

## **CM-3-19 Appendix C - Dec 14, 2018 – Jan 10, 2019**

### **Public Feedback by Email**

1. Thanks for doing the survey. Should I need medical marijuana in the future I would want to get that at a drug store I think.
2. Unfortunately, I have missed the online survey and the town hall meeting on the subject of legalized cannabis shops in Burlington. I am strongly opposed and would not support a yes vote in any way. I am strongly against the legalization of marijuana in the first place, let alone any shops where you can walk in and buy it. I understand it apparently has its medicinal purposes, which should then be prescribed by a doctor in pill form. There is no reason to have to smoke it. Lungs are meant for breathing air and nothing else! Beyond that, it will never do anyone any favours, just as alcohol doesn't help anyone either. While my husband and I do our best to educate our 12 and 14 year old boys about the affects of substance abuse we certainly do not need stores to sell it in our city, flaunting it in front of them! I believe it will only bring down the reputation of Burlington. Dress it up, glorify it all you want, it attracts a different socioeconomic group of people. I would not like to see Burlington, where I have lived for 48 years head in this direction. Thank you for your time
3. One of the aims of legalization is to get rid of the cannabis black market, which is unregulated and is easy for minors to access (Canadian youth leads the world in consumption). Having regulated cannabis stores in Burlington is the best way to make it tough for young people to access cannabis, and also provides regulations for consenting adults to consume this now legal product if they so choose, ensuring standards for safe retail and safe products. As my representative on city council, I hope you will give this position serious consideration.
4. How about following the great, brave examples of Markham & Mississauga and disallow privately-owned "Pot Shops" In Burlington??
5. I have voted to opt out the online survey about cannabis retail stores in Burlington. But I still want to write this email to express my strongly oppose to the retail cannabis stores in Burlington. I understand that the cannabis is already legal in Canada, but, please don't allow private retail cannabis stores in Burlington!

First, there is no distance requirement from daycares, recreation centre, libraries and some other places. That means that the retail cannabis store could be at the next door of many places which are very close to little kids even the babies. Has anyone think about the little kids and babies? A guy can buy the cannabis and smoke just in front of a baby! And the baby will be forced to breathe the polluted air! And that baby could be my babies or your babies or your grand-babies! I can't imagine that you would allow that happens to your little ones! You could say that you will walk away. But how about the little kids and babies in the day care? We can't guarantee that all the teachers will do the same! And it is possible that the guy just smokes

outside of the day care's playground! For the 150-metre buffer between the private stores and schools, I don't think that they are enough! We know there are regulations for the private stores, but who can guarantee that the private store owner and salesman won't sell pot to students and don't let others know? Without the firm control, the pots are potentially expose to our young kids!

Secondly, how can we police the drug-impaired driving if cannabis is going to be sold in Burlington? Are all the policing costs covered? As I know, the answer is no. According to Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown's chief of staff Babu Nagalingam, the provincial funding only covers around 15% of the policing costs according to the FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) initial estimates. I think that Burlington would have the similar number. If we don't have the policing costs fully covered, how could we make sure the public's safety. Public safety must be a critical consideration!

As I know, Milton has opt-out, Mississauga has opt-out, it is quite possible that Oakville will opt-out as well. I can't imagine all the people from those cities drive to Burlington and buy pot and can't wait to use them immediately in the car, then what will happen? Drug-Impaired driving! After he uses the pot, he won't notice there is one people is standing behind his car when he backs out of a parking space! If the store is close to the school or day care, it will be worse! Who can guarantee the public and the student's safety? I know someone will be happy about the tax income brought by the stores. And someone will say that it will be inconvenient to buy product online. But comparing with the public's safety, do we really think that money and convenience are more important?

There are too many unanswered questions on the private cannabis stores and how they will harm our community's safety. The province has not given municipalities any control over where the shops could be located and no control over the number and no any control over zoning. We can't take any risk which will cause our public's safety. Please do consider about these situations before you vote.

