

Request for Decision



To: Regular Meeting
From: **Engineering and Development**
Date: February 26, 2018
Subject: Cannabis Legalization Critical Path
Recommendation: **THAT Council approves the bylaw introduction and amendment timeline as presented.**

Background

The federal government will legalize the recreational consumption of cannabis by July 2018. They will regulate the production of cannabis, while the province will oversee its distribution and retailing. Municipalities will regulate some aspects of recreational cannabis, including location of manufacturing, sales and consumption. To answer those questions, staff propose to consult residents and bring forward amendments to the Official Community Plan, Zoning Bylaw, Parks Access Bylaw, Business Licencing Bylaw, Fees and Charges Bylaw, and Planning Procedures Bylaw, and a new Smoking Bylaw by the end of June.

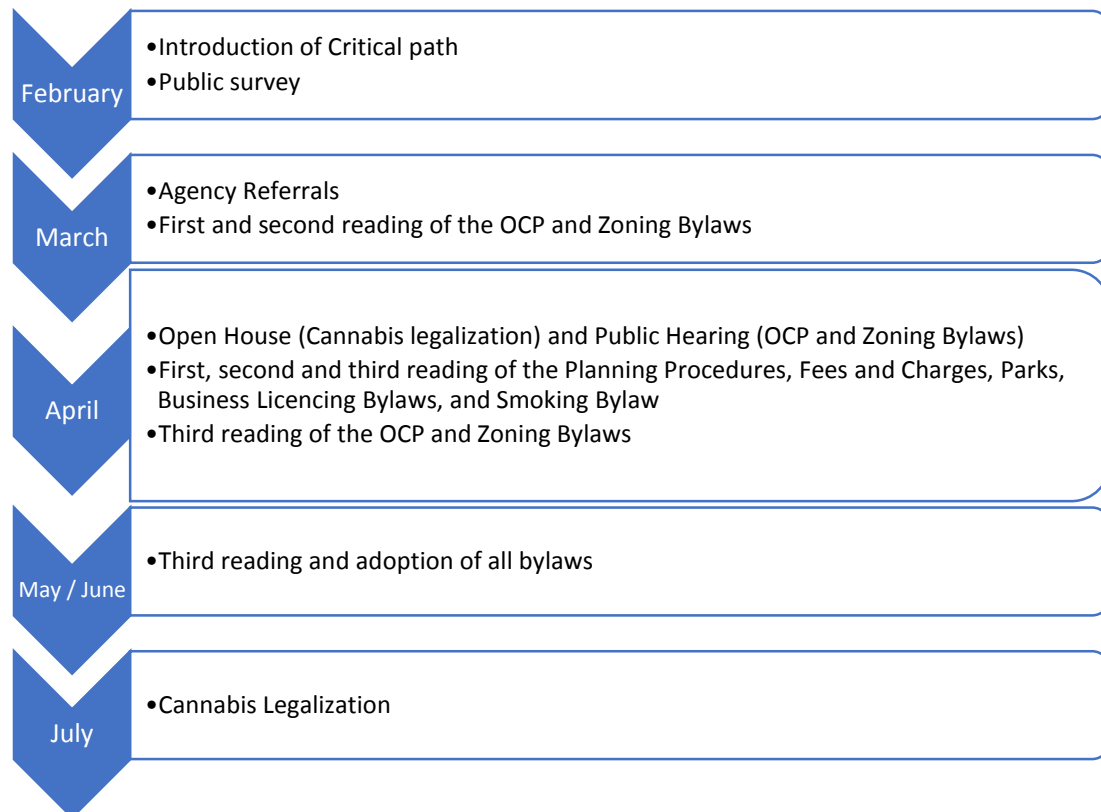
Because of the emotional nature of cannabis legalization, staff propose a public outreach campaign that includes a survey, open house, and public hearing. The campaign will explain the changes to residents, and allow for them to give feedback prior to the adoption of the changes. The bylaws are the tools that prescribe the implementation of cannabis legalization within the City's jurisdiction. The table below shows the scope of each bylaw.

Bylaw	Scope / question
Official Community Plan	Where production facilities and retail cannabis businesses may operate
Zoning Bylaw	Where production facilities and retail cannabis businesses may operate
Parks Access Bylaw	Where cannabis may be publicly consumed
Business License Bylaw	How cannabis businesses may operate
Fees and Charges Bylaw	How much to charge for the City's regulatory services
Planning Procedures Bylaw	How much to charge for the City's regulatory services
Smoking Bylaw	Where tobacco and cannabis may be publicly consumed

These bylaws are the mechanisms for regulating cannabis within the City's jurisdiction. The intent of this RFD is not to discuss what changes will happen to the bylaws, but to introduce the tools that the City may use to regulate Cannabis. The overall approach to the regulation will be discussed during the amendment of the bylaws and the specific changes to them.

Committee of the Whole considered this RFD on February 13 and recommended to Council to approve it at this meeting. Additional wording was added to highlight the

regulation of production facilities in the OCP and Zoning Bylaws. The survey will focus on the key questions left open to municipalities to regulate – where production and retail businesses may operate, and where cannabis may be publicly consumed. Specific input will be sought to guide the language in the bylaws.



Benefits or Impacts

Strategic Impact



Community Engagement

- This campaign will actively seek community engagement through a survey, open house, and public hearing.



Economic Growth

- Cannabis legalization presents a significant shift of black market economic activity into a legalized marketplace.



Fiscal Responsibility

- The review of the planning and development fees and charges could allow for additional cost recovery.

Policy/Legislation

Bylaw 1959 – City of Grand Forks Parks Access Bylaw
Bylaw 1958 – City of Grand Forks Fees and Charges Bylaw
Bylaw 1606 – Grand Forks Zoning Bylaw
Bylaw 1757 – Planning Procedures and Fees Bylaw
Bylaw 1384 – City of Grand Forks Business License Bylaw
Official Community Plan
New smoking bylaw

Recommendation

THAT Council approves the bylaw introduction and amendment timeline as presented.

Options

1. RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the report.
2. RESOLVED THAT Council does not accept the report.
3. RESOLVED THAT Council refers the matter back to staff for further information.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	RFD 2018 - Cannabis Critical Path RM.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Feb 15, 2018

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

Dolores Sheets - Feb 15, 2018 - 12:41 PM

No Signature - Task assigned to Diane Heinrich was completed by assistant Daniel Drexler

Diane Heinrich - Feb 15, 2018 - 2:26 PM