



Media Release

Midland Council opts-in to allow Cannabis Retail Stores

(MIDLAND, ON) Cannabis Retail Stores will be welcome in the Town of Midland after Council voted unanimously to opt-in to Section 42 of the Cannabis Licence Act, 2018. One member of council was excused from the discussion/vote due to a declared pecuniary interest. The Province created a deadline of January 22, 2019, to receive input from municipal decision-makers as to their willingness to allow retail cannabis stores in their communities.

“I feel the decision to opt-in was made easier by the fact we know Midland won’t be eligible for a Cannabis Retail Store in the first round of licensing by the Province,” said Mayor Stewart Strathearn. “At the same time, we need to recognize that Cannabis is now a legal product in Canada and is becoming a new and emerging industry. This decision will allow Midland to leave the door open for that opportunity should the Province extend the retail licensing to communities such as ours.”

Under Ontario Regulation #468/18 there will be 25 Cannabis Retail Store authorizations in Ontario by April 1, 2019, with five of those being awarded in our region (East Region). Midland is currently not eligible for a store, in part due to a minimum population requirement of 50,000. There is currently no timeline for revisions to the eligibility criteria permitting retail outlets in municipalities such as Midland.

Council also chose to rely on new rules under the Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2018, for regulating smoking in and around public facilities. This amendment to the Act also includes cannabis.

“Although more restrictive rules on smoking cannabis were considered, we determined that Midland-specific rules would simply cause confusion between any rules that would be considered by the County of Simcoe Health Unit and/or Provincial enforcement agencies,” added Mayor Strathearn. “Relying solely upon the Smoke Free Ontario Act for purposes of enforcement, will eliminate any confusion, and avoid any potential additional costs related to enforcement.”



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