6. I really appreciate that you spend your time to read my email. I live in ward 6 and have two kids, 5 and 3 years old. Just like any other mom, I fear increasing challenging to explain it to my young kids recreational marijuana is not safe while the government has legalized it. Having physical retail cannabis stores in our neighborhoods (only 150 meters from schools) and allowing public smoking pots near school properties (only 20 meters from school property) will make it worse.

According to Halton Health Department, cannabis can be harmful to brain development and the brain does not stop developing until around age 25. Cannabis has become much more potent in recent years, which could increase health risks include psychotic symptoms, difficulty with thinking and problem solving, disrupted learning and memory. A study showed that 1 in 6 people who use marijuana during adolescence will develop an addiction. An additional danger associated with marijuana use observed in adolescents is it's a gateway to other illegal drugs like cocaine and heroin.

We should not allow cannabis retail stores here in Burlington. Especially when neighbouring Mississauga, Milton and Oakville have opted out and online sales option is available to adults. There are other safety concerns such as increased crime rate and break-ins around cannabis stores.

We applaud your willingness to listen to ordinary residents rather than lobbyists from cannabis companies and request you keep your campaign promises for the good of our community, for the future of our children and grand children!

We will be proud of you make the right decision to keep our city Burlington safe, and the most livable place in Canada!

7. I am sorry I missed the survey regarding cannabis/pot stores in Burlington. My short non-discussable answer is **NO! - NONE!** Since Hamilton will likely have stores, anyone who smokes-up can buy their stash there.
8. One of the missions of our association is to encourage members to engage in Burlington local community issues and work together with other communities to make Burlington a better place for everyone. We serve communities across all 6 wards of Burlington. Many of our members have expressed deep concerns over the impact of legalizing recreational cannabis on our neighborhoods, especially on young adults.

I live in ward 6 and have two kids, 11 and 7 years old. Just like any other mom, I find it increasingly challenging to explain it to my young kids recreational marijuana is not safe while the government has legalized it. Having physical retail cannabis stores in our neighborhoods (only 150 meters from schools) and allowing public smoking pots near school properties (only 20 meters from school property) will make it worse.

According to Halton Health Department, cannabis can be harmful to brain development and the brain does not stop developing until around age 25. Cannabis has become much more potent in recent years, which could increase health risks include psychotic symptoms, difficulty with thinking and problem solving, disrupted learning and memory. A study showed that 1 in 6 people who use marijuana during adolescence will develop an addiction. An additional danger associated with marijuana use observed in adolescents is it's a gateway to other illegal drugs like cocaine and heroin.

Also, adolescent exposure to marijuana causes long term mental health problems. Our schools and communities are already dealing with mental health crisis and need increased funding, our health care system is under pressure, why adding more stress to these?

Let's look at evidence from some State of US which legalized marijuana. Recent results from an Oregon Research Institute (ORI) study pointed out that=

youth surveyed prior to legalization from communities that later prohibited sales were less likely to increase willingness and intent to try marijuana compared to those from communities that later allowed sales. (<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180108161204.htm>). This is a strong evidence why we should not allow cannabis retail stores here in Burlington. Especially when neighbouring Mississauga, Milton and Oakville have opted out and an online sales option is available to adults. There are other safety concerns such as increased crime rate and break-ins around cannabis stores.

We applaud your willingness to listen to ordinary residents rather than lobbyists from cannabis companies and request you keep your campaign promises for the good of our community, for the future of our children and grandchildren!

I believe after many years when we look back, people will say "It's that council, Mayor and councillors who made the right decision to keep Burlington safe, the most livable place in Canada"!

9. My husband and I are strongly opposed to cannabis retail stores in Burlington. In addition to completing the survey, we wanted to share a few comments on the matter.

When you read about all of the serious health concerns related to short and long term use of cannabis (\* from Ontario.ca and Canada.ca) it becomes very clear that Burlington needs to opt out to protect the health and well-being of the people in our fabulous city and to keep our roads safe for all.

