



London
CANADA

300 Dufferin Avenue
P.O. Box 5035
London, ON
N6A 4L9

July 13, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

In April 2017, the federal government announced its plans to legalize the use of cannabis and introduced Bill C-45 (the Cannabis Act). The federal government has indicated that this legislation is intended to be in effect no later than July 2018.

Legalization of cannabis at the federal level will engage provinces and municipalities in their areas of jurisdiction. There is some flexibility in the approach taken in Bill C-45 — for example, provinces may have a higher minimum age requirement but not a lower one. Once the Province of Ontario has determined how it will regulate cannabis within the federal legislative framework, municipalities will need to plan for these uses at the local level, including policies and zoning.

A major question to be explored is whether locations authorized to sell cannabis will be considered under one of our existing zoning definitions or will require a new definition. Currently, there are no references to the sale of cannabis in our Z-1 zoning bylaw. As we know, the planning services work plan is quite significant as it stands, and rushing to create a good policy framework once legalization is in effect will likely result in significant issues locally. Zoning amendments will take 4-6 months to research, consult the public on and consider at committee and council. We believe it is prudent to give our planning staff sufficient time to review and report back on this matter well in advance of July 1, 2018.

Consequently, we are seeking support from Municipal Council for the following resolution:

Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to:

- a. review international best practices in relation to municipal zoning for cannabis sellers/dispensaries as well as local regulatory policies;
- b. consult with provincial officials about the Province of Ontario's approach to regulation of cannabis, and with the Middlesex-London Health Unit and the London Police Service about their respective approaches to regulation of cannabis once it is legalized; and,
- c. report back to council in early 2018 with options to be put in place once legalization is approved by the federal government.

Sincerely,

Jared Zaifman
Councillor, Ward 14

Jesse Helmer
Councillor, Ward 4