	Report Title	Retail Cannabis in Tillsonburg
	Report No.	CAO 19-01
	Author	David Calder
	Meeting Type	Council Meeting
	Council Date	January 14, 2019
	Attachments	Report CAO 18-15 Retail Cannabis in Ontario Copy of Survey Results Various Correspondence

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive report CAO 19-01 Retail Cannabis in Tillsonburg.

AND THAT the Town of Tillsonburg not "opt out" of having cannabis retail stores located in the Town of Tillsonburg;

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to provide an update on the cannabis legislation, advise Council of the public engagement results of the survey regarding retail cannabis sales and provide a recommendation for retail cannabis sales in the Town of Tillsonburg. Also included in this report is information from the Tillsonburg Police Services Board.

BACKGROUND

Report CAO 18-15 Retail Cannabis in Ontario is attached for Council's information. Since the time of Report CAO 18-15 additional information has been collected.

As a reminder, Bill 36 provides the following options for municipal consideration:

Bill 36 – Whether to "Opt Out"

Local municipalities in Ontario have a one-time opportunity to opt out of cannabis retail in their communities. There is no time period for a local municipality to opt back in by Council resolution. However, if the decision to "opt out" is reversed by the municipality, that decision is final.

There are three options available to Council related to the opportunity to "opt out":

1. Do not "opt out."
2. "Opt out" by January 22, 2019.
3. "Opt out" but without prejudice to a Council decision to subsequently "opt in".

Option 1: Do not "opt out"

By default, a municipality that does not "opt out" will permit cannabis retail stores in the municipality, subject to the provincial licensing system, the Regulations released November 16, 2018 and any additional provincial regulations.

Option 2: Opt Out

If Council wishes to "opt out", it must pass a resolution by January 22, 2019, stating that the Town does not wish to host cannabis retail stores in Tillsonburg. The resolution must be sent to the AGCO. The AGCO's receipt of this resolution will automatically cancel any outstanding applications for a Retail Store Authorization in the Town. The AGCO will keep a public list of communities that have opted out of hosting cannabis retail.

Option 3: Opt out but without prejudice to a Council decision to subsequently opt back in
Council could decide by January 22, 2019, to temporarily or conditionally "opt out" but expressly without prejudice to a subsequent decision of Council to opt back in, but any subsequent decision to opt in would be final.

PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS

O.Reg. 468/18 was proclaimed on November 16, 2018:

The Regulation establishes Cannabis retail store operating requirements including hours of operation (between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.);

Limits the sale of cannabis retail stores to cannabis products, accessories and shopping bags'

Establishing minimum distances of retail locations from schools (150 m measured from the property line for stand-alone schools);

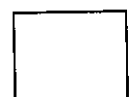
The Regulation prescribes eligibility for licensing as well as education requirements for operators, managers, and staff.

AGCO has begun publishing a Cannabis Retail Regulation Guide on-line which will be published in chapters as information becomes available, as "much of the process is still in development";

On December 13, 2018 the AGCO announced that they were delaying accepting on-line applications for cannabis-related licences, originally scheduled for December 17, 2018, to an expression of interest process from January 7 to 9, 2019 and a lottery process for the selection of retailers. Retail operations are still schedule for April, 2019.

Further, another Ontario Regulation, being O.497/18:GENERAL was filed on December 13, 2018 under Cannabis Licence Act, 2018, 2018, S.O. 2018, c.12, Sched. 2. The sections impacting the Town of Tillsonburg are noted below.

"West Region" means the following census divisions: Dufferin; Wellington; Hamilton; Niagara; Haldimand-Norfolk; Brant; Waterloo; Perth; Oxford; Elgin; Chatham-Kent; Essex; Lambton; Middlesex; Huron; Bruce; Grey; Manitoulin. ("région de l'Ouest")



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(2) No more than 25 retail store authorizations may be issued and in effect at any given time.

5. A maximum of seven retail store authorizations is allocated in respect of cannabis retail stores to be located in the West Region.

(4) Until such time as more than 25 retail store authorizations may be issued, none of the retail store authorizations that may be issued in accordance with subsection (3) may be allocated,
(a) to the holder of a retail store authorization or a person whose affiliate holds a retail store authorization;
(b) to a licensed producer or affiliate of a licensed producer; or
(c) in respect of a cannabis retail store that would be located in a municipality with a population of less than 50,000."

As a result, it appears that it will be some time before any Retail License Authorizations are granted for operation in the Town of Tillsonburg. As Council will recall, there will be a public notification process for any licenses applied for to be located in Tillsonburg. Recreational cannabis will continue to be available through on line purchasing.

FUNDING

If the province's portion of the federal excise duty on recreational cannabis over the first two years of legalization exceeds \$100 million, the province will provide 50 per cent of the surplus to only the municipalities that have not opted out. Should a municipality opt back in after January 22, they would not qualify for this additional funding.

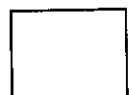
Municipalities must use the funding to address the implementation costs that directly relate to the legalization of recreational cannabis, such as: increased enforcement (police, public health, bylaw enforcement, court administration and litigation), increased response to public inquiries (public education), increased paramedic services, increased fire services, and bylaw and policy development (police, public health, workplace safety policy).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) October 3, 2018 publication, "Briefing: Municipal Governments in the Ontario Recreational Cannabis Framework", AMO notes that the transition to recreational cannabis will impact local services and municipal functions including policing, public health, by-law enforcement and potentially paramedic services. AMO notes the provincial government's commitment to provide municipal governments with \$40 million of Ontario's portion of the federal excise tax on cannabis with a 50/50 provincial-municipal split if Ontario's revenues exceed \$100 million in the first two years. The commitment is \$40 million over two years to municipal governments;

At least \$10,000 for each municipal government with \$5,000 distributed to all municipalities as soon as possible. To date, the Town of Tillsonburg has received \$9,481 from the province which represents \$127.50 per household.

Another \$5,000 will be distributed in 2019.



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For municipal governments allowing retail cannabis stores, additional funding will be distributed on a per household basis. The Province will also maintain a contingency fund to support additional and unanticipated costs.

AMO notes that the provincial funding provides an incentive to municipal governments to allow private cannabis retail in their community and recommends that municipal governments track any costs for the additional work undertaken relating to the transition to legal recreational cannabis.

COMMUNICATION

Staff prepared and distributed a brief survey to the residents of the Town of Tillsonburg. The survey was provided on the Town's web site and available in hardcopy format at a number of Town facilities. A summary of the results of the survey (as of January 8, 2018) are attached to this report including any comments that were provided as part of the survey information. 516 surveys have been completed and approximately 66% of respondents are in favour of not opting out, 28% are in favour of opting out and 5% are in favour of doing nothing which the survey noted under the legislation, doing nothing was considered opting in by default.

In addition, the Tillsonburg Police Services Board discussed Retail Cannabis in Tillsonburg at their meeting of December 19, 2018 and provided the following comment;

"Based on the information available to the Board as of this date December 19th, 2018, the Tillsonburg Police Services Board supports "not opting out" (option 1) of retail cannabis sales in the Town of Tillsonburg as allowed under the Cannabis License Act 2018."

Finally, correspondence has been received from interested parties such as Southwestern Public Health and the public. The correspondence is attached to this report.

CONCLUSION

Staff is recommending that the Town not "opt out" of Retail Cannabis as it is felt that it is better to be aware of the retailing activity in a regulated environment through a license system administered by the AGCO than have the activity of cannabis selling taking place in a "black-market" environment. The use and sale of recreational cannabis is a legal activity and as such will take place in Tillsonburg even if Tillsonburg "opted out" of retail cannabis as cannabis is available through other sources such as on line purchasing.


Any funding received from the other levels of government will assist in off setting costs that the municipality may experience in terms of by-law enforcement and policing costs.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

This report reflects the Community Strategic Plan, Excellence in Local Government particularly as it provides through Council, a public update as it relates to Retail Cannabis in Ontario and the possible impact on the Town of Tillsonburg.



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	Report Title	Retail Cannabis in Ontario
	Report No.	CAO18-15
	Author	David Calder
	Meeting Type	Council Meeting
	Council Date	December 10, 2018
	Attachments	AMO Municipal Cannabis Update Correspondence from the Ministry of Finance regarding Ontario Cannabis Legislation Implementation Fund (OCLIF) Correspondence from OPSEU regarding retail cannabis outlets

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive report CAO 18-15 Retail Cannabis in Ontario for information.

AND THAT report CAO 18-15 Retail Cannabis in Ontario be provided to the Tillsonburg Police Services Board for comment;

AND FURTHER THAT Staff report at the Council meeting scheduled for January 14th, 2019, with a recommended option regarding retail cannabis in Tillsonburg for Town Council's consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to provide an update on the cannabis legislation, and recommend that the Town of Tillsonburg refer report CAO 18-15 Retail Cannabis in Ontario to the Police Services Board for comment. Staff also considered providing an alternative recommendation in order to obtain public input prior to a decision being made related to cannabis retail stores in the municipality but is of the opinion that there is not enough time for a thorough public engagement process. Staff is also of the opinion that the public is knowledgeable about the government's move to legalize recreational cannabis and the retail sale of cannabis. Staff is recommending that comments be requested from the Tillsonburg Police Services Board.

BACKGROUND

A change in Provincial government in June of this year has resulted in a framework of provincial laws relating to cannabis use and sale. Staff will continue to monitor the provincial web-site for any new regulations, as information continues to be communicated to municipalities. Staff has attached correspondence from the Province, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and OPSEU related to cannabis retail sales for Council's information.

Federal Legislation to Legalize Cannabis

The federal Cannabis Act, ("federal Cannabis Act") established a legal framework for legislating the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis across Canada. Effective October 17, 2018, subject to provincial restrictions, adults who are 18 years of age or older are legally able to:

- Possess up to 30 grams of legal cannabis, dried or equivalent in non-dried form in public;
- Share up to 30 grams of legal cannabis with other adults;
- Buy dried or fresh cannabis and cannabis oil from a provincially-licensed retailer;
- Grow, from licensed seeds or seedlings, up to four cannabis plants per residence for personal use; and to
- Make cannabis products, such as food and drinks, at home as long as organic solvents are not used to create concentrated products.

