

**Pilon, Janet**

---

**Subject:** Provincial Ministers Communication & Federal Petition Deadline Reminder

**From:** Debbie France

**Sent:** Monday, December 28, 2020 1:34 PM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca); Office of the Mayor

**Subject:** Provincial Ministers Communication & Federal Petition Deadline Reminder

Hello Mayors and Clerks of Ontario Upper, Lower and Single Tier Municipalities.

Kindly share the communication beneath with your councillors and planning staff that was forwarded to Provincial Ministers and the Premier of Ontario in December 2020.

Mayors and councillors...

Requesting your urgent attention on 2 matters.

1. The current cannabis regime is in need of urgent and significant change.

We are asking for you to support and endorse the communication to our Ministers. Please ask our Ministers and Premier to act immediately on this communication. The health and safety of our residents and communities depend on it.

2. I also ask that as the Federal Cannabis Petition Deadline approaches January 20, 2021, you urge your residents to participate and that you all participate personally.

In order for Federal MP Diane Finley to help us, we need to help her by growing the numbers on her Nation Wide Federal Online Federal Cannabis Petition. The goal of the petition is to bring attention to the Federal Government on the Loopholes in this Industry that are adversely affecting the health and safety of residents of our provincial municipalities.

The petition will remain open until January 20, 2021. Those wishing to participate in the petition can visit <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-2920>, to add their name in support. Please support this effort.

Your participation is confidential.

The communication to Provincial Ministers is copied here for you to read.

Dear Honourable Provincial Ministers and Premier of Ontario,

**Urgent...Please rescue Ontario from the jaws of illicit cannabis grow ops!**

- ✓ Illicit cannabis grow ops = gangs, guns, methamphetamine and organized crime
- ✓ Illicit cannabis grow ops are in control of Municipalities
- ✓ Municipalities not in control = Ontario not in control

## The Reality

1. Illicit cannabis grow ops are surging across Ontario's Municipalities.
2. Significant loopholes in the current cannabis regime are allowing criminal organizations to profit tremendously all while placing the health and safety of Ontario's residents at significant risk every day.
3. Sadly, our Province has become a massive breeding ground for illicit cannabis and associated dangerous criminal activity.
4. Police forces are raiding these grow ops, yet the current cannabis regime is enabling the very activity that police forces are battling to eliminate.

[OPP say police have dismantled 52 illegal cannabis production sites since July - Kingston | Globalnews.ca](#)  
[York police seize roughly \\$150 million worth of illegal pot, firearms and exotic animals in drug bust | CP24.com](#)  
[Simcoe County asking feds for help to deal with cannabis issues - OrilliaMatters.com](#)

## Important messages in the media

Auditor General

Illegal sale of recreational cannabis accounted for about 80% of cannabis sales in the Province.

OPP

It's a profit-rich environment for organized crime to generate money and a revenue stream. From concerns regarding public safety and environmental contamination, to human trafficking, the impacts that these large scale criminal cannabis production sites have on our communities cannot be understated.

YRP

Organized crime groups have comfortably embedded themselves in this business. The proceeds from illegal cannabis often fund other activities of these crime groups such as the distribution of firearms, cocaine and methamphetamine.

## The Ask

Health Canada alone cannot solve this.

The solution to eliminate illicit cannabis grow ops from our family orientated communities must include the co-ordinated efforts and actions of several Provincial Ministers.

*Please start rescuing Ontario now...*

 *set a day and time to get together and solve this growing pandemic*

(A copy of this email is also being sent to Ontario's Municipalities)

## Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- The Provincial Policy Statement does not provide the necessary clarity/support for Municipalities to defend their cannabis bylaws in LPAT and Normal Farm Practice Protection Board hearings. This same lack of clarity/support is in effect aiding and abetting very dangerous criminal activity.
- To protect residents from odour, crime and significant risks to personal health and safety, Municipalities need to be able to control where cannabis can be grown with full independent authority. They also need to have their cannabis bylaws supported by the Provincial Policy Statement.
- How could growing a drug that attracts and supports dangerous criminal activity ever be considered a "normal farm practice"?

[Norfolk seeks grow-op compliance | Simcoe Reformer](#)

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

- Is cannabis a crop? You don't need a licence from Health Canada to grow tomatoes and cucumbers. You don't need a prescription to buy tomatoes and cucumbers. Cannabis is a regulated drug.
- How could growing a drug that attracts and supports dangerous criminal activity ever be considered a "normal farm practice"?
- Organized crime is using the Farming and Food Production Protection Act to legitimize their cannabis cultivation which is used to fund, strengthen and grow their criminal enterprise.

Minister of Health

- Innocent residents across Ontario are suffering from obnoxious skunk odour, high stress and they fear for their personal health and safety.
- I have seen my daughter-in-law suffer massive migraines and tremors. I have seen my grandchildren coughing and gagging. I have seen them all sleep deprived. As a parent and grandparent, it is such a helpless feeling when you feel that no one really cares about your health and safety.

[Over \\$2 million in cannabis and cash seized in raids in Mississauga and Bowmanville | CP24.com](#)

Attorney General

- It pays to break the law and grow illicit cannabis. Not only do organized crime groups make huge profits before they are caught, lengthy court dates and drawn out proceedings allow them the time to reap ever larger profits. If you wish to have an impact on organized crime, you prevent organized crime from making money.
- Criminal activity flourishes without a strong court system. Shutting down illicit cannabis grow ops will have a major impact on guns, gangs, violent crimes and lethal drugs across Ontario.

[Cannabis producer pleads guilty to violating bylaw | Simcoe Reformer](#)

Minister of Transportation

- Organized crime groups are using Ontario's vast road system to deliver illicit cannabis across the U.S. border. (One of the largest and highly profitable markets)
- The proceeds from the U.S. sales return in the form of firearms, other drugs and cash.

[Black market cannabis linked to organized crime being exported to U.S. from Canada: OPP | Globalnews.ca](#)

Minister of the Environment

- The purpose of the Environmental Protection Act is to provide for the protection and conservation of the natural environment.
- There are numerous examples to demonstrate how the unregulated cannabis industry as it currently stands results in damages to property, material discomfort to residents, impairment of the safety of residents, adverse effects on residents health and loss of enjoyment of normal use of property.
- Example: OPP sampling of seized illicit cannabis has revealed the existence of banned substances and chemicals exceeding allowable limits. These same harmful chemicals are leaching into the soil and water tables across Ontario.

Ministers, the future of Ontario and its residents are in your hands.

**You have the power to do this....Please have the will!**

Thanks kindly,

Debbie France  
Simcoe, Ontario,  
A resident of Norfolk County