.

The Rules in Three Simple Points

1. Where It Applies

Tailgating would only be permitted in designated outdoor areas approved by the Municipality for a specific permitted event. These may include facility parking lots, event grounds, or other approved outdoor spaces.

Tailgating **would not** be permitted elsewhere on municipal property or at events that have not received municipal approval.

2. What It Allows

Within the approved tailgating area, attendees may bring their own alcoholic beverages and food to consume during the event. This can provide a more affordable option for attendees while enhancing the event experience.

3. What Remains Prohibited

The legislation does **not** change Ontario's existing alcohol laws.

The following would continue to be prohibited:

- Drinking and driving.

- Public intoxication.
- Carrying or consuming open alcohol outside the designated tailgating area.
- Consuming alcohol at events or locations that have not been approved through the municipal permitting process.

Supporting Community Events

The legislation gives municipalities the option to permit tailgating—it is **not mandatory**. Even if Central Manitoulin adopts a tailgating by-law, participation would remain voluntary for event organizers.

An organizer wishing to offer tailgating would need to apply for a permit, identify a suitable location, meet municipal requirements, and comply with all conditions established for the event. The Municipality would review each application individually before deciding whether to approve it.

Council is seeking input from residents and taxpayers to help determine whether a municipal tailgating by-law would be appropriate for Central Manitoulin and, if so, what rules and safeguards should be in place to ensure events remain safe, well-managed, and enjoyable for everyone.