Cannabis edible products and concentrates are anticipated to be legal for sale in October, 2019.

The current regime for medical cannabis will continue to allow access to cannabis for people who have the authorization of their healthcare provider.

Ontario's Legislation Respecting Cannabis

The Cannabis Statute Law Amendment Act, 2018, ("Bill 36") received Royal Assent on October 17, 2018. Bill 36 amends the Cannabis Act, 2017, Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporations Act, the Liquor Control Act, Smoke-Free Ontario Act, the Highway Traffic Act and introduced a new act – Cannabis License Act.

Bill 36 authorizes the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), to license and regulate private cannabis retail in the province. The AGCO has the following licensing functions within municipalities that have not "opted out" of retail sales of cannabis:

- (a) The AGCO will be responsible for licensing cannabis Retail Operators within municipalities. Licensing will be subject to criminal and financial eligibility checks.
- (b) Once a specific cannabis retail site within a municipality has been proposed, the AGCO will be responsible for determining and granting a Retail Store Authorization.
- (c) The AGCO will license Cannabis Store Retail Managers employed in senior positions at retail locations.

The AGCO and police will also be responsible for inspections and enforcement of the **Cannabis Licence Act**.



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The AGCO will be required to provide municipal governments and the public with a 15-day notification period of a proposed cannabis retail site for a Retail Store Authorization to receive public input and to hear concerns from the local community. The AGCO must "consider" the comments received from a municipality in response to the 15-day notification period. The first retail stores are to be operational April 1, 2019, after all licenses and authorizations are in place.

In October, AMO expressed its concerns regarding the lack of municipal jurisdiction respecting the siting of cannabis retail stores and the inadequacy of the AGCO's 15-day consultation period. AMO's concerns were not addressed in Bill 36 as finally passed. The result is that municipalities may only hope that the AGCO will have regard to the preferences of municipalities respecting the location of licensed cannabis retail stores within municipalities that have not "opted out". AMO is recommending that municipalities create Municipal Policy Statement (see attached Municipal Cannabis Update) around retail cannabis which could include a purpose and vision, and principles for cannabis retail store locations.

Further, taking into account the Town Council's meeting schedule, a 15-day consultation period is inadequate for municipal participation. Therefore it is recommended that Council delegate authority to the Town Clerk to review any potential sites, by coordinating information from various municipal departments as necessary and providing comments to the AGCO.

Bill 36 – Whether to "Opt Out"

Local municipalities in Ontario have a one-time opportunity to opt out of cannabis retail in their communities. There is no time period for a local municipality to opt back in via resolution. However, if the decision to "opt out" is reversed by the municipality, that decision is final.

There are three options available to Council related to the opportunity to "opt out":

1. Do not "opt out."
2. "Opt out" by January 22, 2019.
3. "Opt out" but without prejudice to a Council decision to subsequently "opt in".

Option 1: Do not "opt out"

By default, a municipality that does not "opt out" will permit cannabis retail stores in the municipality, subject to the provincial licensing system described above, the Regulations released November 16, 2018 and any additional regulations.

Option 2: Opt Out

Council were to wish to "opt out", it must pass a resolution by January 22, 2019, stating that the Town does not wish to host cannabis retail stores in the Town. The resolution must be sent to the AGCO. The AGCO's receipt of this resolution will automatically cancel any outstanding applications for a Retail Store Authorization in the Town. The AGCO will keep a public list of communities that have opted out of hosting cannabis retail.

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Council could decide by January 22, 2019, to temporarily or conditionally "opt out" but expressly without prejudice to a subsequent decision of Council to opt back in, but any subsequent decision to opt in would be final.



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REGULATIONS

O.Reg. 468/18 was proclaimed on November 16, 2018:

The Regulation establishes Cannabis retail store operating requirements including hours of operation (between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.);

Limits the sale of cannabis retail stores to cannabis products, accessories and shopping bags;

Establishing minimum distances of retail locations from schools (150 m measured from the property line for stand-alone schools);

Prescribing eligibility for licensing as well as education requirements for operators, managers, and staff.

In its November 14, 2018 publication "Cannabis Retail Regulations Facts", the AGCO advises that:

AGCO will be publishing a Cannabis Retail Regulation Guide on-line which will be published in chapters as information becomes available, as "much of the process is still in development";

AGCO plans to accept on-line applications for cannabis-related licences on Monday, December 17, 2018;

To help potential applicants understand the requirements and prepare their application, AGCO will be providing a "number of supports" before December 17, 2018, including hosting a series of educational webinars and posting a summary of the required application. AGCO will be sharing information about the support "in the following days".

On December 5, 2018 staff received communication from the AGCO regarding a registrar's standard and information regarding municipalities that have provided resolutions to the AGCO to date.

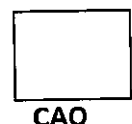
Places to Smoke or Vape Cannabis

The **Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017** ("SFOA") has been amended to establish rules for using cannabis, whether medically or recreationally. Cannabis may be smoked and "vaped" in the following locations:

Private residences (but not residences that are also workplaces (e.g. long-term care and/or retirement homes) ;

Many outdoor public places (e.g. sidewalks, parks);

Designated guest rooms in hotels, motels and inns;



Residential vehicles and boats that meet certain criteria (e.g. have permanent sleeping accommodations and cooking facilities, and are parked or anchored but not being driven);

Scientific research and testing facilities (if the cannabis use is for scientific research and testing purposes).

Controlled areas in:

Long-term care homes;
Certain retirement homes;
Residential hospices;
Provincially-funded supportive housing and;
Designated psychiatric facilities or veterans' facilities.

Places Where Cannabis May Not Be Smoked or Vaped

Cannabis may not be smoked or vaped in various indoor locations:

Indoor common areas in condos, apartment buildings and university/college residences;
Enclosed public places and enclosed work places and;
Non-designated guest rooms in hotels, motels and inns

Cannabis may not be smoked or vaped at various locations where children may be present:

At school, on school grounds, and all public areas within 20m of these grounds;
On children's playgrounds and public areas within 20m of playgrounds;
In child care centres, or where an early years program is provided;
In places where home child care is provided — even if children aren't present.

Cannabis may not be smoked or vaped at various care facilities:

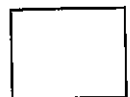
Within 9m from the entrance or exit of public or private hospitals, psychiatric facilities, long-term care homes, independent health facilities;
On outdoor grounds of public and private hospitals and psychiatric facilities and;
In non-controlled areas in long-term care homes, certain retirement homes, provincially-funded supportive housing, designated psychiatric or veterans' facilities, and residential hospices.

Cannabis may not be smoked or vaped in various outdoor locations: in publicly-owned sport fields (not including golf courses), nearby spectator areas or in public areas within 20m of these areas.

Cannabis may not be consumed in a vehicle or boat that is being driven or is at risk of being put into motion.

Cannabis may not be smoked or vaped in various outdoor locations:

In restaurants and on bar patios and public areas within 9m of a patio;
On outdoor grounds of specified Ontario government office buildings;



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In reserved seating areas at outdoor sports and entertainment locations;
On grounds of community recreational facilities, and public areas within 20m of those grounds
and;
In sheltered outdoor areas with a roof and more than two walls which the public or employees frequent.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) October 3, 2018 publication, "Briefing: Municipal Governments in the Ontario Recreational Cannabis Framework", AMO notes that the transition to recreational cannabis will impact local services and municipal functions including policing, public health, by-law enforcement and potentially paramedic services. AMO notes the provincial government's commitment to provide municipal governments with \$40 million of Ontario's portion of the federal excise tax on cannabis with a 50/50 provincial-municipal split if Ontario's revenues exceed \$100 million in the first two years. The commitment is \$40 million over two years to municipal governments;

At least \$10,000 for each municipal government with \$5,000 distributed to all municipalities as soon as possible. To date, the Town of Tillsonburg has received \$9,481 from the province which represents \$127.50 per household.

Another \$5,000 will be distributed in 2019; and

For municipal governments allowing retail cannabis stores, additional funding will be distributed on a per household basis. The Province will also maintain a contingency fund to support additional and unanticipated costs.

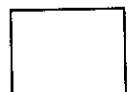
AMO notes that the provincial funding provides an incentive to municipal governments to allow private cannabis retail in their community and recommends that municipal governments track any costs for the additional work undertaken relating to the transition to legal recreational cannabis.

