

ADMINISTRATION STAFF REPORT

ASR-040/2018

TO: Mayor Gibson & Members of Council

FROM: W. Kolasa, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

DATE OF MEETING: January 9, 2019

SUBJECT: Cannabis Retail Stores - Municipal Option – **AMENDED to include “Appendix B” – Public Comments Received**

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT this report be received as information;

AND THAT Council provide direction regarding a position of the Township with respect to cannabis retail stores in Wainfleet.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the recent enactment of the Cannabis License Act, 2018 (and regulations thereunder), and to afford Council the option of considering opting-out of physical cannabis retail locations in the municipality.

BACKGROUND:

On December 12, 2017, the previous Ontario government enacted Bill 174 – the Cannabis, Smoke-Free Ontario and Road Safety Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017. That Act served to establish a legal framework for the sale, distribution and consumption of recreational cannabis within the Province when cannabis became legal Canada-wide on October 17, 2018.

On August 13, 2018, the newly-elected Government of Ontario publicly announced that they would be making changes to the legal cannabis framework established by the previous Provincial government. Specifically, the Government was proposing legislative changes as to where and how cannabis will be sold within the Province. These changes included:

- allowing for the legal sale of cannabis to only occur online through the Ontario Cannabis Store (OCS) beginning on October 17, 2018;
- permitting private stores (rather than provincially-operated stores), overseen by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, to sell cannabis, beginning April 1, 2019;
- permitting local councils to opt-out of having physical cannabis retail location(s) within their municipality by January 22, 2019.

On November 16, 2018, the Cannabis License Act, 2018 (the “Act”), was enacted which had the effect of formalizing the above-noted framework for the legal sale of cannabis in

Ontario. Section 41 of the Act provides municipalities with a one-time opportunity to opt-out of allowing cannabis retail stores within their municipal boundaries.

OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:

On November 16, 2018, in addition to enacting the Cannabis Licence Act, 2018, the Province released Ontario Regulation 468/18 under the Act which, among other things, established specific requirements for cannabis retail stores. The most significant elements of the new policy framework for cannabis retail stores includes:

1. the storefront sale of cannabis will now occur through privately-operated retail outlets licensed by the Province of Ontario;
2. in place of local planning controls, cannabis stores will need to be established in areas zoned to permit retail operations and will be required to observe a minimum distance separation of 150 metres from schools;
3. municipalities have the opportunity to opt-out of retail cannabis sales locations in accordance with the following rules:
 - a. municipalities have until January 22, 2019, to opt-out;
 - b. if municipalities opt-out at this time, they can opt-in at a later date;
 - c. municipalities cannot opt-out at a later date.
4. Cannabis use will be harmonized with current rules for the use of tobacco under the Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2006.

Local Regulation over Retail Cannabis Stores

Under the new legislative framework, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario will play the lead role in the regulation of cannabis retail sales. Accordingly, in the event that a municipality does not opt-out of retail outlets, the municipality will have limited ability to regulate or influence the establishment and operation of such retail stores.

Municipal Licensing

The Cannabis Licence Act, 2018, specifically prohibits municipalities from enacting their own licensing controls over cannabis retail stores. Instead, the Cannabis Licence Act, 2018, sets out a licensing and regulatory regime for private cannabis retail stores administered by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. The statute establishes eligibility criteria for the issuance of licences and authorizations and the AGCO has recently posted a detailed licensing framework that requires two licences (Retail Operator Licence and Cannabis Retail Manager Licence) and an authorization (Retail Store Authorization) from the AGCO for each retail store (see <https://www.agco.ca/content/cannabis-retail-regulation-ontario> for more details).

Opportunity for Comment on Retail Sites

Similar to the manner in which new sites selling alcohol are established, the AGCO will provide notice of applications for new cannabis retail store authorizations and will provide a

15-day window for the public and municipal government to submit comments for each store site proposed by an approved operator. The legislation provides that municipal comments should focus on whether a proposed storefront location is in the public interest, as defined in the regulation. In the regulation, public interest is defined as public health or safety, protecting youth and eliminating the illegal market. At this point, it does not appear that municipal governments will be provided any other pre-notification of applications.

In light of such a short, 15-day window for comment, it has been proposed that municipal governments that do not opt-out of cannabis retail sales may wish to consider creating a policy statement identifying specific and significant locally sensitive considerations or uses which best represent the expectations of the community in allowing cannabis retail. Such a policy framework could be used to provide comments to the AGCO within the commenting window on proposed sale locations.

Zoning

The Provincial legislative framework expressly prohibits municipalities from implementing special zoning regulations that would have the effect of distinguishing the use of land, buildings or structures for cannabis retail sales from any other type of retail store. Accordingly, in the event that the Township does not opt-out of cannabis retail sales, such stores will be permitted to be established, as a right, at properties in Wainfleet having a Hamlet Commercial (C1) zoning.

