




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	December 9, 2021
SUBJECT:	Cannabis Program Funding Update (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Monica Ciriello Director, Licensing and By-law Services Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

The Provincial government introduced the *Cannabis Licence Act, 2018*, (CLA) through Bill 36 which sets out a licensing scheme for Private Retail Cannabis Stores. The licensing scheme is regulated by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) and creates two types of licences, a Retail Operator Licence and a Cannabis Retail Manager Licence. The CLA also creates a retail store authorization which authorizes its holder to operate a specific Cannabis Retail Store. Subsection 41(1) of the CLA gives the authority to municipalities to decide to opt in or out of allowing Retail Cannabis Stores in their community.

The City of Hamilton (the City) opted into the Cannabis Program in December 2018 with funding from the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund. Under the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund, the Province provided \$40M over two years to help municipalities with the implementation costs of recreational cannabis legalization. Use of these funds was restricted to costs that directly relate to the legalization of recreational cannabis. There was no commitment by the Province to fund beyond the two years.

The funding was used to establish a Cannabis Enforcement Team within Licensing and By-law Services. The funding for the Cannabis Enforcement Team will end by the end of 2021, however, Licensing and By-law Services has enough funds to sustain the Cannabis Enforcement Team until April 2022.

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: Cannabis Program Funding Update (City Wide) - Page 2 of 2

The Cannabis Enforcement Team consists of three Licensing Compliance Officers and one Administrative staff. Council had previously directed that Licensing and By-law Services Division be responsible for reviewing applications and providing City comments to the AGCO. The Cannabis Enforcement Team reviews each proposed location using the *Cannabis Policy Statement* approved by Council in January 2019, that includes reviewing the City's desired 300m setback from schools, parks, day cares, libraries, community centres, addiction and health centres and other cannabis stores. The team also solicits input from the area Councillor, internal stakeholders and canvasses residential addresses and businesses within a 300m radial area. Licensing and By-law Services Division then consolidates this information and provides it to the AGCO.

Council may wish to petition the Province for further stability funding to come back to the City under the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund. To continue the current level of enforcement, this funding is required.

In early 2022, Licensing and By-law Services will bring forward a recommendation report to Planning Committee to present options if the requested funding from the Province has not been received.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact Monica Ciriello, Director of Licensing and By-Law Services at Ext. 5809 or by email at Monica.Ciriello@hamilton.ca.