

HWDSB

Alex Johnstone
Chair of the Board
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
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January 9, 2019

Mayor Eisenberger and City Council
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of City Council:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, I am writing about the Cannabis Licence Act, 2018, and more specifically Ontario Regulation 468/18, about the minimum distance of 150 metres (approximately 500 feet) between cannabis retail stores and schools.

We are very concerned about the impact of Ontario Regulation 468/18 with the potential for close proximity of retail outlets to our schools and how this may impact our students and the community.

Our educators spend a great deal of time explaining the negative health impacts of drug use, including cannabis, to support students in making safe and appropriate decisions. These educators also ensure our schools provide safe learning environments that are free from drugs and alcohol. The ability for cannabis retail outlets at only 150 meters from a school location is contradictory to the message we are trying to send our youth.

Having cannabis retail outlets so close to schools has the potential to negatively impact not only the school community, but also the neighbourhood where the school is located. The potential for increased use of cannabis around children, and by children, makes an already precarious situation much more difficult to control.

We understand that you will be further discussing retail outlets at your January 14, City Council meeting and hope you will take into consideration the impacts of Ontario Regulation 468/18 and the minimum distance from schools.

Trustees and staff at HWDSB would be happy to meet with you to clarify anything or to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Alex Johnstone
Chair of the Board
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board