




Hamilton

INFORMATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	December 18, 2019
SUBJECT:	Cannabis Regulations Provincial Policy Change (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Ken Leendertse Director, Licensing and By-law Services Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

The Ontario Government has announced that the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) has been given regulatory authority to open the market for retail cannabis stores beginning in January 2020.

This means that the temporary cap on the number of private cannabis stores throughout the Province of Ontario and the pre-qualification requirements for prospective retailers will be removed. Other amendments include:

- Increasing the ability of licensed producers to open a store at one of their facilities;
- Phasing in limits on the number of authorized stores a licence holder can hold; and
- Allowing retailers to sell other cannabis related items, such as cannabis magazines and cookbooks.

On January 6, 2020, the AGCO will begin accepting operator licence applications, followed by cannabis store authorization applications on March 2, 2020. It is anticipated that cannabis store authorizations from this application will be issued beginning in April 2020, at an initial rate of approximately 20 per month.

In the City of Hamilton this means we can expect to see an increase in cannabis retail store authorizations throughout the spring and summer of 2020. This will require the Licensing and By-law Services (LBS) Cannabis Team to review the proposed cannabis retail store authorization within 15 days upon notification by the AGCO. The LBS

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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Cannabis Team currently reviews each proposed location using the *Cannabis Policy Statement* approved by Council in January 2019, that includes reviewing the City's desired 150m setback from schools, parks, day cares, libraries, community centres, addiction and health centres and other cannabis stores. The team also solicits input from the area Councillor, internal stakeholders and canvas residential addresses and businesses within a 300m radial area. All comments or concerns are provided to the AGCO for consideration prior to the awarding the cannabis retail store authorization. To date, the LBS Cannabis Team has received three proposed cannabis retail store authorizations.

If you have any questions respecting this communication, please contact Ken Leendertse, Director, Licensing and By-law Services, by phone at Ext. 3059 or by email at ken.leendertse@hamilton.ca.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None

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