

[News Releases](#)[Images for Media](#)[Regional Budget Info](#)[Councillor Profiles](#)[Leadership Profiles](#)[Upcoming Events](#)[Public Notices](#)[Media Contacts](#)

Niagara Region Holiday Changes in Waste Collection

Garbage, Blue Box, Grey Box, and Green Bin collection will be deferred by one day in the week following Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Regular Collection Day

Monday, Dec. 24

Tuesday, Dec. 25

Wednesday, Dec. 26

Thursday, Dec. 27

Friday, Dec. 28

Monday, Dec. 31

Tuesday, Jan. 1

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Thursday, Jan. 3

Friday, Jan. 4

Changed to

No change

Wednesday, Dec. 26

Thursday, Dec. 27

Friday, Dec. 28

Saturday, Dec. 29

No change

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Thursday, Jan. 3

Friday, Jan. 4

Saturday, Jan. 5

In the week following Christmas (Dec. 26, 27, 28, 29, 31), households may place out one extra bag or can of garbage without a garbage tag on their regular collection day.

NEW: Christmas Tree Collection - Jan. 7 - 11, 2019

- Place tree at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regular collection day
- Remove all ornaments and decorations
- Christmas trees wrapped in plastic or buried in snow will not be collected
- No artificial trees

Contact

Sherri Tait
Niagara Region
905-980-6000 ext. 3414
sherri.tait@niagararegion.ca

Share this article: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Did you find what you were looking for today? ☐ Yes ☐ No

[A - Z Services](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Disclaimer and Privacy.](#)

[Accessibility.](#)

[News and Notices](#)

© Niagara Region - 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON, L2V 4T7 - Phone: 905-980-6000, Toll-free:
1-800-263-7215



[News Releases](#)[Images for Media](#)[Regional Budget Info](#)[Councillor Profiles](#)[Leadership Profiles](#)[Upcoming Events](#)[Public Notices](#)[Media Contacts](#)

Niagara Regional Council appoints new Regional Chair

Today, Niagara Region announces that Jim Bradley has been appointed to the position of Regional Chair by a unanimous vote of Regional Council for the 2018-2022 term. Bradley will be officially sworn in later today, making him the eighth Regional Chair for the Niagara Region.

Bradley began his political career as a St. Catharines City Councillor from 1970-77. He served as the Member of Provincial Parliament for St. Catharines from 1977-2018. During this time, Bradley held roles as Provincial Minister of Environment, Transportation, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Tourism and Recreation, Community Safety and Correctional Services, and Seniors.

Bradley has contributed to the Niagara community as a hockey and baseball coach, manager and referee; as member of Grantham Optimist Club, as an active supporter of the Rankin Run, Gillian's Place, Start Me Up Niagara, Community Care, Bethlehem Place and other volunteer organizations.

In Ontario, the Municipal Act sets out the responsibilities of the Regional Chair. The Regional Chair is both the head of council and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Region.

To learn more, please visit www.niagararegion.ca

Quotes

"I am honoured to be appointed as Niagara's Regional Chair for the upcoming term of Council. I look forward to working collaboratively with all members of our Council and Niagara's dedicated public service to move our Region forward and

provide the important services our community relies on. "
~ *Jim Bradley, Regional Chair*

Contact

Jason Tamming
Niagara Region
905-980-6000 ext. 3371
jason.tamming@niagararegion.ca

Share this article: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Did you find what you were looking for today? ☐ Yes ☐ No

[A - Z Services](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Disclaimer and Privacy](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[News and Notices](#)

© Niagara Region - 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON, L2V 4T7 - Phone: 905-980-6000, Toll-free:
1-800-263-7215



MEMORANDUM

Subject: Public Health Consideration with Private Retail Cannabis Model
Date: December 7, 2018
To: Local Area Municipalities
From: Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health

Background

On October 17, 2018, cannabis became a legal drug throughout Canada. The *Cannabis License Act, 2018 (CLA)* provides the legislative framework for selling cannabis legally in Ontario. Legal cannabis is sold on-line through the Ontario Cannabis Store (OSC), while private cannabis retail stores are planned to open April 1, 2019. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) will license and enforce the legislation for these stores, with private retail applications being accepted after December 17, 2018.

