



For Immediate Release

Monday, December 3, 2018

CITY OF WELLAND SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON CANNABIS RETAIL STORES

Welland, ON - The City of Welland is asking residents for their opinion on whether or not cannabis retail outlets should be allowed to operate in Welland. Residents will be able to provide their input through an online survey on the city's public engagement platform, YourChannel, located at yourchannel.welland.ca. The survey will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on Jan. 5, 2019.

The results of the survey, along with a staff report, will be shared with Council at their Jan. 8, 2018, General Committee meeting. Council will make a decision whether to opt-in or opt-out of hosting retail cannabis stores at the Jan. 15, Council meeting.

Background

- Recreational cannabis was legalized Oct. 17, 2018, by the federal government.
- The Province of Ontario has laws in place about how, where and who can buy and possess cannabis in Ontario. You can learn more about Ontario's rules and regulations for legal use as well as the federal framework [here](#)
- On Oct. 17, the Province provided a model for the establishment of private retail stores for the sale of legalized recreational cannabis. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission (AGCO) is charged with licencing, regulating and enforcement of private cannabis retail stores.
- The AGCO will begin accepting applications for new stores in December of 2018 with the intent to have private retail cannabis stores operational by Apr. 1, 2019.
- Prior to issuing any licences for the operation of a private cannabis retail store, the Province is giving all local municipalities the opportunity to opt-in or opt-out of locating recreational cannabis retail stores within the municipality. The municipality deadline is Jan. 22, 2019.

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