

Town of Riverview

COUNCIL REPORT FORM

Presented to: Town Council

Department: Economic Development

Date: November 8, 2017

Subject: Cannabis Legalization



Agenda Item: 11e

Meeting Date: RCM 11/14/2017

For use by Office of the Town Clerk only

Background

On April 13, 2017, the federal government tabled two bills to legalize and regulate cannabis in Canada:

- Bill C-45, The Cannabis Act, addresses the regulation, sale and cultivation of recreational cannabis.
- Bill C-46, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (offences relating to conveyances, focuses on strengthening impaired-driving measures.

The federal government intends to enact both pieces of legislation by July 2018. This means that all orders of government must begin their internal process immediately to ensure that regulations, laws and by-laws are in place by the time the federal cannabis legislation comes into force.

Furthermore, the New Brunswick government says it will enter the legal-cannabis retail market by having NB Liquor set up a network of tightly controlled, stand-alone stores starting next July.

Up to 20 stores will be established with strict policies in place: they will be located at least 300 metres away from schools, they will only display products under glass, and customers will need to show identification to prove they are of legal age before they can even get in.

Recently a tender was issued by NB Liquor for the private sector to submit bids to develop and construct this series of new cannabis retail outlets. It was determined that 3 would be located in the Greater Moncton area, including potentially, in Riverview. The tender documents outline the areas in which stores should be located. In Riverview potential locations are either downtown or in Findlay Park. Staff are aware that at least 3 developers will be submitting tender bids that include Riverview as one location.

Town staff have been in discussion with urban planning staff about the appropriate zoning for this new use and whether or not the current commercial zones that allow for retail operations would permit cannabis retail.

One other outstanding issue related to this is the legality of the currently operating medical cannabis outlets which appear to be operating in a gray zone of the current law. The new legislation may address this issue.

The Chief Planners from across the province will be meeting shortly to discuss a common approach to this issue. Once these discussions have been held, staff will prepare a follow-up report, likely recommending that Council consider adopting the approach of the province's other major municipalities with respect to this issue.

CONSIDERATIONS

Legal: The Town's zoning by-law may require amendments to comply with federal and provincial legislation

Financial: N/A

Policy: N/A

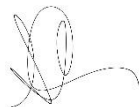
Stakeholders: Development Community, Provincial Government

Interdepartmental Consultation: N/A

Communication Plan: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FROM STAFF

For information purposes.



Prepared by: _____

CAO Approval: _____

Date of Approval: _____