CONCLUSION

Staff will report further in 2019 with a recommendation regarding retail sales in the Town of Tillsonburg. This will provide time for interested parties to provide any comments regarding retail cannabis.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

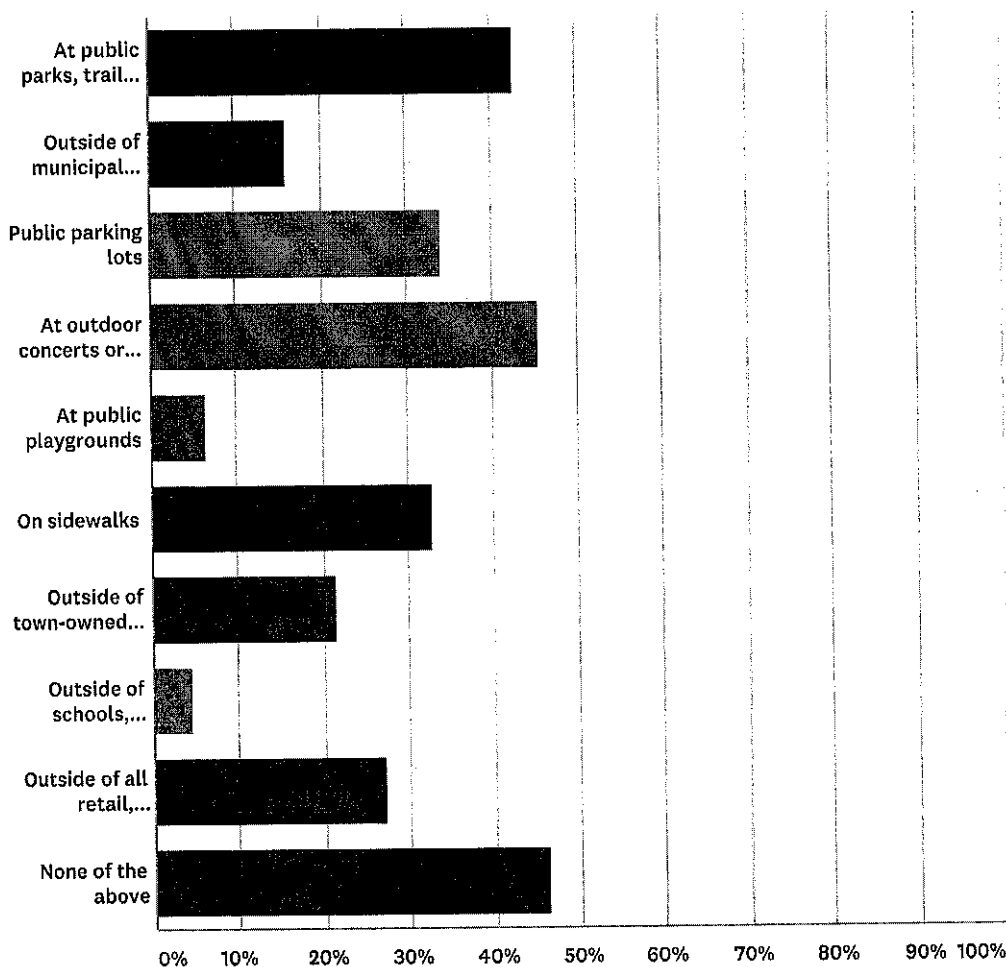
This report reflects the Community Strategic Plan, Excellence in Local Government particularly as it provides through Council, a public update as it relates to Retail Cannabis in Ontario and the possible impact on the Town of Tillsonburg.



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Q1 Should the smoking, or other use, of recreational cannabis be allowed in the following areas? Choose all that apply.

Answered: 510 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

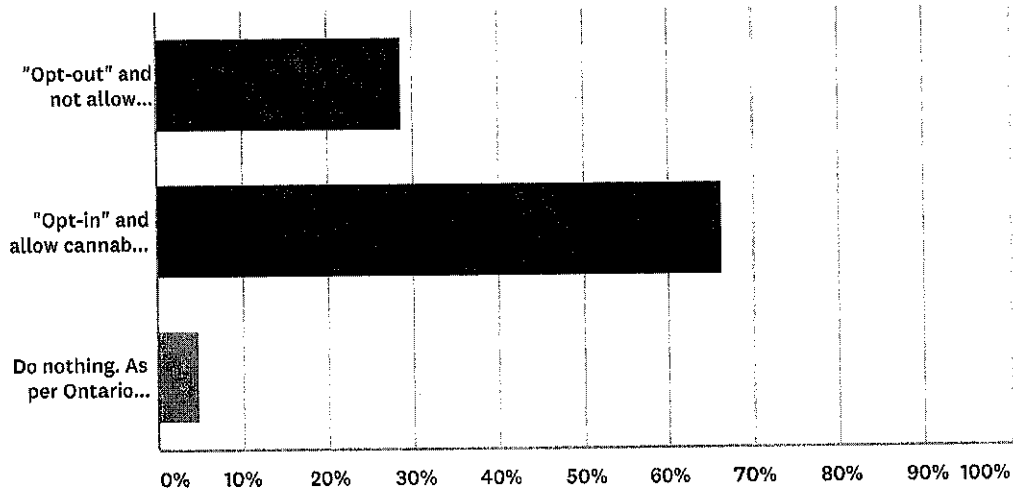
RESPONSES

At public parks, trails or naturalized areas	42.75%	218
Outside of municipal offices	16.08%	82
Public parking lots	34.12%	174
At outdoor concerts or festivals	45.29%	231
At public playgrounds	6.47%	33
On sidewalks	32.94%	168
Outside of town-owned facilities, including arenas, libraries, and pools	21.57%	110
Outside of schools, daycare facilities and other child care facilities	4.71%	24
Outside of all retail, commercial and business establishments	27.25%	139
None of the above	46.27%	236

Total Respondents: 510

Q2 The Town of Tillsonburg has a limited ability to control the location of brick-and-mortar cannabis retailers (physical stores) once they start opening in April 2019. Should the Town of Tillsonburg...?

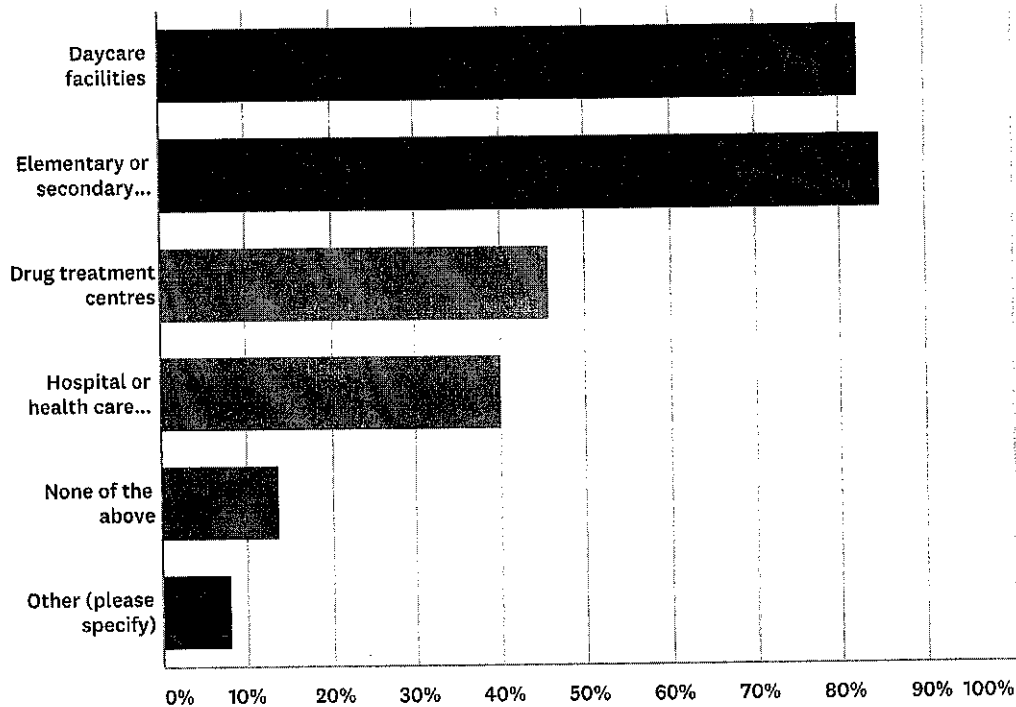
Answered: 510 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
"Opt-out" and not allow Cannabis retailers to operate in the Town of Tillsonburg	28.63%	146
"Opt-in" and allow cannabis retailers to operate with the commercial districts of the Town of Tillsonburg (subject to buffer distances from schools and possibly other uses to be determined by the Province of Ontario)	66.47%	339
Do nothing. As per Ontario Regulation 468/18 s. 22, municipalities that do not opt out of retail cannabis sales will opt in to allow retail cannabis sales by default.	4.90%	25
TOTAL		510

Q3 The provincial licensing process does not remove the requirement to comply with zoning and other municipal planning documents. In your opinion, where should retailers be prohibited from locating their stores?

Answered: 510 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daycare facilities	82.16%	419
Elementary or secondary schools	84.71%	432
Drug treatment centres	45.88%	234
Hospital or health care facilities	40.00%	204
None of the above	13.73%	70
Other (please specify)	8.24%	42
Total Respondents: 510		

Legalized Recreational Cannabis - As of January 8/19

Respondents	Responses
1	I do not want myself or my child to be exposed to the use of marijuana. In my opinion marijuana should be treated the same as alcohol, and not cigarettes. No drinking alcohol in public; no smoking marijuana in public.
2	smoking should not affect my personal space
3	Stores should be required to be located in the downtown core.
5	Justin Trudeau was an idiot for making it legal. Nothing more than a way to get votes from certain
6	There are far worse options than marijuana. The government chose to legalize it. By not embracing the potential businesses to sell it similar to vape stores you drive business from the already suffering town.
7	I think a cannabis retail store in tillsonburg would be great
9	Marijuana is a legal product like alcohol and should be able to be purchased in a similar fashion as alcohol
10	The propaganda and misinformation does significant harm. Claims for or against that are made publicly should be supported by science and open to being challenged.
12	I would rather see a Government supervised legal Cannabis store in town, than the Methadone Clinic.
13	Cannabis should be limited to medicinal use only
14	Tillsonburg bylaw dept cannot control the people smoking at the doors of the town center mall as it is. I ask how will they control smoking cigs and cannabis too? It is disgusting that everytime you walk in or out of that
15	The same laws that apply to alcohol in public should apply to marijuana. If you can't drink walking down the sidewalk you shouldn't be able to smoke a joint either. No open liquor out of residence, no pot smoking out of residence. Bad enough we have to walk through the cloud of tobacco smoke walking into our town centre. I'll
16	I would rather see the stores where you can purchase cannabis then the backyard growers
18	If you can smoke a cig, you should be able to smoke a joint
19	Cannabis is safer than Tylenol. While I agree with restricting the age limit, the rest of the paranoia is just that, paranoia. By allowing retail cannabis in Tillsonburg, we claw back market share from street dealers while
20	Opening a cannabis store will bring in more crime and lower socioeconomic standards in tillsonburg.
23	I moved to Tillsonburg in 2002 with my 2 daughters. I had always known that marijuana use was common in Tillsonburg but it wasn't until my girls began high school I realized how rampant drug use was especially among teens. The black market preys on kids and even uses them to sell product. Retail stores are one part
24	Allow the smoking of cannabis wherever cigarettes are allowed.

