

## Letter to GIC Re: Cannabis Legislation

September 19, 2018

Dear Members of Committee,

I represent MMJ Canada which is a medical cannabis retailer in this city and across Canada.

Currently medical cannabis is a legal product in Canada whose distribution is controlled by the Federal government through the mail system. Because of the inadequacy of this system in meeting patient needs, dispensaries have proliferated across the country. Hamilton is no exception.

On October 17, through Federal legislation, recreational cannabis will become a legal product in Canada. Again, through Federal mandate, all Canadian provinces have been given the responsibility of deciding on a retail protocol in their jurisdiction.

Ontario will soon table a framework that will guide how the recreational industry will develop in the city.

The city of Hamilton, like other Ontario jurisdictions, will have some hard choices to make. Will these cities decide to enlist the pioneers in the industry to assist on the road to legalization? Or will they embark on a path of conflict and legal challenges which will create an expensive legal gridlock for the municipality?

We at MMJ Canada have national and international experience in the evolution of this industry and offer our expertise to the City of Hamilton.

We are aware that as we transition to legality for medical dispensaries (and recreational dispensaries) challenges will emerge.

It is my belief that if the province and any municipality deal harshly and unfairly with our industry, the industry will have no option but to challenge strong-arm tactics through the courts.

On the other hand if the municipality and the province show some flexibility, we will assist the city in transitioning to legality which will see the following:

1. A great reduction in dispensaries across the city including the prevention of existing brands from applying for legal status.
2. A fair taxation regime for the industry which will see much needed tax revenue accrue to the community.
3. A zoning protocol which will see licensed dispensaries appropriately sited in the city avoiding vulnerable areas of the community.
4. Licensed, regulated dispensaries which adhere to the highest standards of service for the community.
5. Continuing service to patients of medical cannabis much needed to relieve the myriad issues that the product is used for.

In order to achieve the above objectives the industry as it exists needs to be treated as partners in this endeavour and not as problems for the city to deal with. Either the courts or good common sense will see our industry achieve positive results for all. It is in your power to shape how this process will play out.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Clint Younge

MMJ Canada