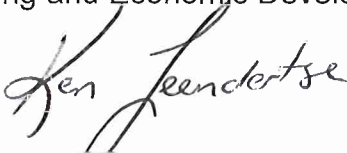




Hamilton

INFORMATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	July 4, 2019
SUBJECT:	Province to Add 50 Additional Cannabis Stores (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 conduct a second lottery for 42 private cannabis retail store authorizations. The lottery will be conducted in August with the stores set to open in October 2019.

The first lottery for Provincially Licensed stores allowed for 25 retail store authorizations, two of which went to Hamilton locations.

For this next phase, the government has established new pre-qualification requirements that will streamline the licensing process with the AGCO and help ensure the readiness of cannabis retail operator licence applicants. Prospective retailers must demonstrate that they have secured appropriate retail space that could be used as a cannabis retail store and that they have access to enough capital required to open a cannabis retail store.

Of the 50 new private cannabis retail stores being licensed, the government is allocating eight stores to retailers who wish to operate on a First Nations Reserve, and the remaining 42 stores allocated throughout the Province, with the Western Region (Hamilton and surrounding areas) receiving 11 stores.

The Licensing and By-law Services (LBS) Cannabis Team will continue to review potential locations once notified by the AGCO. The team will solicit input from the area Councillor, stakeholders and the community and provide comment to the AGCO as to the location and potential impact on the community. Using the Cannabis Policy

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.

**SUBJECT: Province to Add 50 Additional Cannabis Stores (City Wide) - Page 2
of 2**

Statement, as approved by Council in January, 2019, the team will review the proposed location in relation to the City's desired 150m setback from schools, parks, day cares, libraries, community centres, addiction and health centres and other cannabis stores. All comments or concerns will be provided to the AGCO for consideration prior to the awarding the cannabis retail store authorization.

The LBS Cannabis Team has to date assisted the Hamilton Police in closing 52 illegal dispensaries, participated in 17 Search Warrants, laid 159 charges and shared over 80 pieces of information with other law enforcement agencies.

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.

KL:st