



Municipal Considerations for Cannabis Retail



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Presentation Outline

1. Cannabis in Windsor and Essex County
2. WE Board of Health Resolutions
3. Retail of Other Legal Substances
4. Cannabis and Vulnerable Populations/Areas
5. Opt In/Opt Out

Prevalence of Cannabis Use

Most commonly used illegal substance in Canada

- Past year use: 12% (15 years+)
- Higher rates among:
 - Men (15%) vs. Women (10%)
 - Youth, 15-19 (21%) and Young Adults, 20-24 (30%) vs. Adults (10%)
(Canadian Tobacco Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2015)
- In **Windsor-Essex:**
 - Young Adults, 15-29 (23%) [95% CI: 14.6-31.4%] vs Adults, 18+ (9.5%) [95% CI: 7.9-11.3%]
(WECHU Community Needs Assessment, 2016)

Health Effects

Mental Health	Physical Health	Risk of Injury
Difficulty Concentrating	Coughing, Wheezing Shortness of Breath	Unintentional consumption/Poisoning
Poor Coordination and Psychomotor skills	Hyperemesis	Overdose
Impaired Memory	Bronchitis	Motor Vehicle Collision
Reduced Cognitive Function	Heart Disease	
Psychosis, Depression, Anxiety	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	
Addiction/Dependence <i>Cannabis Use Disorder</i>	Cancer	



Windsor-Essex Board of Health Resolutions

January 14, 2016

- Supporting a public health approach to cannabis legalization in Ontario with strong health-centered and age-restricted regulations to reduce health and societal harms associated with cannabis use.

October 18, 2017

- Encouraging Windsor-Essex municipalities to develop strict licensing, planning, and zoning regulations
- Working with enforcement agencies and municipalities to support smoking prohibitions
- Promoting *Canada's Lower-Risk Cannabis Use Guidelines* to reduce harms of cannabis use

Windsor-Essex Board of Health Resolutions

October 18, 2018

- Municipalities OPT OUT of the cannabis retail model as proposed by the provincial government in their respective communities.
- The province establish limits on the number of retailers in a geographic area to prevent clustering and reduce retail outlet density.
- The province set additional regulations with respect to the proximity of retail outlets in relation to areas which may unfairly target vulnerable populations.
- The province providing for the ability of municipalities to create licensing and zoning regulations which would be reflective of the unique needs of individual communities.
- Municipalities amend existing smoke-free by-laws to include “cannabis” in the definition, and expand spaces where the use of substances is prohibited (e.g., cannabis consumption venues or vape lounges).

Cannabis Retail in Ontario

- Minimum distance of 150 m (500 ft) between cannabis retail stores and schools.
- No cap on the number of retailers per municipality.
- Municipalities are prohibited from using licensing or land-use by-laws to control the placement or number of cannabis retail outlets.
- All private recreational cannabis retail storefronts to be stand-alone stores only.
- Retailers will not be permitted to allow anyone under the age of 19 to enter their stores.
- Zero-tolerance (enforced by AGCO) for any retailer who provides cannabis to anyone under the age of 19.

Cannabis Retail in Ontario

- Private stores will be permitted to open between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on any day.
- AGCO will begin accepting applications on December 17, 2018 and private retailing will begin April 1, 2019.
- The government has committed to providing \$40 million over two years to help municipalities with the implementation costs of recreational cannabis legalization.

AGCO - Licensing Framework

Retail Operator Licence

- Allows you to operate one or more retail store in Ontario.

Retail Store Authorization

- Permits store layout and location.
- 15-day public consultation window on location.

Cannabis Retail Manager Licence

- Most responsible person for operations of store.

Municipalities have the ability to Opt Out of cannabis retail storefronts up to January 22nd.



Concerns for Municipalities

Consumption permitted in all areas not covered by *Smoke-free Ontario Act*.

- Interaction with municipal smoking bylaws
- Smoking/loitering and nuisance concerns around retailers
- Fewer restrictions on where cannabis, tobacco and vapes can be used increases the risk of normalization, second-hand smoke exposure and impairment

Increased density and number of access points can lead to:

- Increased consumption and associated harms
- Normalization of use
- Decreased success in attempts to abstain from use
- Undermining of health warnings

Exposure to vulnerable populations:

- Children and youth
- Individuals seeking treatment for substance use
- Individuals susceptible to addiction or with mental illness
- Low income neighbourhoods

Summary of Evidence from Tobacco and Alcohol Retail

Retail outlet density contributes to increased consumption and harms.