That said, the Provincial licensing process does not eliminate the requirement for cannabis retail stores to comply with the zoning by-law and other municipal planning documents (as they relate to general retail uses). The definitions and other technical requirements (ex. minimum lot area, maximum lot coverage, minimum frontage, front yard, interior and exterior side yard, rear yard, etc.) within the municipality's Official Plan and Zoning By-law are applicable to all retail, including cannabis retail stores. Retail sale of cannabis from a provincially licensed store is legal and is a permitted use in the retail zones.

Municipal Inspections

While the licensing of cannabis store operations will be the responsibility of the AGCO, stores will be subject to the Building Code (under the Building Code Act), Fire Code (under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act) and other regulations that also apply to all other retail operations. Therefore, where a building permit is required, the Township's Chief Building Official will be required to undertake duties as usual. Likewise, Fire Code compliance is also mandatory.

Other Enforcement

The Cannabis Licence Act, 2018, will be enforced by the AGCO through regulatory measures such as licence sanctions (e.g. suspensions and revocations, and monetary penalties enabled under the Alcohol and Gaming Regulation and Public Protection Act, 1996). The act establishes general offences respecting the licensing scheme, including

prohibitions against hindering inspectors or investigators and against retaliating against a person because of any disclosure to the Registrar or to an inspector or investigator.

Retail Sales

Ontario's cannabis retail stores regulatory framework provides that cannabis retail stores will be permitted to open between 9:00 am and 11:00 pm on any day, consistent with the new hours announced for retail stores for alcohol.

According to Ontario Regulation 468/18 under the Cannabis License Act, 2018, all private recreational Cannabis retail storefronts must be stand-alone stores. A retail store authorization would not be issued to a proposed cannabis retail store if the retail space where cannabis would be sold is not be enclosed by walls separating it from any other commercial establishment or activity and from any outdoor area. Nor can the space be entered from or accessed through any other commercial establishment or activity, other than a common area of an enclosed shopping mall. Also a license would not be issued if the cannabis to be sold is received or stored where it is accessible to any other commercial establishment or activity or to the public.

Retailers will not be permitted to allow anyone under the age of 19 to enter their stores and any individual who works in the retail cannabis market must complete approved training in the responsible sale of cannabis.

The legislation also limits the holder of a retail store authorization to sell only cannabis purchased from the Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporation. Additionally, the only other items permitted to be sold at cannabis retail stores will be cannabis accessories and shopping bags.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Province has announced funding for all municipalities through the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund. The fund will provide a total of \$40 million funding over two years to municipalities to help with the implementation costs of recreational cannabis legalization.

For the first payment in January of 2019, the Province will distribute \$15 million of the fund between all municipalities based on the following criteria:

- 2018 MPAC household numbers;
- 50/50 split in household numbers between lower- and upper-tier municipalities; and
- Adjustments to provide at least \$5,000 to each municipality.

The Township of Wainfleet is eligible to receive \$5,000 under this formula.

For the second payment, the Province will distribute a further \$15 million of the fund based on the following criteria:

- If a municipality has not opted-out of hosting private retail stores in accordance with Cannabis Licence Act, it will receive funding based on the 2018 MPAC household numbers, adjusted so that at least \$5,000 is provided to each municipality;
- If a municipality has opted-out of hosting private retail stores in accordance with the Cannabis Licence Act, it will receive only a second installment of \$5,000;

- If a municipality opts-out by January 22, 2019, and opts back in at a later date, that municipality will not be eligible for additional funding.

The Province will send an allocation notice to municipalities setting out the amount of the second payment by March 2019.

The Province is setting aside the remaining \$10 million of the fund to address costs from unforeseen circumstances related to the legalization of recreational cannabis, and priority will be given to municipalities that have not opted-out.

Finally, if Ontario's portion of the federal excise duty on recreational cannabis over the first two years of legalization exceeds \$100 million, the Province will provide 50 per cent of the surplus only to municipalities that have not opted-out as of January 22, 2019.

Municipalities are required to use the money they receive from the Fund solely for the purpose of paying for implementation costs directly related to the legalization of cannabis. Examples of permitted costs include:

- Increased enforcement (e.g., police, public health and by-law enforcement, court administration, litigation);
- Increased response to public inquiries (e.g., 311 calls, correspondence);
- Increased paramedic services;
- Increased fire services;
- By-law/policy development (e.g., police, public health, workplace safety policy).

Municipalities may not use the money they receive from the Fund to pay for:

- Costs that have been, or will be, funded or reimbursed by any other government body, or third party;
- Costs not related to cannabis legalization.