Section 41 of the *CLA* provides municipalities with a one-time opportunity to opt out of allowing cannabis retail stores within their municipal boundaries. Municipalities deciding to opt out are required to do so before January 22, 2019. Municipalities that choose to opt out will have the opportunity to opt back in at a later date, however the opposite is not true. If a municipality does not opt out as per Ontario Regulation 468/18 s. 22, then by default the municipality has opted in. Section 42 of the *CLA* further restricts a municipality from being able to utilize licensing or land-use by-laws to control the placement or number of cannabis retail stores.

The province has announced that it will provide \$40 million over two years to help municipalities with costs related to the legalization of cannabis. Municipalities deciding to opt out will receive the first two payments of \$5000, however will not be able to access the surplus excise tax that may become available after the first two years of legalization.

The Ontario Regulation 468/18 was developed under the *CLA*, to provide requirements for the cannabis retail stores. Under this regulation, cannabis retail stores are required to be at least 150 metres away from a school, a single applicant can only own a maximum of 75 stores, the hours of operation are permissible between 9:00 am to 11:00 pm, and the physical store requires walls to separate it from other businesses. Under the *CLA*, section 4(9) when an application for a license is submitted, the AGCO will notify the public/municipalities via a website and a notice at the physical location for 15 days. During this time the public and municipalities are able to provide submissions related to public interest or the needs/wishes of the residents.

Public Health Considerations

Cannabis has been criminalized in Canada since 1923, yet prior to legalization 46.4% of adults in Niagara indicated that they have used cannabis at least once in their lifetime and 12.2% used cannabis in the past 12 months.ⁱ Despite these prevalence rates, as an illegal criminal drug there was limited research and evidence on cannabis harms. In order to provide an evidence informed perspective, comparable experiences from tobacco and alcohol have been used to provide considerations.

Consider the following before OPTING IN:

Increased access to cannabis will likely increase harms

Evidence has shown for tobacco and alcohol that when there is increased availability or exposure to products, there is an increase related to harms:

- High retail outlet density can contribute to increased consumption and harms.^{ii,iii,iv,v}
- Co-use of cannabis and other substances increases the risk of harm such as impaired driving.^{vi}
- Establishing minimum buffer distances from between cannabis retail stores and those selling tobacco and/or alcohol may discourage co-use.^{vi,xi}
- Retail outlet proximity to other sensitive areas may negatively influence vulnerable residents.^{iv,vii}
- Longer retail hours of sale significantly increases consumption and related harms.^{ii,viii}

Production of legal cannabis is monitored and tested^{ix}

Federally licensed producers of cannabis are regulated and cannabis is monitored and tested from seed to product. The safety and quality of legal cannabis is safe guarded through Health Canada as the inspection and enforcement agency, while the OCS continues to hold producers to quality standards as the on-line retailer and sole distributor to Ontario's private retail cannabis stores.

Density and proximity of retail stores may increase cannabis use

- Retail outlet proximity to youth serving facilities can normalize and increase substance use.^{x,xi}
- The 15 day comment period may allow municipalities to limit density and proximity.

Consider the following before OPTING OUT:

Illegal use of cannabis was prevalent before legalization

As an illegal substance, cannabis has been shown to be used within Niagara and residents have had access to the illegal market. While opting out does not likely increase the prevalence of cannabis use in your municipality, there is a potential for additional/targeted illegal market presence and also availability through the OCS online retailer.

Production of legal cannabis is monitored and tested^{xii}

Reducing accessibility to legal cannabis in stores may continue to drive illegal cannabis sales, as access to the online OCS retailer may not be accessible to those that do not have a physical addresses or credit card. Federally licensed producers of cannabis are regulated and cannabis is monitored and tested from seed to product.

Financial implications to opting out

Municipalities deciding to opt out will receive the first two payments of \$5000, which may be less than they would be entitled to if they opt in. They will not be able to access the surplus excise tax that may become available after the first two years of legalization.

Is opting out erring on the side of caution

Regulatory framework for cannabis is new and opting out may provide municipalities time to understand the roles and responsibilities involved, in addition the implications of legalization on their community. The amount of influence municipalities will have over density and proximity in the 15 day comment period is unknown at this time.