As many of the surrounding municipalities (Milton, Oakville, Halton Hills, Mississauga) are opting out, Burlington, if we did opt in, would be inundated with applications (and the fact that each operator can have up to 75 stores is downright scary). Do we really want recreational cannabis users from surrounding areas driving in and around Burlington?

The way we look at it is....if you opt in, you are saying to residents that you encourage and support the use of recreational cannabis in spite of all the known health concerns (especially for our younger residents between 19 and 25) and road safety concerns.

We trust in you all to do what is best for Burlington and opt out. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

\* P.S. I accessed this info from the city's website from the document library on "The future of cannabis retail stores in Burlington" page. In the Province of Ontario document scroll down to "Resources" and in the Government of Canada document put "Cannabis health" in that site's search engine.

10. My husband and I would like to indicate our support for cannabis shops in Burlington. We believe that since it is now legal, cities are obligated to make it accessible for residents. We hope council votes to allow pot shops in Burlington and keep moving forward.

11. The town hall vote was a farce. Didn't even know this meeting was being held. Only a handful of people were even there. Cannabis users have the option of growing their own or purchasing on line. PCs made a huge mistake in allowing public consumption of cannabis. Don't make this worse. I have always voted PC in both federal and provincial elections. Next provincial election I will be voting for whichever party promises to reverse public consumption.

12. My opinion is we should option out for that. Here are reasons:

1. There is no profit for City. We know the Federal and provincial government will take those profit away and City has to pay police services etc.. fees. and residents don't want to pay more tax for that.

2. The bill-C45 allowed the young kids (12to 18years) carry 5 gram ever day per person! There is a very big challenge to school teachers and parents. It's so easy to access the cannabis if the retails store is opened nearby, how can we monitor and educate our kid?

3. Our young people will think cannabis is "recreational", which may result in the higher risk of other hard drug consumption.

4. Once our city option in, there is no way to option out.

Why we just option out first then watch what happened in those option in cities and wait for our local police all ready for that as well then make next decision?

13. First, I would like to say thank you for giving the community a chance to question and comment about cannabis retail in Burlington.

My name is XXXX and I would like to share with you why cannabis retail stores in Burlington is important to my family. A little background information so you can better understand me; I was raised with cannabis as an everyday item. The lifestyle this produces has its repercussions. I learnt early in life not to trust most people; teachers, police, government officials, everyday normal people as well. Since cannabis became legal, I am experiencing many realizations. I used to be scared and unsure about being involved in my community. Now, I am applying for employment, writing, and educating people about cannabis. Having cannabis retail in Burlington means I have a chance at a future. I have a chance to not be afraid, to be able to interact and fully experience my community. I am a potential store manager. I will invest in myself and get my licensing. I can only hope I will be able to work in the city that I live in.

Another reason is safety. I don't feel online ordering is safe. I don't believe carriers are trained and enforced to receive ID from customers. Retail store managers with licensing and training (AGCO requires managers to take an extensive training course) will be equipped to ensure safety and security.

I have consumed cannabis every day for 25 yrs. I am married, 19yrs, and have four children (ages;17, 13, 5, 4). My oldest son is 17 and I have managed to keep cannabis away from him without incident. Within the first week of legalization; cannabis was delivered and signed by my

son. Thank goodness he is a great kid. I believe this type of incident will be avoided with retail stores. Cannabis retail in Burlington secures my future and ensures my children's safety.

Plus, I am developing an education structure that I want to share with retail operators. The way I have talked to my children about cannabis, cigarettes, and alcohol seem to be working. I want to share with other parents how to talk to their children about substance consumption and their choices.

Cannabis controlled my life for too long. Now it's time for me to break free and embrace life with it. Cannabis retail stores in Burlington mean I finally get to live a normal, content life.

