

Canada looks to restrict sweet alcoholic drinks after teen dies

March 19 2018

Canada's food and drug officials were directed on Monday to look at ways of restricting the sale of highly sweetened alcoholic beverages following the death of a Quebec teen who consumed a few cans.

"I am deeply concerned by the increasing availability and appeal of single-serve highly sweetened, high-alcohol beverages and by the increasing number of youth admitted to hospital after drinking these products," Health Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor said.

"Accordingly, I have instructed my department to take all necessary action to address this issue."

The proposal would limit the maximum size of single-serve containers or the [alcohol content](#) in the beverage.

The new regulation would apply to all alcoholic beverages that "exceed a certain sweetness threshold, including those that contain [artificial sweeteners](#)," Health Canada said in a statement.

It is not intended, however, to capture liqueurs, or dessert wines.

Health Canada is also asking stakeholders to consider changes in advertising, marketing and labeling to reduce the risks of these products.

According to officials, there has been an explosion of beverages on the

Canadian market in recent years that are strongly flavored and very high in sugar or sweeteners, and contain as much alcohol as four glasses of wine.

The world's largest softdrink maker Coca-Cola said earlier this month it would launch its first ever [alcoholic drink](#) in Japan.

Canadian public [health](#) concerns were raised after a 14-year-old girl was found dead in a stream behind her high school in Laval, Quebec last month.

A coroner's report confirmed she had consumed two cans of a sweetened [alcoholic beverage](#) containing 11.9 percent alcohol.

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Citation: Canada looks to restrict sweet alcoholic drinks after teen dies (2018, March 19) retrieved 12 July 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-03-canada-restrict-sweet-alcoholic-teen.html>

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