

Non-Medical Cannabis Regulations in City of Parksville

With the legalization of cannabis (marijuana) for recreational use on October 17, 2018, adults 19 years of age and older will be able to purchase cannabis for their own use.

Many of the decisions surrounding cannabis legalization will be made by provincial and federal governments and municipalities have the power to further regulate commercial cannabis production, retail, home cultivation and public use. The Province of British Columbia has determined cannabis will be sold in standalone publicly and privately-owned retail locations. The City of Parksville as with other local governments is responsible for the regulation of some aspects of cannabis legalization including land-use zoning and business licensing.

Until January 31, 2019, all cannabis business is prohibited in the City of Parksville. The goal of Parksville Council is to have necessary regulations and bylaws in place and in effect on January 31, 2019, and at a special meeting on September 24, Council agreed on the following:

- Cannabis retail stores will be permitted in all zones where retail trade is a permitted use and cannabis growing, processing and packaging for any use other than personal use will be permitted in industrial zones.
- Cannabis activities are prohibited as a home based business.
- All cannabis businesses are required to obtain and maintain a valid business licence and adhere to special provisions as set out in City bylaws, including annual criminal record checks for owners, operators and all employees.
- Hours of operation are restricted to the same hours permitted for liquor stores (Liquor Control and Licensing Act).
- All cannabis businesses must submit a good neighbour agreement, an odour control plan prepared by a suitably qualified professional and a light pollution plan for hydroponic or commercial greenhouse facilities.
- Cannabis businesses must be located at least 200 metres distance from a commercial daycare centre, school, seniors' care facility, rehabilitation or drug treatment centre.
- Consumption of cannabis will be prohibited in public places, including parks.

The business licence fee for cannabis businesses will be \$1,000 and all cannabis businesses will be subject to a provincial referral fee of \$750 to reflect the additional staff resources required to process applications.

The City of Parksville will continue to follow the legalization and regulation process closely to ensure safe, responsible introduction of recreational cannabis within City of Parksville boundaries. Should there be changes to existing regulations, the City will conduct further public consultation. Over the next few months, the City's website will provide additional information about the business licence process and fees, appropriate bylaws as well as an application guide and form

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For more information:

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