

Request for Decision



To: Regular Meeting

From: **Engineering and Development Services**

Date: October 30, 2017

Subject: Stakeholder Submission – Cannabis Legalization and Regulation in BC

Recommendation: **RESOLVED THAT Council supports the following policy submissions to the Province's stakeholder feedback process:**
Minimum Age -
Personal Possession -
Public Consumption -
Drug-impaired Driving -
Personal Cultivation -
Distribution Model -
Retail -

Background

The Province requested feedback from stakeholders affected by the upcoming federal legalization of non-medical Cannabis in BC. The Federal legislation sets a framework within which the Province will operate. However, for some of the regulations BC can choose from a range of policy options that remain compliant with the federal regulations. Staff prepared this summary to present Council with submission options for the November 1st 2017 stakeholder feedback deadline.

The Province is looking for feedback on minimum age, public possession and consumption, drug-impaired driving, personal cultivation, and distribution and retail. The attached discussion paper outlines in greater detail the policy options for which the Province has requested feedback. Staff recommend that Council works through the discussion paper to draft a resolution that guides the City's submission to the Province. Some additional notes are made below that go beyond the background material in the discussion paper.

Of the topics at hand, retail and personal cultivation may have the most interaction with municipal powers. Personal cultivation as set by the federal legislation is set at four plants per household. The Province can choose to set further restrictions; however, they also identify that they could leave this up to local governments to regulate. Staff are not recommending any further devolution of provincial authority onto the municipality because it would increase the cost of bylaw enforcement.

The Province did not explicitly identify an additional role for municipalities within the retailing of Cannabis but the City already has and will continue to have the authority to issue business licences. The discussion paper focuses on a private versus a public retail system, and dedicated storefronts versus co-location. Staff do not see a significant impact

on business licencing so long as Cannabis is able to be treated separately from other retail operations. This can be accomplished through a couple of tools including a separate section in the Business Licencing Bylaw and specific reference to Cannabis retailing in the Zoning Bylaw.

The strategic plan encourages the community to consider alternative types of business. It also directs the City to build capacity within the community by endeavouring to shop locally at every opportunity. An estimated 7.1 percent of Canadians use Cannabis at least once per month. Within Grand Forks, that means around 380 residents with an estimated monthly spend of between \$20,000-40,000. There is no reason to expect Grand Forks residents to deviate below the average national usage rate. Therefore, despite the controversial nature of Cannabis, it will be a legal retail trade and it fits both the “alternative types of business” and shopping local objectives set in the strategic plan.


Benefits or Impacts

General

Strategic Impact

Both strategic plan points may be affected by the implementation of the Business Licencing Bylaw. The provincial report indicates that Cannabis users will continue to purchase their product regardless of the intervention of or discouragement by any level of Government.

 Economic Growth – consider alternative types of business.

 Community livability – build capacity within the community and continue to endeavour to shop local at every opportunity.

Policy/Legislation

The stakeholder engagement process does not immediately affect any policy or legislation, but the future decisions of the Provincial Government will affect the Business Licencing Bylaw, Zoning Bylaw and the Official Community Plan.

Attachments

Cannabis Legalization and Regulation in British Columbia Discussion Paper

Recommendation

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Minimum Age -

**Personal Possession -
Public Consumption -
Drug-impaired Driving -
Personal Cultivation -
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Options

1. RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the report.
2. RESOLVED THAT Council does not accept the report.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	RFD 2017 - Cannabis input to province.docx
Attachments:	- Cannabis-Legalization-and-Regulation-in-BC_Discussion-Paper.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 20, 2017

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Dolores Sheets - Oct 20, 2017 - 11:30 AM

Diane Heinrich - Oct 20, 2017 - 11:37 AM