



COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN, AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES AND A. BOURRIE, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

NOTED: M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: PROVINCIAL FRAMEWORK TO MANAGE FEDERAL LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS AND SITING OF CANNABIS STORES

DATE: NOVEMBER 27 2017

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with information concerning the Province's approach to the Federal government's plan to legalize cannabis and the siting of cannabis stores.

On September 8, 2017, the Province released its approach to the Federal government's plan to legalize cannabis by July 1, 2018. The Provincial news release regarding the approach identified the following key elements:

- The proposed minimum age to use, purchase and possess recreational cannabis in Ontario will be 19. The use of recreational cannabis will be prohibited in public places and workplaces.
- The LCBO will oversee the legal retail of cannabis in Ontario through new stand-alone cannabis stores and an online order service. This approach will ensure that there will be only one legal retail distributor for cannabis in Ontario and alcohol and cannabis are not sold alongside each other.
- Approximately 150 standalone stores will be opened by 2020, including 80 by July 1, 2019, servicing all regions of the province. Online distribution will be available across the province from July 2018 onward.
- Illicit cannabis dispensaries are not and will not be legal retailers. The Province will pursue a coordinated and proactive enforcement strategy, working with municipalities, local police services, the OPP and the federal government to help shut down these illegal operations.
- Ontario will prohibit individuals under the age of 19 from possessing or consuming recreational cannabis, which will allow police to confiscate small amounts of cannabis from young people. The province's approach to protecting youth will focus on prevention, diversion, and harm reduction without unnecessarily bringing them into contact with the justice system.

On November 3, 2017, the City of Barrie was advised by the Province that Barrie was one of the municipalities identified for at least one initial cannabis retail store for July 2018.

Staff from the Ministry of Finance and the LCBO have met with staff at the City of Barrie to discuss the Provincial guidelines and process for siting cannabis stores in Ontario and local interests. The guidelines are intended to achieve the objectives of protecting youth by ensuring stores are not in close proximity to schools, while providing access within communities and addressing the illegal market.



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City staff have advised representatives of the Province that based on the proposed use as a retail store, these legal cannabis stores would be permitted in the C1– Central Area Commercial, C2 – Transition Centre Commercial, C3- Shopping Centre Commercial or C4- General Commercial zoning categories under the City's current Zoning By-law. This use could also be considered as Accessory Retail Use in a Business Park zoning category or as a permitted use within the Light Industrial, Highway Industrial or General Industrial zoning categories.

Staff conveyed concerns related to locating any legal retail cannabis store in proximity to schools, clinics, addiction centres or youth oriented hubs.

It is anticipated that the Province will be considering locations within the Downtown area of the community with separation from sensitive uses, based on the guidelines for siting that were provided to staff.

The Province has advised that as part of the process, when a specific store site is identified, a public notice will be posted online at lcbocannabisupdates.com <<http://lcbocannabisupdates.com/>> and at the physical site. The public will have the opportunity to submit questions and comments on the intended site before it is confirmed.