

Survey to Assist with Cannabis Regulations in Parksville

The Government of Canada announced legalization of cannabis for recreational and medicinal purposes beginning in July 2018. In support of this initiative, Canada passed Bill C-45 (the *Cannabis Act*) and Bill C-46 (amendments to the *Criminal Code* specific to impaired driving). The legislation will make it legal to grow, sell and possess cannabis for recreational purposes.

Council wishes to seek input from the community before determining which cannabis regulations to enact and how best to manage legalization in the best interests of Parksville residents. A first step in the process of informing future decisions is an online survey for residents. Your input is an important part of this process to inform changes and updates to Parksville bylaws as well as new bylaws and policies to respond to cannabis legalization.

The survey can be accessed from our website at www.parksville.ca and will be open for four weeks, from Friday, March 2 until Saturday, March 31, 2018. Paper copies of the survey are available from the City of Parksville. Survey results will be presented to Council and the public in the spring.

The Government of Canada will regulate quality and establish some baseline federal conditions, such as minimum age restrictions. The provinces and territories will be responsible for the distribution and retail system within their respective jurisdictions.

At the meeting in February 2018, Parksville Council was presented with options to regulate the cannabis industry in the City and directed staff to amend the relevant bylaws to prohibit cannabis related activities, including retail sales of non-medicinal cannabis, until additional information is obtained from the province on the regulatory framework and the residents of Parksville have been provided an opportunity to submit comment for Council's consideration. The bylaws include:

- "Business Licence Bylaw, 2012, No. 1483"
- "City of Parksville Zoning and Development Bylaw, 1994, No. 2000"
- "City of Parksville Nuisance Abatement Bylaw, 2013, No. 1489"
- "Plan Parksville: A Vision for Our Future, Official Community Plan Bylaw, 2013, No. 1492"

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