

Public Open House to discuss allowing Recreational Retail Cannabis Storefronts in Stratford



7 January 2019
4:00pm-8:00pm, Stratford City Hall Auditorium

Staff Present

Stratford Police Service:	Gerry Foster, Deputy Chief of Police Sgt. Tony Burrows
Stratford Fire Department:	John Paradis, Fire Chief
Perth County Paramedic Services:	Cliff Eggleton, Acting Chief of Paramedic Services
Perth District Health Unit:	Janet Jackson, Public Health Manager Jaelyn Kloefer
Stratford Housing Division:	Eden Grodzinski, Manager of Housing
Stratford Development Services:	Jeff Leunissen, Manager of Development Services
Stratford Mayor and CAO's Office:	Stephanie Potter, Policy and Research Associate

Format

4:00pm-5:00pm:	Drop in hour
5:00pm-5:10pm:	Staff presentation
5:10pm-6:00pm:	Question and Answer Session
6:00pm-7:00pm:	Drop in hour
7:00pm-7:10pm:	Staff presentation (same as 5:00pm)
7:10pm-8:00pm:	Question and Answer Session

City of Stratford

- Staff reported to Council regarding cannabis storefronts on 10 December 2018. Council directed Staff to hold this public open house to allow citizens to provide input;
- Staff created a webpage (www.stratfordcanada.ca/cannabis) and began accepting public feedback on 13 December 2018;
- Feedback Forms and Post-It Notes are available to fill out at the back of the auditorium, and staff are taking notes on the feedback provided during the meeting;
- Feedback is also being accepted until midnight tomorrow, 8 January at:
www.stratfordcanada.ca/cannabis;
via e-mail to spotter@stratford.ca;
via telephone to 519-271-0250 x253;
or through regular mail or drop-off at Stratford City Hall,
P.O. Box 818, 1 Wellington St
Stratford ON N5A 6W1
- **Council will consider allowing cannabis storefronts in Stratford at their regular meeting on Monday 14 January at 7:00pm.**

Overview of Jurisdictions

FEDERAL:

Under the Federal Cannabis Act, recreational cannabis became legal across Canada on 17 October 2018.

PROVINCIAL:

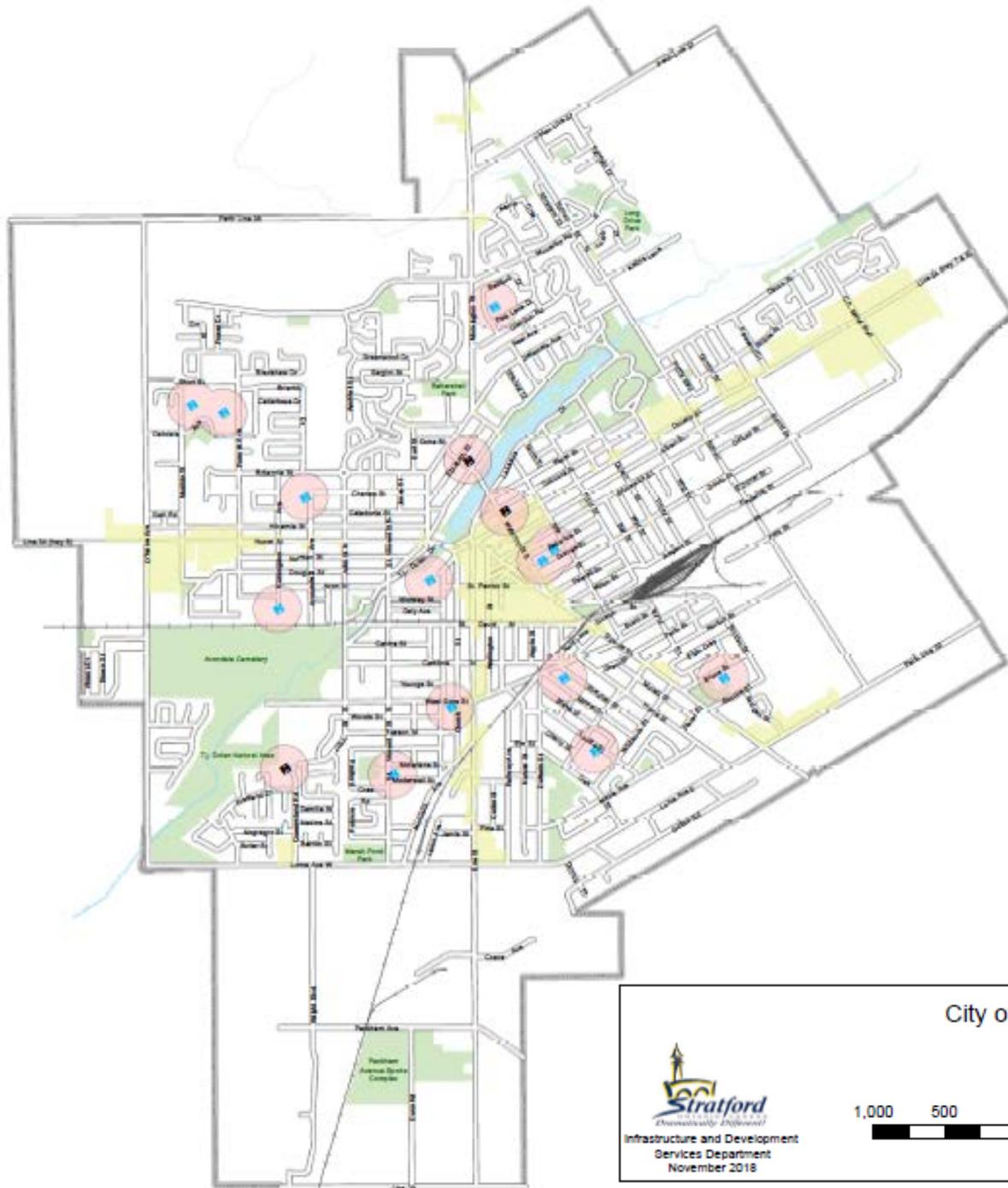
Provincial governments are responsible for developing, implementing, maintaining and enforcing systems to oversee the distribution, sale, growth and consumption of recreational cannabis.

