

From: [Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake](#)
To: [Clerks](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Delegation Request Form
Date: March 23, 2025 1:26:15 PM

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Submitted on Sun, 03/23/2025 - 13:26

Submitted by:

Submitted values are:

Information

Name

Rianna Ford

Organization Name

Bull & Blossom Initiative

Address

[REDACTED]

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Telephone Number

[REDACTED]

Presentation

Agenda Delegation

Agenda Delegation

Topic

I have never spoken on this issue before

For Agenda delegations please include the title of the item. In point form, provide an overview of what points you will be speaking to:

Ontario Municipalities Must Reconsider Opting Out of Legal Cannabis Retail

In April 2023, Mississauga ended its five-year ban on legal cannabis storefronts, a decision made possible through advocacy from myself, Rianna Ford, along with Cyrus Hambaz, Brad Stott, and the owners of The Niagara Herbalist. Despite this progress, many Ontario municipalities continue to opt out, fueling the illicit market and misallocating law enforcement resources.

The Consequences of Opting Out

Banning legal cannabis stores does not stop cannabis consumption—it only pushes consumers toward unregulated, illicit sources. Illegal dispensaries lack safety standards, putting public health at risk, while legal stores adhere to strict regulations ensuring product safety, responsible sales, and age restrictions.

The Burden on Law Enforcement

With law enforcement resources increasingly limited, the need to protect legal cannabis businesses and push out unlawful competition is more critical than ever. Illicit dispensaries and unregulated operators not only undermine the legal market but also pose significant safety risks to communities. Opting out of legal cannabis retail allows these illegal businesses to thrive, making it harder for law enforcement to intervene effectively. By embracing a regulated market, municipalities can help ensure consumer safety, reduce illicit operations, and allow law enforcement to focus on more pressing community concerns.

Economic and Community Benefits

Legal cannabis retail creates jobs, generates tax revenue, and attracts business investments. These economic benefits directly support local communities through reinvestment in infrastructure and services. Additionally, legal retailers promote responsible consumption and public education, further ensuring safety.

A Call to Action

Mississauga's decision to opt in has provided safer access, reduced illicit activity, and boosted the local economy. Other municipalities should follow suit, prioritizing public safety and economic growth over outdated fears. Embracing a regulated cannabis market ensures safer communities and sustainable economic benefits. It's time for change.

Terms

I have read and understand the Delegation Protocol and acknowledge the information contained on this form, including any attachments, will become public documents and listed on Town Meeting Agendas. I also understand presentation materials including speaking notes and electronic presentations must be submitted by email to clerks@notl.com no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Monday prior the scheduled meeting.
Yes

Meeting Time

I wish to appear before:
Council

Date
Tue, 04/29/2025 - 00:00

Presentation Requirements

Do you have a visual presentation (slideshow or photos) to accompany your delegation?
Yes

I agree
Yes

Delegation

I will be appearing:
In person

I also understand presentation materials including speaking notes and electronic presentations must be submitted by email to clerks@notl.com no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the scheduled meeting.
Yes

I acknowledge I have 10 minutes to delegate
Yes

I give permission to be audio and video recorded on the Town of Niagara on the Lake's livestream
Yes

Do you require accessible accommodation to participate:
No

Privacy Disclaimer

I have read and understand the above Privacy Disclaimer.
Yes