- 26 The idea of this being out there in our community terrifies me. It's bad enough we have to worry about drunks on the road but now with the legalization of cannabis we now have this as a strong threat on the road and off. I know people were doing it before but now there will be even more because our government says it's okay. If there is any way at all that you can somehow lessen the effects of this change on our
- 27 The medical aspects of cannabis alone is reason to allow stores within Oxford County
- 29 this should not be easy to get as teens could very well try an get there hands on it.
- 30 Marijuana is no more dangerous than alcohol and should be treated as such.
- 31 Free for all
- 32 Not allow anywhere within Town Limits
- 33 We have the vape store, the tobacconist, why not a pot store.
- 34 Weed is harmless to the public.
- 36 Stop the reefer madness, I now take over 8,000 pills LESS/year than I did before cannabis....
- 37 Cannabis smoke stinks and should not be allowed to ruin the enjoyment of public spaces. Second hand
- 38 Stop fighting change and embraces it. Educate people on proper use of the product.
- 39 Open it up for business. It's time to make some money
- 40 Not a fan of cannabis store being located in town.
- 41 I think this is too controversial still for it to be allowed in small communities. Let's see how larger communities function and then reevaluate to see the effects may be to Tillsonburg, the community and especially children,
- 42 We have a large amount of drug-addicted people in this town, partially due to having a methadone clinic available in the center of Tillsonburg. We should NOT allow cannabis to be sold in Tillsonburg, as it would create even more problems. Please keep in mind, addicts have caused a spike in crime, particularly theft in
- 43 I think it should be ok to smoke out on the trails but not in the parks where children play. I also think selling it in the liquor store in Tillsonburg mall would be the best place to do it.
- 44 If allowed it should be like liquor stores and use should be limited to in personal residences, bars and beer tents at outdoor events. Because it is a drug like alcohol it ought to be treated the same way.
- 45 Our town doesn't need this due to many issues it has already. Example drug, housing, ppl who can afford this business will travel to get it. Ppl who can't will still purchase who they regularly have been. We are too
- 48 it would be nice to reap the true medical benefits of cannabis products without driving hours or waiting for online orders when I can support a local business and have it right away. Also, a lot of people are going to
- 49 I feel that it is important to have somewhere to go and have someone there to talk to. Since the legalization, a lot of people are trying Cannabis for the first time, both medically and recreationally and I think that having somewhere to go that has someone that is educated enough to give some advice on dosage and type (

50 We have enough drug problems in Tillsonburg so I don't suggest it being in public places at all there's children in almost all public places and I wouldn't want my children around drugs also by selling it in our town is making more of a drug problem plus making it more accessible to our children it should be only allowed on

51 It's going to happen, better to stay ahead of it and have some control.

54 Allow cannabis to be purchased wherever alcohol can be purchased. Allow smoking outside where cigarettes can be smoked. Encourage medicinal use. Develop new medicinal uses. Reduce negative stigma

55 Treat it like tobacco use.

56 Already a drug issue in tiling, don't need to add to it

58 Please don't let cannabis stores in town limits

60 These retail stores will greatly help with jobs.

62 It will be great for the town

63 Treat cannabis like tobacco

65 bring the jobs to our town. we can't rely on manufacturing solely to keep everyone working.

66 Take advantage of the opportunity and become a respectable leader in the industry.

67 Of people need to show identification, the stores should be allowed wherever they are able to get a lease that

68 I really do think this would be great for our community as a whole. This opens up jobs for people with all the factories closing but also a safe way for people to get their hands on legal cannabis. We need to get with the times or die behind. It's almost 2019 and most of our younger population (19-40 in most cases) in Tillsonburg

69 I think a legal cannabis store in Tillsonburg will help the town's economy.

70 I don't think Tillsonburg needs a cannabis retail presence at this time.

71 People will buy it regardless

72 You might just well have more control over it and make some money off it

73 I believe it is fine for Tillsonburg to opt in as it will deter dealers but I think no one should be smoking near kids

74 Questions were very biased.

75 Obviously written to steer people towards opting out. Treat it like the current alcohol laws. If it's an area you

76 There are a lot of people smoking pot in Tillsonburg before it was legal. Having stores around here isn't going to stop them. You may as well take advantage of the business.

79 Cannabis use is now legal and so is alcohol consumption. I think that laws for cannabis use should be similar

80 I strongly believe restricted use/sale of recreational cannabis in Tillsonburg will result in the black market continuing to flourish. Tillsonburg is already plagued with illegal sales of cannabis which contributes to a

81 The town of Tilsonburg can profit greatly from cannabis retailers. It's legal. Opting out, not only undermines
the federal law it also eliminates revenue and potential cannabis businesses, retail or manufacturing. Many
people use cannabis for medicinal reasons. Seniors are now discovering the medical benefits derived from
ingesting cbd edibles. Eliminating from the previous prohibition regime is a first step to normalizing cannabis
usage. No person, especially seniors, should feel shamed to use a legal product. The county of Norfolk has
decided to opt out leaving a great opportunity for neighbouring municipalities who opt in. Cannabis has great
health benefits and less negative aspects than alcohol or cigarettes. Like any other controlled substance,
83 I feel like id they opt in they are encouraging people to use it

84 I think it would be great to shop locally for cannabis products and keep the money in our own town. Many
people are benefiting from these products who have serious illnesses such as Parkinson's disease and
cancer. Keeping it local would make it easier for those people to access. Thank you for letting me voice my
85 They should follow the same laws as smoking.

86 No
87 The reason i did not select near hospitals etc is because many people use it for medicinal purposes. It
would then seem inappropriate to stop them using near health services.

89 420 Blaze!!!!

90 Treat cannabis stores as LCBO or Beer Store. Treat Cannabis as same

91 Just from reading the first question I could see how this survey was not neutral you could see that it skewed
towards not wanting cannabis. As it is already inside of the town and people do it we might well make sure

92 Keep the smoking of weed to the same places as cigarettes. It's an amazing opportunity for Tilsonburg to
93 People will always have access to these items via online sales so I don't think its necessary to have retail
establishments in town. That only makes it more visible and readily available to children.

95 Keep canabis far from Tilsonburg. Opt out and don't reverse the decision.

97 Do no allow any stores in Tilsonburg.

98 Do not approve of recreational use. I have no problems if its needed for medicinal purposes! I am so

99 Not in my town

100 If we don't Allow legal stores in town it will just cause a black market for marijuana production and sales in
town in residential neighborhoods. It will be sold and consumed either way, at least by opting in the town can
101 Try to find a way to benefit from sales and apply these benefits to better our beautiful town.

102 I guess it should be the same as smoking. I don't like either, however I honestly find cigarettes worse than

103 I don't agree with legalizing marijuana. It is going to add more problems to for our police department, and hurt
105 Do not allow pot shops in Tilsonburg. This is a retirement town and we do not need pot shops.

106 Tillsonburg is a well rounded town that offers amazing facilities to everyone who lives here. The community centre, water park, senior centre, sports fields, skate board and bike area, a new outdoor ice rink and so much more. I don't think selling marijuana to the community will have any positive effect. Let's say No and

107 I wish that it could stay out of Tillsonburg period. It smells and don't want it.

108 I do not see how welcoming cannabis stores into our town is going to be a positive change

109 If we do not allow the sale in Tillsonburg we will miss out on the stores/jobs that come from this new industry and support black market sales in are town. Support local entrepreneurs rather then local drug dealers

110 Take advantage of the government funding assistance now to allow these marihuana stores but of course

111 I feel having a retail store in such a small community would allow easier access for people who may not try it and allow increased opportunities for under age persons to have of age buyers get it for them. People who want to buy it who use it regularly I'm sure will travel 30-60 min for it with no issue. People drive to

114 I don't want to smell pot smoke any more than I do cigarette smoke. I have no problem with cannabis stores in appropriate areas. I believe in the use of cannabis as a treatment for chronic pain. PLEASE just make sure it's strictly regulated. Since it is now a legal product, people have a right to open a business selling it

115 Let at least one store come to town.

116 Nothing that I haven't said already..NO to the stores...

117 Smoking is smoking, weather its cannabis or tobacco. They should have the same rules.

119 Just relax. This is not a big deal.

120 Just because they can't buy it in Tillsonburg doesn't mean they won't use it

122 I think the Town should allow businesses to open, but I think it has to be in areas where there is less chance

123 lets enjoy the taxes. it is legal so no point in losing out.

126 Tillsonburg is unfortunately behind in many areas of economic development, community support and any Indigenous Relations - hopefully it doesn't remain that way. Branding the community as a retirement

127 I think it SHOULD be available within Tillsonburg.

128 Recreational cannabis should be treated the same as alcohol - not permitted in public areas unless licenced to serve. You can't walk down the street drinking a beer, and therefore you shouldn't be able to smoke/use

129 Cannabis can now be legally purchased online and delivered via mail, so there's little to be gained - in my opinion - from prohibiting brick-and-mortar stores from operating in the town of Tillsonburg.

132 The tax money that could be received from the province would only benefit this town to be able to start programs for kids and senior citizens the town could not afford. Also maybe so illuminated speed signs of people would slow down in town. This town could put this tax money to great use. Have you ever been to a bar fight or seen one I'm sure you have but I've never seen a pot fight ever in my life. Do not give this

134 Keep it as far away from Tillsonburg as we can.

136 As a user of prescribed medical cannabis due to chronic medical condition my purchase is direct from the
supplier and delivery is via a courier, usually Canada post. Online shopping and delivery is sufficient. Unless
a local production plant is nearby then they should be able to have a store associated with that facility. All
smoking should be banned and current laws need to be enforced as I hate going downtown where smokers
138 I disagree with passing of this law and do not want this freely available in our community. It's hard to fight
140 Cannabis is legal and should be treated as other consumer goods. It is also a good tax stream for the
141 Should only be allowed on their own property. Not in public grounds.