The Province is also working to establish a process by which a sample group of municipalities will be required to provide reporting information on the use of provincial funds and the impact of the funding. At this time, reporting details are not known. Additionally, the Province may request to review municipal records or conduct an audit relating to municipal expenditures of money received through the fund.

Options

The Cannabis Licence Act provides:

Prohibition on stores

41 (1) A municipality may, by resolution passed no later than January 22, 2019, prohibit cannabis retail stores from being located in the municipality.

Outstanding applications

(2) Despite subsection 4 (10), the Registrar shall refuse any applications that are outstanding at the time a resolution is passed by a municipality under subsection (1) for a retail store authorization in respect of a proposed cannabis retail store to be located in the municipality.

Lifting of prohibition

(3) A municipality that has prohibited cannabis retail stores under subsection (1) may, by resolution, lift the prohibition and permit cannabis retail stores to be located in the municipality.

Lifted prohibition may not be restored

(4) A resolution passed for the purposes of subsection (3) is final and may not be reversed.

Notice

(5) A municipality shall provide to the Registrar, in the prescribed time and manner, notice of every resolution passed under this section.

Publication

(6) The Registrar shall publish on the Commission's website a list of the municipalities in which cannabis retail stores may not be located in accordance with this section, along with the dates of the relevant resolutions.

At this time, therefore, the following options are available to Council:

1. Enact a resolution to opt-out of cannabis retail stores being located in the municipality (by January 22, 2019);
2. Do not enact a resolution to opt-out, which would result in retail stores being permitted to establish in the municipality;
3. Seek additional information regarding the matter (ex. undertake public engagement, direct staff to undertake additional research, etc.).

OTHERS CONSULTED:

Senior Leadership Team

ATTACHMENTS:

- a) Appendix "A" - Niagara Region – Public Health Consideration with Private Retail Cannabis Model
- b) Appendix "B" – Summary of Public Comments Received

Respectfully submitted by,

William J. Kolasa,
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

APPENDIX "A"

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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/msbalcstragegy.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>

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- vii Alberta Health Services (2018). AHS recommendations on cannabis regulations for Alberta municipalities. Available from: <http://rmalberta.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)

**APPENDIX “B” to Report ASR-040-2018
Public Comments Received**

	OPT-IN
1.	<p>I just wanted to share my view on the Cannabis topic from last night's meeting. Personally, I think it is important to look into the positive financial impact this can have on our community.</p> <p>From my understanding, since we are such a small populated community our financial incentive would be smaller than bigger cities due to our small population.</p> <p>However, I understand that the government is offering profit sharing North of \$100M in revenue.</p> <p>Cannabis is a HUGE industry, and to have profit sharing on this venture sounds fantastic to me!</p> <p>I understand there are Political challenges with supporting this in our community. As I see it, there are Wainfleet residents using Cannabis and if not offered in Wainfleet, will obtain their Cannabis through the next most convenient method.</p> <p>I understand the challenges with allowing Cannabis in the community, but I do not like the idea of passing up legal revenue streams.</p> <p>I recall attracting business to Wainfleet to raise additional funds was a hot topic during campaigning and at the Mayor debate. Well, this is the first opportunity put before us, and I think the potential for this opportunity is very attractive.</p> <p>It appears, and correct me if I am wrong that the government may be offering more incentives to the Municipalities that opt in now, than opting in later. Timing is very important in business.</p> <p>There are a number of commercial locations that I personally think would work for Cannabis in Wainfleet.</p> <p>Not that this matters, but I am not a Cannabis user, but I do believe in capitalizing on opportunities.</p>
2.	<p>My wife and I, 15-year residents of Wainfleet, have reviewed the Wainfleet staff's report on Cannabis and we are fully in favour of Wainfleet opting in.</p>
3.	<p>100% yes!!! Opt in for marijuana retail in Wainfleet. Promote new business and grow our little hamlet in the centre of town. Can be done respectably and profitably!</p>
4.	<p>Just wanted to reach out and voice my support of retail cannabis stores in Wainfleet.</p> <p>For the record, I'm not a cannabis user and haven't been since high school, where it was readily available despite being illegal at the time. I don't believe having a retail store in the township will make it any easier than it already is for kids to get their hands on it.</p> <p>I believe most of the hesitation comes from the fact that this is a new path for something that has been illegal up until now. It's just a matter of time before this is as normal as beer and liquor at the local Avondale. I see it as an opportunity to encourage a new business to open up in Wainfleet, employ fleters and pay taxes. Why not get in while there are incentives from upper tier governments?</p>
5.	<p>I am a resident of Wainfleet and so is my husband.</p> <p>We are both in support of cannabis being sold in Wainfleet.</p> <p>Thank you for taking comments from the public.</p> <p>I think this would be good for our local economy, and I implore you to look beyond the out of date beliefs still held by some and take a more scientific approach. I am a business owner and professional, not some strung out junkie. Please look beyond stereotypes. There are probably more people using it than will publicly admit to it for fear of being ostracized by the community.</p>

