




Hamilton

## INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members Board of Health
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	August 17, 2017
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Cannabis Consultation (BOH17032) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Matthew Tenenbaum (905) 546-2424, Ext. 7161
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Michelle Baird Director, Communicable Disease Control & Wellness Division Public Health Services Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### Council Direction:

Not Applicable

### Information:

The Government of Canada has introduced legislation that would legalize, regulate and restrict access to recreational cannabis by July, 2018. The proposed *Cannabis Act* would allow adults age 18 and older to possess up to 30 grams of dried cannabis, and introduces new restrictions that address the production, distribution and sale of cannabis. The federal government's proposed framework for cannabis legalization is consistent with a public health approach that minimizes the harms from cannabis use.

In response to the federal legislation, provinces and territories are now considering their own role in a legalized cannabis framework. On July 12, 2017 the Government of Ontario launched its own set of consultations with a focus on how, where and by whom cannabis would be legally purchased and consumed (BOH17032 Appendix A). The province has requested feedback in five priority areas by July 31, 2017:

1. Setting a minimum age for having, using and buying cannabis;
2. Regulating cannabis sales in Ontario;
3. Deciding where people can use cannabis;
4. Keeping our roads safe; and,

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*OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.*

*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.*

## 5. Planning public education.

In September, 2016 the Board of Health expressed support for the development of strict provincial and federal regulations on cannabis that support a public health approach (BOH16021). The provincial consultation process provided Public Health Services staff an opportunity to recommend specific policy measures that would restrict access and minimize cannabis-related harms. These proposals reflect the available health evidence and incorporate lessons learned from the regulation of tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis (in jurisdictions where it is legal).

Public Health Services' contribution to the provincial consultations is attached to this report (BOH17032 Appendix B). Measures that are recommended for consideration include:

- Setting the minimum legal age for cannabis at 19, so that it is harmonized with the legal ages for sale of tobacco and alcohol;
- Prohibiting the smoking or vapourization of cannabis in existing and future smoke-free spaces;
- Prohibiting public intoxication due to cannabis use, as is currently the case for alcohol;
- Developing a comprehensive framework to address cannabis-impaired driving, including investments in technology that will support enforcement;
- Developing a government monopoly on the sale of cannabis, similar to the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO);
- Prohibiting marketing of cannabis products, with a particular focus on marketing techniques targeted toward children and youth;
- Providing resources to municipalities that support locally-delivered enforcement activities;
- Developing a comprehensive public education campaign that addresses cannabis-related health risks and factors that contribute to problematic substance use; and,
- Investing in ongoing monitoring and surveillance infrastructure.

Public Health Services appreciated the opportunity to participate in Ontario's consultations regarding cannabis legalization. We hope that the province will build on the proposed federal regulatory framework in a manner that protects and promotes the public's health.

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