Overview of Jurisdictions

MUNICIPAL:

Municipalities have a one-time opportunity to prohibit recreational cannabis retail stores in their communities by opting out of the cannabis retail store program by 22 January 2019:

- Municipalities that prohibit cannabis retail stores could decide allow them in the future, but if a municipality does not prohibit them by 22 January, it cannot prohibit them at a later date;
- Municipalities that opt out of recreational retail cannabis storefronts will forfeit their second installment of per-household Provincial funding, and will also forfeit any future profit sharing from the Federal Excise Tax – even if they decide to allow cannabis retail storefronts in the future.



Please note that Municipalities are not able to designate cannabis retail as a separate land use from retail generally, or create a cannabis retail licensing regime within their jurisdiction.

Furthermore, please note that while cannabis stores cannot be located within 150 metres of a school, Municipalities are not able to pass a bylaw requiring distance separations between cannabis retail stores and any other kind of use.

City of Stratford Schools



Infrastructure and Development
Services Department
November 2018

1,000 500 0 1,000 Meters



Legend

- Public Schools
- Private Schools
- 150m Buffer
- Retail Zoning
- Railway
- Streets
- Avon River/Lake Victoria
- Parks
- City Limit

Store Licencing: Public Notice

Recreational retail cannabis stores will be licenced by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO). When a licensed operator submits a request for a store location, the AGCO will issue a public notice process as follows:

- A public notice would be posted on the AGCO website and a placard displayed at the proposed retail store location for a 15-day period to indicate that a licensee has applied for an authorization at that location;
- Local residents and municipalities would have 15 days to provide written submissions to the AGCO with respect to the application;
- The Registrar would consider concerns raised through this process when making its final decision to grant an authorization for that location.

Store Licencing: Public Notice

Please note that the AGCO will **not** notify the Municipality, neighboring residents, or neighboring businesses of any proposed store location; it is up to the municipality and neighboring residents and businesses to monitor the AGCO website for local licence applications.

Also, please note that the AGCO is **not** under any regulatory obligation to act on municipal or public input.

Recent Changes: Phased Licencing

On 13 December 2018, the Government of Ontario amended **Ontario Regulation 468/18** with respect to the allocation of cannabis retail store licensing.

Due to the shortage of legal cannabis supply, cannabis retail stores will open in phases. The AGCO will license up to **25 stores** during the initial phase in the following locations:

Region	Maximum Number of Store Licences
Toronto	5
Greater Toronto Area (GTA)	6
Western Ontario	7
Eastern Ontario	5
Northern Ontario	2

The regulation as amended also states that these 25 cannabis retail store licenses will only be located in municipalities with **populations of over 50,000 people**. Therefore, Stratford does not meet the minimum population threshold for the first phase of store licensing.