142 Cannabis shops should be opened on main street in Tillsonburg like any other store.
143 we have a liquor store, a beer store. Why not a cannabis store?

144 Embrace the additional money, you don't say no to alcohol so do same for cannabis
145 Nothing wrong with allowing stores to sell legal marijuana. It should be socially acceptable by now, and if not
147 Opt out for now until further information is available from the Province regarding number of licenses available
148 I figure there are gonna be a lot of fights/disputes with neighbors across town come summer 2019.

Unlike cigarette smoke weed has a very pungent stank odor, and it clouds streets easily. I don't want my
kids playing in the yard to be breathing that crap. Or having my summer bbq ruined due to idiots smoking
pot. I have already detected it several times, even before it was made legal. I figure it will only get worse.

Also one of the questions in this survey asked about use and locations. My understanding is that pot was
supposed to be treated like alcohol. And if that is the case why is public consumption even an option???

One other thing, alcohol is already problematic enough. But that ship set sail long ago. But at least it stays in
the cup, only the person drinking it consumes it. The same can not be said of pot...the rest of us (including
149 I would like to see dispensaries opened near the business section...my husband needs medical marijuana
and so do a lot of other people in town...we shouldn't have to go outside of town to get it.

150 I'm very fearful about cannabis for the future as our children.

151 Tillsnburg is made up mostly of seniors which do
not use recreational cannabis. I fully believe that we do not require a
retail out here in Tillsnburg. As a retired member of the OPP I have the
upmost confidence that they (OPP) can deal with any problems due to a outlet
not being in Tillsnburg.

Another concern about cannabis is that any person that uses it can smoke it
anywhere smoking is permitted. It is bad enough that you have to walk
through a haze of smoke walking into our mall downtown now. The bylaws of No
Smoking areas now are now not enforced to any great extent.

To address these 2 problems other municipalities has enacted bylaws which
prohibited this on any property owned by the municipality and also have
opted out in having a Cannabis retail outlet in their respective
municipalities.

152 Please consider this with an open mind

Medicinal users also use these kinds of dispensaries. Pain relief is a real benefit
154 opting out will not keep pot out of Tillsnburg, we might as well reap some of the benefits
155 I do not smoke cannabis but I believe the rules should be the same as smoking a cigarette. Thank u for the
156 I do not think our town should opt in. They can purchase it all on line.

158 With many municipalities opting out I think it would be a great opportunity for Tillsnburg to bring people in to
shop in our community. Chances are they will stop for food or other items. Have an open mind and think of
159 Have pot sales the same as beer & liquor

160 Retail would really do this town a lot of good.. our down town is dwindling..

161 I believe that the town of Tillsnburg should jump on the bandwagon and allow retail brick and mortar stores.
162 Cannabis and/or any drugs will only bring crime, theft and increase in deaths, health costs, police costs,
163 I would rather have people purchase this legally in Tillsnburg then buying it from the guys on the street. We
need a store in our hometown to eliminate the blackmarket here!

164 With cannabis being legal now, I think the town of Tillsnburg should get in on having at least one retail store.
165 Let people smoke in reasonable places. Its just like cigarettes. People should use there common sense as
167 I think this is a retail tax base opportunity for the town, and a way to utilize available store front property.

Consumers will go to other communities to buy it, or use the black market, if it is not available here. Also
having the option of speaking to store owners and utilizing their (hopefully available) expertise to assist in

169 it should be allowed on trails or desalite areas no where around children should ever be considered .ps.im
170 life long responsible user who has raised 4 children to adulthood with none ever knowing until well in there
171 adulthood.it has a place it should be allowed. And parents should educate on the truths and falsehoods of it
172 so its crystal clear.stores should be in area of town where no schools or kids parks exist ie: east end north
173 out towards old walmart or on the highway 3 where very few kids ever go.there are responsible decent folk
174 Pot can be transformed into other more toxic drugs which should cause greater concerns. But the public
175 Smoking cannabis should align with bylaws governing smoking tobacco in public spaces.
176 All of this reefer madness is crazy.... Cannabis has NEVER killed anyone, what others substances can you
177 say that about? Water kills more, falling out of bed kills more... This is insanity.
178 I support cannabis business in our community.
179 Recreational and medicinal weed are by far safer than alcohol will ever be so I am glad we as a society are
180 Opting out would be a detriment to Tillsonburg and would restrict the town's ability to progress. Opting in
181 allows for options moving forward, including choosing to opt out at a later time.
182 I'd like to see a cannabis store in Tillsonburg.
183 It's legal and it's harmless. Sell it openly and enjoy the tax revenue
184 I think tillsonburg should have a store to sell cannabis, but they should have programs/education about the
185 use of cannabis in place and ready to go before they open up shop.
186 I think we should opt in with strong bylaws prohibiting retail stores to locate in alley ways and "hidden" areas.
187 They should have fully visible entrances. By opting in I think it sets a precedence against supporting black
188 market sales. It also is a legal business which as a municipality we should support any economical retail
189 Cannabis stores & sales should have the same restrictions as the LCBO & the Beer Store. All three belong
190 Prohibit drug treatment centres you've allowed in, not the harmless marijuana
191 Treated the same as the current smoking bylaws
192 Should be allowed outside town owned buildings but only in designated areas.
193 By prohibiting Cannabis stores you maybe encouraging people to by contraband/illegal cannabis. Many
194 people have a double standard about pot yet think alcohol is alright and will sit back and drink their alcohol
195 Cannabis smoking should have same rules, regulations and fines as smoking cigarettes, in any town.
196 My only fear is that if smoking cannabis is not allowed or prohibited it will not be enforced.... just like smoking.
197 All the signage means nothing when no enforcement is done. Just go to any local arena especially during
198 hockey season. Everyone gets to inhale/smell all that crap... even the kids. Signs, signs, everywhere
199 We need to provide new employment.

195 It should only be smoked at ones own home.
199 The town truly has to allow stores in our community. If we don't we will only be reinforcing the black market.
201 I believe that it can be used safely and not in the area of where kids are outdoors. Thanks
202 Open up a production facility! Improve local economy. There are many legal growers in the area, support
203 Cannabis does a lot of good for a lot of people and like anything can be abused. The town should not be
taking away the freedom of the use of cannabis anymore than alcohol and tobacco which are both more
204 Allow everywhere cigarette smoke is allowed
206 I say let this happen. Times are changing. Bring on the cannabis retail stores.
207 If you have lived on the proceeds of the killer tobacco industry for decades
Then licensing brick and mortar cannabis should be a no brainer.
208 keeps everyone safer if you have a legal place to buy other then online
210 I think brick and mortar stores would be ideal. It's a good way to boost the local economy as well, not just go
into the government's pockets. We need more business downtown.
211 Ensure bylaws are enforced as the smoking bylaws currently aren't.
212 We would support council opting out.
213 as long as store clerks check ID to make sure the buyer is of legal age, what difference does it make where
the store is located? no one seems to care where the LCBO is located. That being said I don't think smoking it
214 Do not opt out, driving local business to other communities
215 Weed is literally harmless
216 Alcohol is far worse for the human body...there is no use to continue demonizing cannabis.
217 Why let the black market thrive when we have a legal effective way to help rid of it and bring more tax
money/income to Tillsonburg. Its 2018 almost 2019 let's not take steps back in time
218 same controls for any controlled substances. If we opt in to allow the use in public areas, then us folks who
do not use, should be allowed to take our bottles of wine, etc. in the same areas like in Quebec, etc.
220 it will create jobs and bricks and mortar stores pay taxes, by not supporting it you would be supporting the
growth of the black market that does not contribute to the tax base
221 I think the use should be limited and restricted by the same rules that apply to smokers.
222 No Cannabis store for Tillsonburg. I hate sitting in my yard outside and smelling that.
223 420 blaze it
224 Marijuana is legal now. In the same respect alcohol is. Alcohol is available at many stores, and there are
many establishments that serve alcohol. Opting out of brick and mortar stores seems hypocritical,
especially when alcohol cause so many issues.
225 Retailers should only be allowed in an area away from general public, ie. industrial area where there is open

226 No
227 don't allow old fashioned morals to stifle economic growth opportunities.
228 None. I don't plan on using it but others need to use it safely and have appropriate access to it.
229 I think opting in will help the local economy otherwise people will just drive to the nearest town that opts in
(likely Woodstock) and spend their money there. Opting in also allows access to government funds to
230 I think it should be treated the same as alcohol. We do not need to reinvent the wheel.
231 Marijuana can be bought anywhere. If it is sold in our town at least it could be regulated...
234 Tillsongburg has enough drug problems....Imo, we should OPT-OUT of having retail stores.
235 allowing marijuana retailers will help the economy best to get on board from the start.
236 I think the pharmacy should sell it.
237 Please keep cannabis out of our community. As a gateway drug it will cause future problems. Tillsongburg
already has a major drug problem, we don't need it to escalate.
238 This is happening
This needs to go forth with common sense
239 Can't stop it, so accept, but control it. Prohibition does not work!

David Calder

From: Larry Scanlan <lgscan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 11:39 AM
To: David Calder
Subject: Cannabis Retail Outlets

Hi David

At the TPS Board meeting this morning the Board passed a unanimous resolution that reads something like this;

Based on the information available to the Board as of this date December 19th, 2018, the Tillsonburg Police Services Board supports "not opting out" (option 1) of retail cannabis sales in the Town of Tillsonburg as allowed under the Cannabis License Act 2018.

