

Parksville Council Provides Comments on Proposed Cannabis Regulations

In July 2018, the federal government will legalize cannabis for recreation and medicinal purposes. Certain minimum regulations on quality, advertising, cultivation and minimum age restrictions will be established in the federal legislation. Provinces and territories will play a significant role in the regulation of recreational cannabis with a lesser role in the medicinal model.

The province is responsible for designing a sales and distribution model appropriate for BC and has stated priorities which include protecting youth, prioritizing health and safety, reducing crime and illegal cannabis trade, supporting economic development and maintaining driver safety. The province is seeking input from local governments on the regulatory framework and invited written submissions by November 2. Until November 1, the general public may comment at <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/BCcannabisregulation/>

At the October 16 meeting, Parksville Council received a report entitled, "City of Parksville Comments on Cannabis Regulation" and at the October 23 meeting approved the following recommendations to the Province of BC with respect to provincial regulation of cannabis to commence in July 2018:

- i. THAT the federal and provincial governments implement a stable and continuous funding model whereby municipalities share in revenues from the cannabis economy;
- ii. THAT the minimum age for cannabis purchase, use and consumption be established at 19 years;
- iii. THAT the gram limit for adult public possession be set at 30 grams and for youth be set at five (5) grams;
- iv. THAT public consumption of cannabis be restricted in the same manner as tobacco smoking and vaping;
- v. THAT the Province of BC undertake a vigorous public education campaign on the risks of cannabis impaired driving; and the province establish a zero-tolerance standard for blood THC content for drivers with an "L" or "N" designation; and the province invest in enhanced field testing options and undertake additional training for officers to facilitate detection of impaired drivers; and the province establish penalties similar to those currently imposed for impaired driving under the influence of alcohol;
- vi. THAT adults be permitted to cultivate up to four (4) plants per household provided the cultivation be restricted to an indoor location and visibly undetectable from any location off the premises and local governments be delegated the authority to prohibit or regulate home cultivation through zoning and building bylaws at the municipal and regional district level;
- vii. THAT the province establish a government or hybrid government and private distribution model for cannabis in BC;
- viii. THAT the province establish a retail model that consists of a government or hybrid retail model based on existing liquor and drug stores and that authority be delegated to local governments to regulate the location, density and hours of retailers through zoning and business licence bylaws.

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For more information:

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