6.	<p>I am writing today to encourage the township of Wainfleet to OPT IN to retail cannabis stores. As the province is only going to issue 25 licenses initially the chances are that a store will not be located in Wainfleet any time soon.* Therein there is no immediate threat of any changes to life in Wainfleet immediately.</p> <p>However Township residents of an entrepreneurial spirit should not be prevented from planning and applying to be part of his exciting new industry when further rounds of licensing allow for more stores across the Province.</p> <p>Wainfleet has a history with Cannabis. Illegal grow operations have called the area home off and on for years. The township might rather keep that history quiet but that ignores this opportunity to seize control of the Cannabis storyline in Wainfleet. It is also an opportunity to keep money spent by Wainfleet residents on Cannabis, in Wainfleet rather than it leaking out to neighbouring jurisdictions or away through the internet.</p> <p>With legalization Cannabis is just another agricultural crop and everyone knows agriculture is the heart of Wainfleet.</p>
OPT-OUT	
1.	<p>Please put down our family as NO for Pot stores in Wainfleet. You also should be looking at denying access to grow it in Wainfleet.</p>
2.	<p>As much as wanting to attract small business to our township, is something that would be beneficial to us, my opinion this is not the place to start.</p> <p>There are many other classes of small businesses we could use here. A cannabis store I feel is not a store front other retailers would want to build around.</p> <p>If after building a vibrant downtown retail area, you can then if desired and warranted, opt back in. We are at the beginning of our development, this enables us to do it correctly.</p>
3.	<p>In regards to Cannabis store in Wainfleet it's bad enough it is being grown in Wainfleet we don't need any stores</p>
4.	<p>Opt out - Principle of rural life style and family values are greater than money rewards !</p>
5.	<p>I am a mother of 3 young children here in Wainfleet, volunteer with a local church and elementary school, and work in Human Resources part time for 2 local Wainfleet small businesses.</p> <p>I can not speak for all of the students, teachers, and employees I work with, but I will speak for myself and my family.</p> <p>At this time I would prefer Wainfleet to not have a location to sell cannabis. Just like I plan my grocery shopping trip because it is out of town, or plan a pharmacy trip, or plan a doctor's appointment, etc, I would like to see residents "plan" their trip to purchase cannabis instead of just "picking it up at the corner store on the way home from work".</p> <p>I know it's not a great reason, but it's my reason. I am not trying to stop the sales or stop people from partaking because I know it is their choice, I just think the medium sized cities around us have a better infrastructure and security to handle a product like this.</p> <p>I would encourage Wainfleet to not opt in to the program at this time.</p>
6.	<p>I've lived in Wainfleet for 44 years.</p> <p>There is no Walmart, Tim Hortons, Grocery store, laundry mat, dry cleaner, bakery, butcher, or shopping mall etc. here in Wainfleet.</p> <p>The last time I was in the Avondale store, our only convenience store, the cigarettes were still shielded</p>

	<p>out of sight.</p> <p>Our teens are bused out of the township to high schools and college.</p> <p>When we need to shop or purchase anything for our every day living, we leave our community and do our business and shopping in the surrounding towns. That's the way of a rural township.</p> <p>Why would we allow a marijuana outlet in our township? It doesn't make sense. We don't need it or want it .</p> <p>The store would be a very easy target because there isn't enough police presence or protection available in Wainfleet.</p> <p>Please say no to retail cannabis in Wainfleet.</p> <p>Nimby!</p> <p>I witnessed one too many drug busts in my neighbourhood.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
7.	<p>I am shocked that this is something we are considering. I sincerely don't believe we have the services including policing support that will be required and the costs will be paid by whom? Further, introducing a retail shop like this into our small community may invite trouble that we do not need. Wainfleet has so little retail; I can't understand why we would want retail of this nature.</p>
8.	<p>This is a completely bad idea in my opinion, I can't see anything good coming from having a storefront of this nature in our town. It will bring down property values and bring in undesirable people. FIND ANOTHER WAY TO INCREASE OUR TAX BASE. THIS DEFINATELY ISNT THE RIGHT CHOICE.</p>
9.	<p>It is my opinion that Wainfleet Opt-out of letting Cannabis retail stores in Wainfleet, and possibly not allowing further legal or illegal cannabis manufacturing in Wainfleet, change the class of cannabis growing from agricultural rates to Commercial rates as cannabis growing is not a Farming operation!</p>
	<p>INDIFFERENT</p>
1.	<p>First of all thank you for letting us give our view. Second, our family talked about it at supper (four voting adults) and two of us didn't seem to care one way or the other. The other two said that they thought it would be okay.</p> <p>Thank you for letting us express our opinions.</p>