1. Babor, T, Caetano R, Cassell S, Edwards G, Giesbrecht N, Graham K, Rossow I. (2010). Alcohol no ordinary commodity: Research and public policy (Second ed.). New York, USA: Oxford University Press. Ottawa, ON.
2. Popova S, Giesbrecht N, Bekmuradov D, Patra J. (2009). Hours and days of sale and density of alcohol outlets: impacts on alcohol consumption and damage: a systematic review. Alcohol Oct;44(5):500-16.
3. World Health Organization (2010). Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. Available from: http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/msbalestrategy.pdf
4. Borodovsky JT, Lee DC, Crosier BS et al. (2017). US cannabis legalization and use of vaping and edible products among youth. Drug Alcohol Depend 177:299-306. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28662974>
5. Mair C, Freisthler B, Ponicki WR, Gaidus A. NIHMS705271; The impacts of marijuana dispensary density and neighborhood ecology on marijuana abuse and dependence (2015). Drug Alcohol Depend 154:111-6. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4536157>

Retail outlet proximity to youth-serving facilities normalizes and increases substance use.

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Surgeon General (2016). Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health. Available from: <https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/surgeon-generals-report.pdf>
2. Canadian Paediatric Society. Cannabis and Canada's children and youth (2016) Ottawa, ON: Canadian Paediatric Society. Available from: <https://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/cannabis-children-and-youth>.

Retail outlet proximity to other sensitive areas may negatively influence vulnerable residents.

1. Mair C, Freisthler B, Ponicki WR, Gaidus A. NIHMS705271; The impacts of marijuana dispensary density and neighborhood ecology on marijuana abuse and dependence (2015). Drug Alcohol Depend 154:111-6. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4536157>
2. Alberta Health Services (2018). AHS recommendations on cannabis regulations for Alberta municipalities. Available from: <http://rmalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Webinar-recording-Cannabis-and-Public-Health-AHS-Cannabis-Information-Package-for-Municipalities.pdf>

Fewer restrictions on where substances can be used may increase the risk of normalization, second-hand smoke exposure and impairment.

1. Smoke-Free Ontario Scientific Advisory Committee, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Evidence to guide action: Comprehensive tobacco control in Ontario (2016). Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2017. Available from: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/SFOSAC%202016_FullReport.pdf.
2. Sparacino, CM, Hyldburg PA & Hughes TJ. Chemical and biological analysis of marijuana smoke condensate. NIDA Res Monogr 99(1990): 121-40.
3. Smoke-Free Ontario Scientific Advisory Committee. Evidence to Guide Action: Comprehensive Tobacco Control in Ontario (2010). Toronto, Ontario: Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. Retrieved from <http://otru.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Evidence-to-Guide-Action-2010.pdf>
4. Linkenbach, J. The Main Frame: Strategies for Generating Social Norms News. Montana, US: Montana State University, 2002.
5. Smoking and Health Action Foundation. Secondhand Marijuana Smoke: Health effects of exposure (2016). Smoking and Health Action Foundation. Retrieved from: <https://nsra-adnf.ca/key-issue/secondhand-marijuana-smoke/>



Concerns for Municipalities

Lessons learned from Tobacco and Alcohol control:

- Retail outlet density contributes to increased consumption and harms.
 - Positive association between alcohol outlet density and excessive alcohol consumption and related harms.
- Retail outlet proximity to youth-serving facilities normalizes and increases substance use.
 - Schools with a greater number of retailers surrounding them have higher smoking rates.
- Retail outlet proximity to other sensitive areas may negatively influence vulnerable residents.
 - Higher concentration of tobacco retailers in lower income neighbourhoods.
- Less restrictions on where substances can be consumed increases the risk of normalization, exposure, and impairment.

WECHU Recommendations:

Opt Out

- One time window to **OPT-OUT** of retail stores in your municipality
- Can opt back in at later date
- ***Deadline – January 22nd, 2019***
 - 3 months from election, but shortly after swearing in of new council

Opt Out Allows for:

- Time to conduct a more formal public and stakeholder engagement process
- Integrate lessons learned from other Ontario municipalities
- Learn more about provincial regulations and create a local regulatory framework that is reflective of the best interests of Windsor-Essex Residents

Thank You

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WECHU Recommendations:

Proximity and Density

That Cannabis-related businesses be:

- no less than **500m** from any *school, library, park, recreational centre* and any other *youth-serving facility*,
- no less than **500m** from *subsidized or low-income housing*,
- no less than **500m** from *correctional facilities, addiction and mental health facilities, hospitals and places of worship*, and
- no less than **500m** from any *alcohol, tobacco, or other cannabis-related business* (i.e., cannabis consumption lounges or production facility)

WECHU Recommendations:

Other Considerations

That municipalities:

- Establish limits on the *number* of retailers in a geographic area to prevent clustering and reduce retail outlet *density*.
- Amend existing smoke-free by-laws to explicitly *include the word “cannabis”* in their definition of smoking.
- Work *collaboratively* with public health and school boards to consider impacts of legalization across different sectors.