Regards

Larry

Larry Scanlan Chair Tillsonburg Police Services Board

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

David Calder

To: David Calder
Subject: FW: Cannabis Retail Outlet in Tillsonburg

-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@esolutionsgroup.ca [mailto:noreply@esolutionsgroup.ca] On Behalf Of Larry Hudson
Sent: December-16-18 8:48 AM
To: Stephen Molnar
Subject: Cannabis Retail Outlet in Tillsonburg

I am writing you because I have a concern about the above noted matter. As you are aware, Tillsonburg is made up mostly of seniors which do not use recreational cannabis. I fully believe that we do not require a retail out here in Tillsonburg. As a retired member of the OPP I have the upmost confidence that they (OPP) can deal with any problems due to a outlet not being in Tillsonburg.

Another concern about cannabis is that any person that uses it can smoke it anywhere smoking is permitted. It is bad enough that you have to walk through a haze of smoke walking into our mall downtown now. The bylaws of No Smoking areas now are now not enforced to any great extent.

To address these 2 problems other municipalities has enacted bylaws which prohibited this on any property owned by the municipality and also have opted out in having a Cannabis retail outlet in their respective municipalities.

Yours Truly,

Larry R Hudson
16 Greeneagle Dr.
Tillsonburg ON N4G 5V6
519 914 1599

Origin:

<https://www.tillsonburg.ca/Modules/contact/search.aspx?s=dnt7yG051A5H1bTdaSslskpG6QeQuAleQuAl>

This email was sent to you by Larry Hudson<larry.hudson1946@gmail.com> through <https://www.tillsonburg.ca/>.

Cannabis Retail Outlet Considerations for Municipalities in Oxford County, Elgin County, and the City of St. Thomas

On October 17, 2018, the Ontario Government passed legislation that privatized the cannabis retail model. The newly enacted *Cannabis Licence Act, 2018* sets the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) as the regulator of cannabis retail outlets, and the *Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporation (OCRC)* as the exclusive wholesaler and online retailer of cannabis in Ontario. The first retail stores are to be operational on April 1, 2019. In the interim, the public can purchase cannabis from OCRC's online store, the Ontario Cannabis Store. Retail applications to the AGCO will be received starting December 17, 2018.

Municipalities must declare by January 22, 2019 whether they will opt-out of privatized retail outlets in their communities. To opt-out, municipal councils must provide a notice of resolution to opt-out to the Registrar and notice to the AGCO no later than January 22, 2019. Opting out is a one-time option for municipalities, however, those that choose to opt out may opt-in at a later date. If a municipality does not opt out, cannabis retail outlets will be permitted. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario notes that municipal governments may consider a policy statement providing direction to municipal staff input to the AGCO within the 15-day review period. The policy statement should outline significant sensitive considerations or uses representing the expectations of the community in permitting cannabis retail.

The recently released Ontario Regulation 468/18 made under the *Cannabis Licence Act, 2018* governs private cannabis retail in Ontario and sets out requirements regarding retail store authorizations and operations. For example, private recreational cannabis retail storefronts must be stand-alone only, the minimum distances between a retailer and a school, as defined by the Education Act, has been set at 150 metres, and hours of operation will be between 0900h and 2300h. The Ontario Government indicated that municipalities are prohibited from using licensing or land-use bylaws to control the placement or number of cannabis retail outlets. Municipalities are also prohibited from establishing a licensing system for cannabis retailers (1).

In Ontario, Bill 57, *Restoring Trust, Transparency and Accountability Act, 2018* received royal assent on December 6, 2018. Bill 57 includes specific authority for municipalities to adopt cannabis smoking bylaws, similar to tobacco smoking bylaws. Section 5 of this bill amends both Section 98 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and Section 115 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* such that municipalities can explicitly regulate the smoking of tobacco and cannabis. Bill 57 updates the definition of "smoking of tobacco and cannabis" under both the *Municipal Act, 2001* and *City of Toronto Act, 2006* to include: the holding of lighted tobacco or cannabis; and the consumption of tobacco or cannabis through the use of an electronic cigarette.

The Government of Ontario's response to the federal government's legalization of cannabis is a phased approach and information is still emerging. The decision to introduce retail outlets into your municipality may be difficult, particularly in the absence of a complete understanding of community impacts of allowing stores within a municipality. Municipal Councils may want to include considerations from a public health perspective in their deliberations on the issue.

Is your Municipal Council considering HAVING cannabis retail outlets in your community?

The physical availability of a legal substance matters.

Research shows that increased availability and exposure of substances, such as alcohol and tobacco, results in increased consumption, which can lead to significant health and social harms and costs (2,3). For example:

- High retail outlet density can contribute to increased consumption and harms (2,4,5,6,7)
- Retail outlet proximity to youth-serving facilities can normalize and increase substance use (8,9).
- Co-use of cannabis and other substances increases the risk of harm, such as impaired driving (10).
- Retail outlet proximity to other sensitive areas may negatively influence vulnerable residents (7,11).
- Longer retail hours significantly increase consumption and related harms (2,4,12).
- Fewer restrictions on where cannabis, tobacco and vapes can be used may increase the risk of normalization, second-hand smoke exposure and impairment (3,13,14,15,16).
- Retail outlet proximity to other substance retail outlets shows increased number of traumas (17).
- High number of retailers impacts cannabis use and frequency of use (18).

Municipalities are prohibited from using licensing or land-use by-laws to explicitly control the placement or number of cannabis retail outlets. All proposed cannabis store locations are subject to a 15-day public notice process that provides municipalities and residents the opportunity to comment on store locations related to public interests. Municipalities may wish to provide comments regarding other aspects of the physical availability of cannabis, such as minimum distance requirements between cannabis retail outlets and other substance retailers; the number of outlets in a neighbourhood; and, proximity to youth-serving facilities and other sensitive use spaces. Appendix A provides additional information, from a public health perspective.

The Government of Ontario has committed \$40 million to help with cannabis legalization implementation, with some conditions.

The bulk of provincial funding for municipalities is tied to not opting out. The Ontario Government has committed \$40 million over two years to help municipalities with implementation costs, with municipalities receiving at least \$10,000. A municipality that has not opted out would receive additional funds on a per household basis. Furthermore, if Ontario's portion of the federal excise taxes exceed \$100 million in the first two years, the province will provide 50% of the surplus only to municipalities that have not opted out (1,19).

**Is your Municipal Council considering OPTING OUT of cannabis retail outlets?
You may want to consider the following:**

A central tenant of the legalization of cannabis is to curtail the illegal market.

Opting out may not decrease cannabis use and its impact on the community. Some consumers will access cannabis through legal sources (Ontario Cannabis Store [OCS] website), however, in the absence of physical retail outlets, the demand for cannabis from the illegal market may remain.

Physical cannabis retail stores provide access to regulated and controlled products.

Some marginalized groups (e.g., individuals without a physical address, individuals without a credit card, etc.) will not be able to access regulated products through the OCS. Without physical stores, these marginalized groups may access cannabis through illegal sources. Cannabis obtained through the OCS (online and from private retail stores) has product safety measures in place regarding packaging, product information, and controls related to the cultivation and handling of the product.

The Government of Ontario has committed \$40 million to help with cannabis legalization implementation, with some conditions.

Municipalities will incur costs associated with cannabis legalization regardless of the presence of retail storefronts in their communities. Municipalities may choose to consider how they will manage the costs and potential risks associated with cannabis legalization. The Ontario Government has committed \$40 million over two years to help municipalities with implementation costs. If opting out of the retail model, communities will receive \$10,000 to help with associated costs; they will not be able to access additional funding at a later date (1).

Opting out may allow municipalities additional time to explore the regulations and the potential municipal impacts prior to committing to retail outlets.

Opting out of cannabis retail sales by January 22nd, 2019, may provide municipalities with additional time to clarify municipal and provincial roles and responsibilities, as more information becomes available. According to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, opting out can be reversed after January 22nd; however, those municipalities that choose to opt back in will not gain any additional funding from the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund above the initial \$10,000 (20).

Appendix A – Evidence to Support Cannabis Retail Outlet Considerations

Issue	Considerations	Examples of Cannabis Regulations/Suggested Regulations	Other Supporting Evidence
1. High retail outlet density can contribute to increased consumption and harms (2,4,5,6,7).	Reduce cannabis retail outlet density through minimum distance requirements between cannabis retail outlets and limits on the overall number of outlets (11).	The City of Calgary has enacted a 300m separation distance between cannabis stores. (21) Spruce Grove, Alberta, requires a 200m separation distance between cannabis retail outlets (22).	<p>Research on alcohol and tobacco use highlight the need for stronger controls on retail density, minimum distance between retailers, and the need for stronger controls on the number of retailers. It has been shown that increased tobacco and alcohol retail density is associated with greater prevalence of tobacco use and alcohol consumption within Public Health Units in Ontario (3).</p> <p>Density limits reduce neighbourhood impacts and youth access (3).</p> <p>Higher retail density around locations where youth live is associated with experimentation of tobacco products (23).</p> <p>From a tobacco cessation perspective, several studies have shown that the presence of even a single tobacco retail location close (<500 metres) to a smoker's home affects abstinence during a quit attempt. The relationship between abstinence from smoking and walking distance increased the further a retailer was away from a person's home (24). Those who live within 500 m of retail location are 1 time more likely to relapse, while those who live within 250-500m of a retail location are 1.9 times more likely to relapse, and those living within 250m or less are 4.2 times more likely to relapse (25).</p>
2. Retail outlet proximity to youth-	Prevent the role-modeling of cannabis use and reduce	The State of Washington has enacted a 300m separation	Research suggests that it is prudent for decision makers to develop policies that