While the Government of Ontario could amend a regulation at any time, these changes are in effect until 13 December 2019, when Ontario Regulation 468/18 is scheduled to be amended.

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/180468>

Recent Changes: Store Regulations

In mid-December 2018, the AGCO released standard requirements for cannabis retail stores. Some key physical store requirements are as follows:

- High-resolution video surveillance system outside store premises and throughout the interior, with video recordings retained for a minimum of 30 days and made available to the AGCO upon request;
- All points of store access must be secured and protected against unauthorized access;
- Cannabis and accessories for sale cannot be visible from the exterior of the store;
- Exterior store signage cannot communicate product information or make cannabis appealing to youth, contain any testimonials or endorsement, or associate recreational cannabis with medicine, health, or pharmaceuticals, or associate cannabis with driving a motorized vehicle;

<http://agco.ca/content/registrars-standards-cannabis-retail-stores>

Recent Changes: Store Regulations

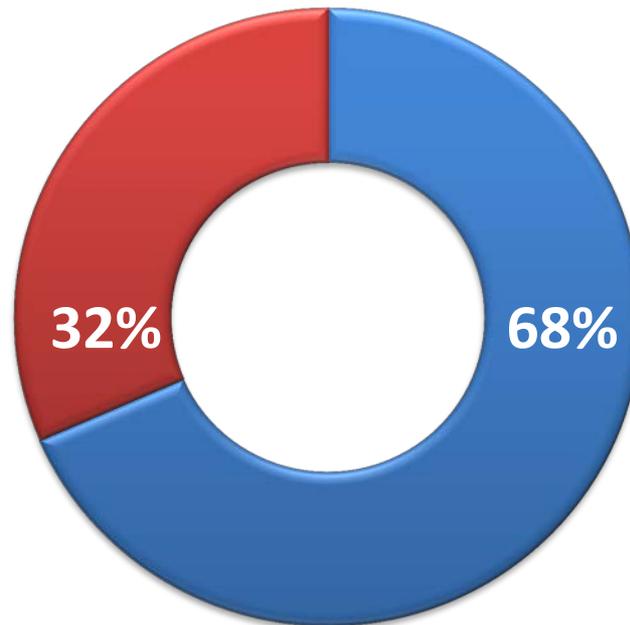
- Cannabis can only be promoted within the store by presenting factual product information;
- Stores may not provide cannabis or accessories free of charge and cannot accept material inducements from licensed producers;
- Stores must ensure that information related to the responsible use of cannabis is available to patrons;
- Stores must maintain records of employees, store inventory, product tracking data, compliance records, and records demonstrating compliance with Sections 7 and 8 of the Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits sale to minors and intoxicated persons) for a minimum of 3 years;
- Stores must complete weekly inventory counts of all cannabis in store. Inventory logs must be maintained and any discrepancies must be reported to the AGCO.

<http://agco.ca/content/registrars-standards-cannabis-retail-stores>

Municipalities that have already opted in or out

As of 7 January 2019, 73 out of 444 Ontario municipalities have reported their cannabis storefront decision to the AGCO.

Of these 73 municipalities, 23 have opted out of having cannabis storefronts (32%).



■ Opted In ■ Opted Out

<http://agco.ca/cannabis/list-ontario-municipalities-prohibiting-or-allowing-cannabis-retail-stores?page=1>

Next Steps

- This presentation will be posted on the City's website tomorrow at www.stratfordcanada.ca/cannabis;
- All feedback received will be given to Council for review;
- All feedback received will be posted on the City's website at www.stratfordcanada.ca/cannabis;
- Council will consider allowing cannabis storefronts in Stratford at their regular meeting on **Monday 14 January at 7:00pm**. Staff will provide a report for Council's consideration with all feedback available to Councillors for review;
- Staff will advise the AGCO of Council's decision prior to the 22 January deadline;
- Staff will continue to monitor regulations, enforcement issues, and best practices and will advise Council of any new issues or regulations.

Questions?

To provide feedback, please fill out a Comment card and/or Post-It note at the back of the room.

Feedback is also being accepted until **midnight tomorrow, 8 January**, as follows:

- **Online:** Fill out a comment form at www.stratfordcaanda.ca/cannabis;
- **E-Mail:** Stephanie Potter spotter@stratford.ca;
- **Telephone:** Stephanie Potter 519-271-0250 x253
- **Mail/Drop off:** Stephanie Potter
P.O. Box 818
1 Wellington St
Stratford ON
N5A 6W1

Thank You for your participation!