

**Council provides direction regarding the preparation of Bylaws
with respect to the sale and consumption of Cannabis in Drayton Valley**

June 28, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: A Special Meeting of Council was held this afternoon to discuss and provide direction with respect to preparing Bylaws regarding cannabis retail stores as well as public smoking or vaping cannabis in Drayton Valley.

While the provincial government regulates the minimum age to buy, possess and consume cannabis and will license all retail sale, municipalities have the ability to set direction concerning the location, operating hours and business license requirements of cannabis retail stores and can restrict public consumption of cannabis.

In anticipation of the federal government's decision to legalize non-medical marijuana on October 17, 2018, the public was asked to provide feedback on an online survey and at a public information session in May 2018. Town Council gave careful consideration to the comments, insights and concerns raised during the consultation process and has directed Administration to prepare the appropriate Bylaws.

In accordance with the direction set by Council, Administration will prepare an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw which regulates the required setbacks, location, and conditions of approval for cannabis retail stores in Drayton Valley. Business License and Signage Bylaw amendments will also be prepared to establish standards that cannabis retail stores will be required to meet. Public consumption of cannabis will be prohibited.

It is anticipated that these amending Bylaws will be prepared and presented to Council for First Reading in August 2018. Public feedback will be sought, which Council will take into consideration prior to proceeding with Second and Third Readings.

"Public feedback has been a crucial component in forming the basis of Council's decisions on the matter," noted Mayor Doerksen. "Our approach was developed to reflect the desires of the community while working within the requirements set out by the federal and provincial governments."

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