<p>serving facilities can normalize and increase substance use (8,9).</p>	<p>youth access through minimum distance requirements from youth-serving facilities such as schools, child care centres, libraries, and community centres (9, 10, 20)</p>	<p>distance requirement between cannabis retail stores and elementary and secondary schools and public playgrounds (26).</p> <p>In Kelowna there are recommendations for retail cannabis stores to be a distance of 150m from elementary schools and 500m from middle and secondary schools (27).</p> <p>In Manitoba, typically 150m to 300m is established between cannabis-related facilities and schools, licensed daycares, public recreational facilities and other cannabis-related uses (28).</p> <p>On Nov. 14, 2018, the Government of Ontario passed new regulations for licensing and operation of private cannabis stores. The regulations establish a minimum distance of 150m between cannabis retail stores and schools, including private and federally-funded First Nation schools off-reserve (29).</p>	<p>prevent tobacco retailers from being located within close proximity to schools as well as other youth orientated facilities (30).</p>
<p>3. Co-use of cannabis and other substances increases the risk of harm, such as impaired driving (10).</p>	<p>Discourage the co-use of cannabis and other substances by prohibiting co-location and enacting minimum distance requirements between cannabis, alcohol, tobacco, and e-cigarette retail outlets (10,11).</p>	<p>KFL&A Public Health recommends a 200m separation distance between cannabis retail outlets and alcohol or tobacco retail outlets (12).</p> <p>On Nov. 14, 2018, the Government of Ontario passed new regulations for licensing and operation of private cannabis stores. The</p>	<p>Preventing the clustering of tobacco, e-cigarette, alcohol and cannabis stores can have positive effects on communities, especially among vulnerable populations (46).</p>

			regulations establish a requirement for all private recreational cannabis retail storefronts to be stand-alone stores only (29).	
4. Retail outlet proximity to other sensitive areas may negatively influence vulnerable residents (7,11).	Protect vulnerable residents by limiting cannabis retail outlets in low socioeconomic neighbourhoods and enacting minimum distance requirements from other sensitive areas (11,31).	The City of Vancouver has restricted medical cannabis retail outlets to commercial zones instead of residential ones (32).	A 2013 scan of tobacco retail outlets across Ontario indicated that the outlets in both urban and rural areas were more likely to be located in areas with high neighbourhood deprivation (33). Findings from Hamilton, Ontario also show that the number of tobacco and electronic cigarettes retailers in low income areas far exceed other areas of the city (34). In 1996, the hours and days of sale for alcohol in Ontario were extended, resulting in a significant increase in rates of alcohol consumption and associated harms, such as acute injuries, trauma and violence. (4,35). This experience has been demonstrated internationally as well, with evidence showing that longer hours of sale significantly increases alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harms (35). Harm is more likely to occur late at night and very early in the morning, therefore it is recommended that retail hours do not operate around the clock (35).	
5. Longer retail hours significantly increase consumption and related harms (2,4,12)	Reduce cannabis consumption and harms by limiting late night and early morning retail hours (4,35).	In US states where cannabis has been legalized late night hours of operation are limited to 10 pm or midnight (36,37,38,39). In the province of Manitoba, hours of operation at minimum, will follow current municipal bylaws for hours of operation of retail services or industrial uses. The municipality has the authority to further restrict retail hours through the conditional use process or by adding regulations to the zoning bylaw (28). On Nov. 14, 2018, the Government of Ontario passed new regulations for licensing and operation of private cannabis stores. It has been established that private retail cannabis stores will be permitted to open between the hours of 9:00 am and 11:00 pm on any day (29).	The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health recommends that cannabis retail hours of operation model those established by the LCBO (40). Currently, the permissible hours for the sale of alcohol at retail outlets are Monday through Saturday 9:00 am to 11:00 pm and on Sunday from 9:30 am to 8:00 pm (41).	

<p>6. Fewer restrictions on where cannabis, tobacco and vapes can be used may increase the risk of normalization, second-hand smoke exposure and impairment (3,13,14,15,16).</p>	<p>Establish greater restrictions on where cannabis consumption, tobacco use and vaping can occur.</p> <p>Smoking of cannabis is prohibited anywhere smoking tobacco is prohibited (42).</p> <p>Additional restrictions on smoking and vaping can be enacted through municipal bylaws (42).</p>	<p>The City of Markham prohibits the smoking and vapourizing of cannabis in all public places (43).</p> <p>The municipality of Chatham-Kent prohibits the smoking of tobacco, cannabis and vaping on all municipal property including beaches, walkways, within 9m of buildings entrances, and within 4m of bus stops (44).</p>	<p>Allowing cannabis to be consumed wherever tobacco can be consumed raises concerns regarding the risk of normalization, second-hand smoke exposure and impairment.</p> <p>Children tend to copy what they observe and are influenced by normality of any type of smoking around them. From the lessons learned from tobacco and alcohol, normalization of cannabis use could lead to increases in rates of cannabis use (3,14,15).</p> <p>Smoke from cannabis is similar to that of tobacco, containing fine particles, cancer causing compounds, volatile organic chemicals, carbon monoxide and heavy metals, which can negatively affect the health of people exposed. There is no safe level of exposure to second hand smoke (13). Allowing smoking and vaping of cannabis in public places increases the exposure of second-hand smoke to the public (e.g. sidewalks, entrances to buildings, parking lots).</p> <p>Cannabis impairment can have side effects including paranoia, panic, confusion, anxiety, and hallucinations (16). Public safety and unintended exposure related to cannabis impairment should be considered (16).</p>
<p>7. Retail outlet proximity to other substances retail outlets shows increased number of traumas (17).</p>	<p>Preventing the clustering of tobacco, e-cigarette, alcohol and cannabis stores can have positive effects on communities, especially among vulnerable populations (11).</p>	<p>KFL&A Public Health recommends a 200m separation distance between cannabis retail outlets and alcohol or tobacco retail outlets (12).</p>	

		MLHU recommends a 500m separation distance between cannabis retail outlets and alcohol or tobacco retail outlets (45). On Nov. 14, 2018, the Government of Ontario passed new regulations for licensing and operation of private cannabis stores. The regulations establish a requirement for all private recreational cannabis retail storefronts to be stand-alone stores only (29). Washington caps the number of retailers that exist for the entire state at 556 for a population of 7.4 million people (39).	Research from alcohol and tobacco highlights the need for stronger controls on the number of retailers to reduce harms (2,3).
8. High number of retailers impacts cannabis use and frequency of use (18).	Limit/cap the number of cannabis retailers to reduce use and frequency of use (18).		

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Cannabis Retail Outlet Considerations for Municipalities in Oxford County, Elgin County, and the City of St. Thomas

On October 17, 2018, the Ontario Government passed legislation that privatized the cannabis retail model. The newly enacted *Cannabis Licence Act, 2018* sets the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) as the regulator of cannabis retail outlets, and the *Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporation (OCRC)* as the exclusive wholesaler and online retailer of cannabis in Ontario. The first retail stores are to be operational on April 1, 2019. In the interim, the public can purchase cannabis from OCRC's online store, the Ontario Cannabis Store. Retail applications to the AGCO will be received starting December 17, 2018.

Municipalities must declare by January 22, 2019 whether they will opt-out of privatized retail outlets in their communities. To opt-out, municipal councils must provide a notice of resolution to opt-out to the Registrar and notice to the AGCO no later than January 22, 2019. Opting out is a one-time option for municipalities, however, those that choose to opt out may opt-in at a later date. If a municipality does not opt out, cannabis retail outlets will be permitted. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario notes that municipal governments may consider a policy statement providing direction to municipal staff input to the AGCO within the 15-day review period. The policy statement should outline significant sensitive considerations or uses representing the expectations of the community in permitting cannabis retail.

The recently released Ontario Regulation 468/18 made under the *Cannabis Licence Act, 2018* governs private cannabis retail in Ontario and sets out requirements regarding retail store authorizations and operations. For example, private recreational cannabis retail storefronts must be stand-alone only, the minimum distances between a retailer and a school, as defined by the Education Act, has been set at 150 metres, and hours of operation will be between 0900h and 2300h. The Ontario Government indicated that municipalities are prohibited from using licensing or land-use bylaws to control the placement or number of cannabis retail outlets. Municipalities are also prohibited from establishing a licensing system for cannabis retailers (1).

In Ontario, Bill 57, *Restoring Trust, Transparency and Accountability Act, 2018* received royal assent on December 6, 2018. Bill 57 includes specific authority for municipalities to adopt cannabis smoking bylaws, similar to tobacco smoking bylaws. Section 5 of this bill amends both Section 98 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and Section 115 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* such that municipalities can explicitly regulate the smoking of tobacco and cannabis. Bill 57 updates the definition of "smoking of tobacco and cannabis" under both the *Municipal Act, 2001* and *City of Toronto Act, 2006* to include: the holding of lighted tobacco or cannabis; and the consumption of tobacco or cannabis through the use of an electronic cigarette.

The Government of Ontario's response to the federal government's legalization of cannabis is a phased approach and information is still emerging. The decision to introduce retail outlets into your municipality may be difficult, particularly in the absence of a complete understanding of community impacts of allowing stores within a municipality. Municipal Councils may want to include considerations from a public health perspective in their deliberations on the issue.

Is your Municipal Council considering HAVING cannabis retail outlets in your community?

The physical availability of a legal substance matters.

Research shows that increased availability and exposure of substances, such as alcohol and tobacco, results in increased consumption, which can lead to significant health and social harms and costs (2,3). For example:

- High retail outlet density can contribute to increased consumption and harms (2,4,5,6,7)
- Retail outlet proximity to youth-serving facilities can normalize and increase substance use (8,9).
- Co-use of cannabis and other substances increases the risk of harm, such as impaired driving (10).
- Retail outlet proximity to other sensitive areas may negatively influence vulnerable residents (7,11).
- Longer retail hours significantly increase consumption and related harms (2,4,12).
- Fewer restrictions on where cannabis, tobacco and vapes can be used may increase the risk of normalization, second-hand smoke exposure and impairment (3,13,14,15,16).
- Retail outlet proximity to other substance retail outlets shows increased number of traumas (17).
- High number of retailers impacts cannabis use and frequency of use (18).

