
REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: July 7, 2018 **REPORT NO.:** 18-115

SUBMITTED BY: Alex Wallace **FILE NO.:** 1-6-5.4
Development Services Manager

SUBJECT: Non-Medical Cannabis Community Engagement Results

PURPOSE

To provide Council with a summary of the Legalization of Non-Medical Cannabis (NMC) – Community Engagement.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

That staff's recommendations be used to develop the technical aspects of the bylaws and polices pertaining to the legalization of NMC.

SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

To gain public input relating to the legalization of NMC, the following events took place:

1. From May 24th to June 8th, the legalization of non-medical cannabis – Community Engagement survey was posted on the City's website and Facebook page. The survey was promoted in the Dawson Creek Mirror through ads and an article describing the City's approach to legalization. During the 16 day period the survey received 854 survey results.
2. On May 29th a presentation was given to the Dawson Creek & District Chamber of Commerce about the City's approach to legalization.
3. An open house was held on July 4th at the Encana Events Centre to present the survey results and to give the community the opportunity to ask questions about the impending legalization. At this event, the community had the ability to vote on whether they agreed or disagreed with the outcome of the survey. The majority of public comments were concerning smoking in public and how personal and large scale grow facilitates will affect the community. (See results included at the end of this report).

As a result of these events, staff recommends the following policy direction for the development of recreational cannabis within the community:

Retail Sales:

- NMC will be sold in commercial zones and stores and should be located 150 metres from schools, colleges, sports fields and parks. This is being proposed due to the proximity of retail zones to schools, colleges, sports fields and parks. (See maps for 150 metre vs 300 metre buffers).

Determine an appropriate buffer between NMC retail stores.

Public Consumption:

- Update the appropriate bylaws to allow smoking and vaping in public spaces except areas frequented by children, including community parks, playgrounds, trails or sports fields. Staff received comments and concerns about the provincial government's stance on smoking cannabis in public. Council has the jurisdiction to restrict smoking in public further.
- Restrict smoking at special public events.
- Add cannabis to the current smoke-free buffer zone around public entrances, windows and air intakes to 7.5m. This applies to business entranceways that are not meant for the public (i.e., laneway doors and loading docks) as per the Smoking Regulation Bylaw.

Cultivation:

- Update the bylaws to permit licensed commercial producers to grow on land outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) within M-2 Industrial Light & M-3 Industrial Heavy zone and the determined residential land use setbacks.
- Individuals will be allowed to grow a maximum of four cannabis plants (indoor or outdoor) plants must not be visible from public spaces.

Update relevant municipal bylaws and policies:

- Zoning Bylaw
- Cannabis Policy NMC applications
- Business License Bylaw and determine fees
- Smoking in Public Spaces Bylaw
- Nuisance Bylaw
- Cannabis Production Bylaw

Next Steps:

Staff will develop more detailed bylaws and policies with the help of Young Anderson. These will be presented to Council at the August 20th Council Meeting. The public will have the ability to present feedback at the public hearing prior to adoption.

Date	Activity	Details
August 20 th	Staff presents bylaws and policies based on public and Council feedback	Develop regulations on appropriate buffer zones determined in land use processes. Update relevant municipal bylaws and policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning Bylaw • Cannabis Policy non-medical cannabis (NMC) applications • Business License Bylaw • Smoking in Public Spaces Bylaw • Nuisance Bylaw • Cannabis Production Bylaw
Fall Fair August 8 th - 12 th	Report Back to the public about progress toward legalization	A booth has been booked for the City to present information to the public at the annual Fall Fair. Informational posters will be displayed and City staff will be available to answer questions.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council could provide alternative direction to staff.
2. Council could defer any changes to the bylaws and the public engagement strategy until the Provincial regulations are passed into law. The Province has opened the application portal and will start accepting applications for NMC soon. It is suggested that the City be proactive towards NMC implementation to be prepared for the pending legalization in October of 2018.

IMPLICATIONS

- (1) Social** Legalization of Non-Medical Cannabis (NMC) is a vast and complex issue. The regulation of the use and sale of non-medical cannabis, like tobacco and alcohol, has been a very controversial issue due to various moral, ethical, public health, legislative and logistical issues associated with the matter. Public input is vital to developing regulations.
- (2) Environmental** N/A
- (3) Personnel** Staff is working through the implementation plan that was presented to Council on May 2nd. Council will be updated throughout the process.
- (4) Financial** Staff time was used to manage and review survey results. The Request for Proposals for Retail Sales of Cannabis Regulation Development has been awarded to Young Anderson for \$15,000 plus taxes. As noted in previous meetings, this work will be funded through the operational budget utilizing money allocated for the South Peace Comprehensive Development Plan, which we have been advised will not be completed this year.

(5) Risk Assessment Compliance: Staff will develop zoning, business license and other bylaw amendments that will be formed by information gathered through research and the public consultation process and that meet the requirements of federal and provincial legislation and objectives.

Risk Impact: Low.

Internal Control Process: Bylaw amendments and policies must be considered and approved by Council.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Trust and Integrity: We will have a reputation for acting with integrity and will earn the trust of our stakeholders by working to develop positive relationships.