How Public Health can help

As per AMO's suggestion, you may decide to have a point of contact for application review and comment, and a policy to help guide those comments.^{xiii} Should you choose to opt in at any point, Public Health staff are able to help support guidance around policy development for density and proximity review.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Andrea Feller, MD, MS, FAAP, FACPM
Associate Medical Officer of Health

REFERENCES:

ⁱ Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2015-16

ⁱⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱⁱ World Health Organization (2010). Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. Available from: http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/msbalestrategy.pdf

^{iv} 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>

^v 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>

^{vi} Government of Canada (2016). A framework for the legalization and regulation of cannabis in Canada: The final report of the task force on cannabis legalization and regulation. Available from: <http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/task-force-marijuana-groupe-etude/framework-cadre/alt/framework-cadre-eng.pdf>

-
- vii Alberta Health Services (2018). AHS recommendations on cannabis regulations for Alberta municipalities. Available from: <http://rmaalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Webinar-recording-Cannabis-and-Public-Health-AHS-Cannabis-Information-Package-for-Municipalities.pdf>
- viii Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (2018). Submission to the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Finance: Cannabis regulation in Ontario. Available from: https://www.camh.ca/-/media/files/pdfs---public-policy-submissions/camhsubmission-cannabisretail_2018-09-25-pdf.pdf?la=en&hash=1237D4AF4316606BC546D8C6D1D1EF1D84C7C00B
- ix Government of Canada (2018). Health Canada – What the industry needs to know about Cannabis. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/campaigns/cannabis/industry.html>
- x 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>.
- xi 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>.
- xii Government of Canada (2018). Health Canada – What the industry needs to know about Cannabis. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/campaigns/cannabis/industry.html>
- xiii Association of Municipalities Ontario, Municipal Cannabis Update, Information to help municipal staff prepare reports for council (2018)

MEMORANDUM

CWCD 413-2018

Subject: Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018
Date: Friday, December 07, 2018
To: Regional Council
From: Rino Mostacci, Commissioner Planning and Development Services

On December 6, 2018, the Province released the first draft of *Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018*.

Among broad amendments to various statutes, Bill 66 contemplates an amendment to the *Planning Act, 1990*. The Region's comments below relate only to the proposed *Planning Act, 1990* changes and not the other statutes proposed for amendment.

Bill 66 would permit local municipalities to pass an "open-for-business by-law". This by-law could only be passed where there's a Council resolution and where it has approval from the Minister. What the Minister may permit in that by-law is limited; those limits will be identified at a later time.

An open-for-business by-law would not be subject to certain Provincial Plans and other legislation, but, *critically*, will be subject to other requirements of the Minister and the local municipalities.

Municipalities have latitude to impose conditions. As one of several examples, the open-for-business by-law would be subject to "Any requirement that is reasonable for and related to the appropriate use of the land and that the municipality considers necessary for the protection of public health and safety" (s.34.1(8)4).

Enacting an open-for-business by-law is entirely at the discretion of local municipalities; there is no requirement to do so.

Bill 66 applies throughout the Province and is not specific to the Greenbelt Plan area. Open-for-business by-laws will not be used to undermine key components of the Greenbelt Plan. The Region remains committed to the protection of natural features, provincially significant wetlands and agricultural lands. Open-for-business by-laws will not alter the Region's established growth strategy that includes limiting urban sprawl and protecting source water.

If the legislation proceeds, we anticipate a cooperative approach between the Region and local municipalities, to identify how an open-for-business by-law may work in their

municipality. These by-laws may be used to increase the Region's competitiveness in attracting new businesses and contributing to the economic prosperity of the area.

For instance, we may be able to explore opportunities in the Gateway Economic Zone (outside the Greenbelt Plan area) for an open-for-business by-law that provides streamlined approvals for key industries identified by the municipalities.

The Ministry is receiving comments on the Bill until January 20, 2019. Comments can be provided through the following link: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4293>

More details are available from the Province's News Release and Backgrounder:

https://news.ontario.ca/medq/en/2018/12/ontarios-government-for-the-people-cutting-red-tape-to-help-create-jobs.html?utm_source=digest&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p

<https://news.ontario.ca/medq/en/2018/12/proposed-changes-to-create-jobs-and-reduce-regulatory-burden-in-specific-sectors.html>

Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018 can be viewed here:
<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-66>

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Rino Mostacci, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner Planning and Development Services

Cc: Local Area Municipalities CAO and Planning Directors,
for consideration and distribution.