Municipalities are prohibited from using licensing or land-use by-laws to explicitly control the placement or number of cannabis retail outlets. All proposed cannabis store locations are subject to a 15-day public notice process that provides municipalities and residents the opportunity to comment on store locations related to public interests. Municipalities may wish to provide comments regarding other aspects of the physical availability of cannabis, such as minimum distance requirements between cannabis retail outlets and other substance retailers; the number of outlets in a neighbourhood; and, proximity to youth-serving facilities and other sensitive use spaces. Appendix A provides additional information, from a public health perspective.

The Government of Ontario has committed \$40 million to help with cannabis legalization implementation, with some conditions.

The bulk of provincial funding for municipalities is tied to not opting out. The Ontario Government has committed \$40 million over two years to help municipalities with implementation costs, with municipalities receiving at least \$10,000. A municipality that has not opted out would receive additional funds on a per household basis. Furthermore, if Ontario's portion of the federal excise taxes exceed \$100 million in the first two years, the province will provide 50% of the surplus only to municipalities that have not opted out (1,19).

**Is your Municipal Council considering OPTING OUT of cannabis retail outlets?
You may want to consider the following:**

A central tenant of the legalization of cannabis is to curtail the illegal market.

Opting out may not decrease cannabis use and its impact on the community. Some consumers will access cannabis through legal sources (Ontario Cannabis Store [OCS] website), however, in the absence of physical retail outlets, the demand for cannabis from the illegal market may remain.

Physical cannabis retail stores provide access to regulated and controlled products.

Some marginalized groups (e.g., individuals without a physical address, individuals without a credit card, etc.) will not be able to access regulated products through the OCS. Without physical stores, these marginalized groups may access cannabis through illegal sources. Cannabis obtained through the OCS (online and from private retail stores) has product safety measures in place regarding packaging, product information, and controls related to the cultivation and handling of the product.

The Government of Ontario has committed \$40 million to help with cannabis legalization implementation, with some conditions.

Municipalities will incur costs associated with cannabis legalization regardless of the presence of retail storefronts in their communities. Municipalities may choose to consider how they will manage the costs and potential risks associated with cannabis legalization. The Ontario Government has committed \$40 million over two years to help municipalities with implementation costs. If opting out of the retail model, communities will receive \$10,000 to help with associated costs; they will not be able to access additional funding at a later date (1).

Opting out may allow municipalities additional time to explore the regulations and the potential municipal impacts prior to committing to retail outlets.

Opting out of cannabis retail sales by January 22nd, 2019, may provide municipalities with additional time to clarify municipal and provincial roles and responsibilities, as more information becomes available. According to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, opting out can be reversed after January 22nd; however, those municipalities that choose to opt back in will not gain any additional funding from the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund above the initial \$10,000 (20).

Appendix A – Evidence to Support Cannabis Retail Outlet Considerations

Issue	Considerations	Examples of Cannabis Regulations/Suggested Regulations	Other Supporting Evidence
1. High retail outlet density can contribute to increased consumption and harms (2,4,5,6,7).	Reduce cannabis retail outlet density through minimum distance requirements between cannabis retail outlets and limits on the overall number of outlets (11).	<p>The City of Calgary has enacted a 300m separation distance between cannabis stores. (21)</p> <p>Spruce Grove, Alberta, requires a 200m separation distance between cannabis retail outlets (22).</p>	<p>Research on alcohol and tobacco use highlight the need for stronger controls on retail density, minimum distance between retailers, and the need for stronger controls on the number of retailers. It has been shown that increased tobacco and alcohol retail density is associated with greater prevalence of tobacco use and alcohol consumption within Public Health Units in Ontario (3).</p> <p>Density limits reduce neighbourhood impacts and youth access (3).</p> <p>Higher retail density around locations where youth live is associated with experimentation of tobacco products (23).</p> <p>From a tobacco cessation perspective, several studies have shown that the presence of even a single tobacco retail location close (<500 metres) to a smoker's home affects abstinence during a quit attempt. The relationship between abstinence from smoking and walking distance increased the further a retailer was away from a person's home (24). Those who live within 500 m of retail location are 1 time more likely to relapse, while those who live within 250-500m of a retail location are 1.9 times more likely to relapse, and those living within 250m or less are 4.2 times more likely to relapse (25).</p> <p>Research suggests that it is prudent for decision makers to develop policies that</p>
2. Retail outlet proximity to youth-	Prevent the role-modeling of cannabis use and reduce	The State of Washington has enacted a 300m separation	

<p>serving facilities can normalize and increase substance use (8,9).</p>	<p>youth access through minimum distance requirements from youth-serving facilities such as schools, child care centres, libraries, and community centres (9, 10, 20)</p>	<p>distance requirement between cannabis retail stores and elementary and secondary schools and public playgrounds (26).</p> <p>In Kelowna there are recommendations for retail cannabis stores to be a distance of 150m from elementary schools and 500m from middle and secondary schools (27).</p> <p>In Manitoba, typically 150m to 300m is established between cannabis-related facilities and schools, licensed daycares, public recreational facilities and other cannabis-related uses (28).</p> <p>On Nov. 14, 2018, the Government of Ontario passed new regulations for licensing and operation of private cannabis stores. The regulations establish a minimum distance of 150m between cannabis retail stores and schools, including private and federally-funded First Nation schools off-reserve (29).</p>	<p>prevent tobacco retailers from being located within close proximity to schools as well as other youth orientated facilities (30).</p>
<p>3. Co-use of cannabis and other substances increases the risk of harm, such as impaired driving (10).</p>	<p>Discourage the co-use of cannabis and other substances by prohibiting co-location and enacting minimum distance requirements between cannabis, alcohol, tobacco, and e-cigarette retail outlets (10,11).</p>	<p>KFL&A Public Health recommends a 200m separation distance between cannabis retail outlets and alcohol or tobacco retail outlets (12).</p> <p>On Nov. 14, 2018, the Government of Ontario passed new regulations for licensing and operation of private cannabis stores. The</p>	<p>Preventing the clustering of tobacco, e-cigarette, alcohol and cannabis stores can have positive effects on communities, especially among vulnerable populations (46).</p>

			regulations establish a requirement for all private recreational cannabis retail storefronts to be stand-alone stores only (29).	
4. Retail outlet proximity to other sensitive areas may negatively influence vulnerable residents (7,11).	Protect vulnerable residents by limiting cannabis retail outlets in low socioeconomic neighbourhoods and enacting minimum distance requirements from other sensitive areas (11,31).	The City of Vancouver has restricted medical cannabis retail outlets to commercial zones instead of residential ones (32).	A 2013 scan of tobacco retail outlets across Ontario indicated that the outlets in both urban and rural areas were more likely to be located in areas with high neighbourhood deprivation (33). Findings from Hamilton, Ontario also show that the number of tobacco and electronic cigarettes retailers in low income areas far exceed other areas of the city (34). In 1996, the hours and days of sale for alcohol in Ontario were extended, resulting in a significant increase in rates of alcohol consumption and associated harms, such as acute injuries, trauma and violence. (4,35). This experience has been demonstrated internationally as well, with evidence showing that longer hours of sale significantly increases alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harms (35). Harm is more likely to occur late at night and very early in the morning, therefore it is recommended that retail hours do not operate around the clock (35). The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health recommends that cannabis retail hours of operation model those established by the LCBO (40). Currently, the permissible hours for the sale of alcohol at retail outlets are Monday through Saturday 9:00 am to 11:00 pm, and on Sunday from 9:30 am to 8:00 pm (41).	
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6. Fewer restrictions on where cannabis, tobacco and vapes can be used may increase the risk of normalization, second-hand smoke exposure and impairment (3, 13, 14, 15, 16).	<p>Establish greater restrictions on where cannabis consumption, tobacco use and vaping can occur.</p> <p>Smoking of cannabis is prohibited anywhere smoking tobacco is prohibited (42).</p> <p>Additional restrictions on smoking and vaping can be enacted through municipal bylaws (42).</p>	<p>The City of Markham prohibits the smoking and vapourizing of cannabis in all public places (43).</p> <p>The municipality of Chatham-Kent prohibits the smoking of tobacco, cannabis and vaping on all municipal property including beaches, walkways, within 9m of buildings entrances, and within 4m of bus stops (44).</p>	<p>Allowing cannabis to be consumed wherever tobacco can be consumed raises concerns regarding the risk of normalization, second-hand smoke exposure and impairment.</p> <p>Children tend to copy what they observe and are influenced by normality of any type of smoking around them. From the lessons learned from tobacco and alcohol, normalization of cannabis use could lead to increases in rates of cannabis use (3, 14, 15).</p> <p>Smoke from cannabis is similar to that of tobacco, containing fine particles, cancer causing compounds, volatile organic chemicals, carbon monoxide and heavy metals, which can negatively affect the health of people exposed. There is no safe level of exposure to second hand smoke (13). Allowing smoking and vaping of cannabis in public places increases the exposure of second-hand smoke to the public (e.g. sidewalks, entrances to buildings, parking lots).</p> <p>Cannabis impairment can have side effects including paranoia, panic, confusion, anxiety, and hallucinations (16). Public safety and unintended exposure related to cannabis impairment should be considered (16).</p>
7. Retail outlet proximity to other substances retail outlets shows increased number of traumas (17).	Preventing the clustering of tobacco, e-cigarette, alcohol and cannabis stores can have positive effects on communities, especially among vulnerable populations (11).	KFL&A Public Health recommends a 200m separation distance between cannabis retail outlets and alcohol or tobacco retail outlets (12).	

		MLHU recommends a 500m separation distance between cannabis retail outlets and alcohol or tobacco retail outlets (45). On Nov. 14, 2018, the Government of Ontario passed new regulations for licensing and operation of private cannabis stores. The regulations establish a requirement for all private recreational cannabis retail storefronts to be stand-alone stores only (29).	
8. High number of retailers impacts cannabis use and frequency of use (18).	Limit/cap the number of cannabis retailers to reduce use and frequency of use (18).	Washington caps the number of retailers that exist for the entire state at 556 for a population of 7.4 million people (39).	Research from alcohol and tobacco highlights the need for stronger controls on the number of retailers to reduce harms (2,3).

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