I'm going to take a shot in the dark there; My husband and I would like to offer you our advice and knowledge about cannabis. The experience and insight we have is only learnt from personal experience. I believe your team may benefit from talking with us.

14. My friend and I were at the meeting you held last evening. We were very disappointed in the amount of people that seemed more interested in opening pot shops in our beautiful clean living city. The gentleman from Oakville neglected to tell the audience that his town of Oakville had opted out. Maybe he thought because Burlington has new leadership that we are an easy touch for him and others to be able to open pot shops here. Also mayor Crombie of Mississauga has opted out. There are many in Burlington that do not want this and I hope that you will be strong enough to tackle this problem head on, we need to stand together on this. Otherwise we could turn this city into a pot mecca. Burlington doesn't need to be known as cannabis city. Being a school guard for the past 43 years, I'm a little afraid if this comes to pass as traffic is becoming a nightmare. The police have a hard time controlling drunk drivers and now this is going to be much harder for them to police, they have my sympathy. I do not have a problem with people that need cannabis for medical reasons and for years and years these people under the care of a doctor can easily get it. So why do we need these stores. The people you had on stage in regard to the medical end of it were not very forthcoming with the problems that cannabis can cause. I think they were intimidated by the fact that most people there were for it. You need to get doctors / nurses into your meetings also as they are the people that will have to deal with the many problems that cannabis will bring.
15. I'm opposed to stores selling Cannabis "in my neighbourhood". If people want Cannabis let them drive to Hamilton or buy online. On the radio talk show today, a man called in and admitted that since it's legal he's been buying Cannabis to help his anxiety and it helps him sleep but he's finding that he's starting to notice how much he's craving it. Yeah! Addiction is a real side effect. I don't want drug addicts on my street. Put them in shopping malls, at least I don't have to go there.

## **Open Text Box Feedback from Engagement Survey**

1. Ease of access for all including parking or on a bus route, and being central versus in the middle of nowhere.
2. Follow similar model to LCBO and Beer Store.
3. Away from residential areas, not visible from anywhere where kids can gather, away from schools, away from hospitals
4. Negative impact on real estate value especially residential communities. Cost of Enforcement and inspection
5. If it is applicable in our municipality, please consider the proper screening process when selling or distributing cannabis such as proper ID and healthcare professional prescriptions.
6. accessibility, parking,
7. Not close to high schools
8. Potential for bringing in new criminals to our neighborhood.
9. Actually, I don't want cannabis store in Burlington at all!
10. Have you ever think about our children's safety? No cannabis retail store in Burlington at all!
11. Community image, need to discourage consumption vs. no need to maximize gov't revenue, fact that our community would never have supported this law .
12. I think Burlington should not allow such stores in it's municipality,
13. Away from library, community center and resident community
14. Not in residential areas
15. Restrict deliveries from the store to purchasers through 3rd party delivery agents
16. How will driving under the influence be controlled? How will impairment be determined?
17. Besides of crime, traffic accidents due to smoking cannabis is my big worry.
18. I would prefer if they were in the same location as an LCBO facility
19. The criteria for these stores should be exactly the same as for alcohol.

20. Preference is none but we should not be penalized in regards to tax revenues. Do not place downtown - use Fairview or Harvester, a main thoroughfare for stores. Enact bylaw to prevent smoking in parks, trails etc. and enforce with heavy fines.
21. I would like to emphasize that allowing retail stores in Burlington will create local jobs and revenue for the city, reduce illegal sales and reduce burden for Halton police. Thank you.
22. Nature of the location. Should be in industrial area, not commercial.
23. The terms should be consistent with the liquor control act since they are both controlled substances.
24. Should be in areas designated retail, not residential areas
25. prevention of driving under the influence
26. what type of people will it draw into the area and increased traffic, affect on parking, affect on housing prices
27. Not in commercial spaces in Condo Buildings
28. General location, should be in fully commercial areas.
29. Parameters around advertising and marketing
30. operators background check and financial backers