Governance: We will strive to make decisions that reflect the needs and desires of our community by encouraging a wide range of agencies and citizens to take a meaningful role in decision-making.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES N/A

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATION

Survey results will be shared on the City’s website and Facebook page. Staff will continue to execute the non-medical cannabis implementation and engagement plan. The bylaw amendments are expected to be presented at the August 20th Regular Council Meeting for Council’s consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That Report No. 18-115 from the Development Services Manager re: Cannabis Community Engagement Results be received; further, that staff be directed to prepare draft bylaw amendments and policies based on the following:

- Individuals will be allowed to grow a maximum of four (indoor or outdoor) cannabis plants which must not be visible from public spaces.
- Retail stores will be permitted to sell non-medical cannabis in commercial zones that are 150 metres from schools, youth facilities, parks, and playgrounds and an appropriate distance from other non-medical cannabis retail stores.
- Smoking and vaping will be allowed in public spaces, except areas frequented by children including community parks, playgrounds, trails, sports fields and at special public events.
- Smoking and vaping will not be allowed within 7.5 m around public entrances, windows, air intakes and business entranceways that are not meant for the public (i.e., laneway doors and loading docks).
- Licensed commercial producers will be allowed to grow on M-2 Industrial Light & M-3 Industrial Heavy zoned land outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) within appropriate residential land use setbacks.

Respectfully submitted,

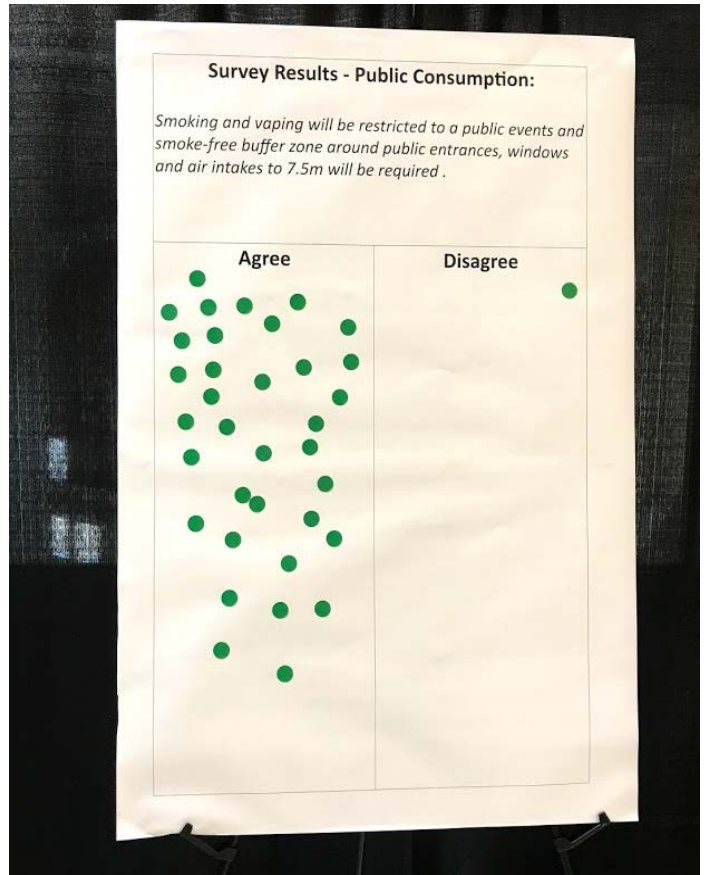
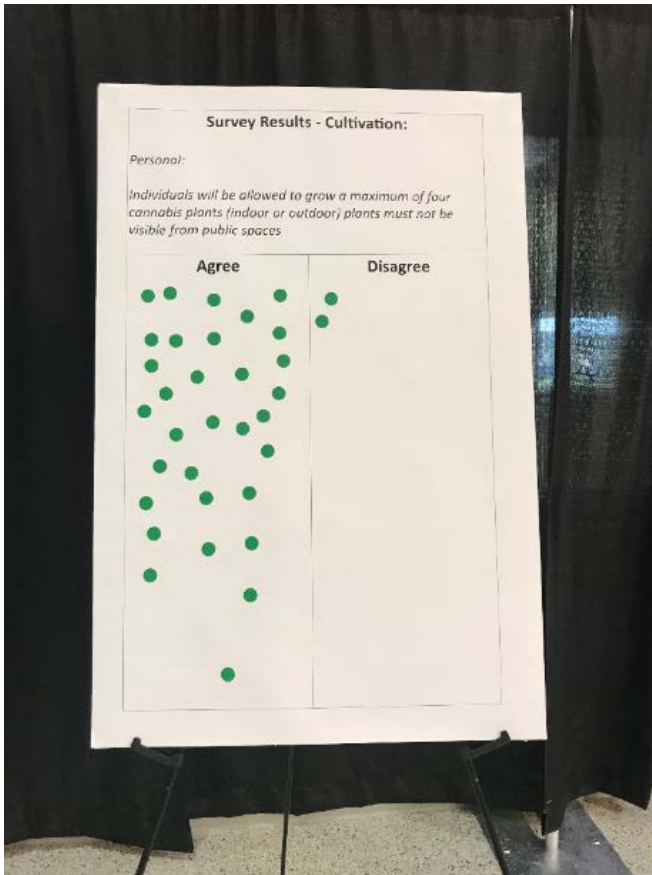
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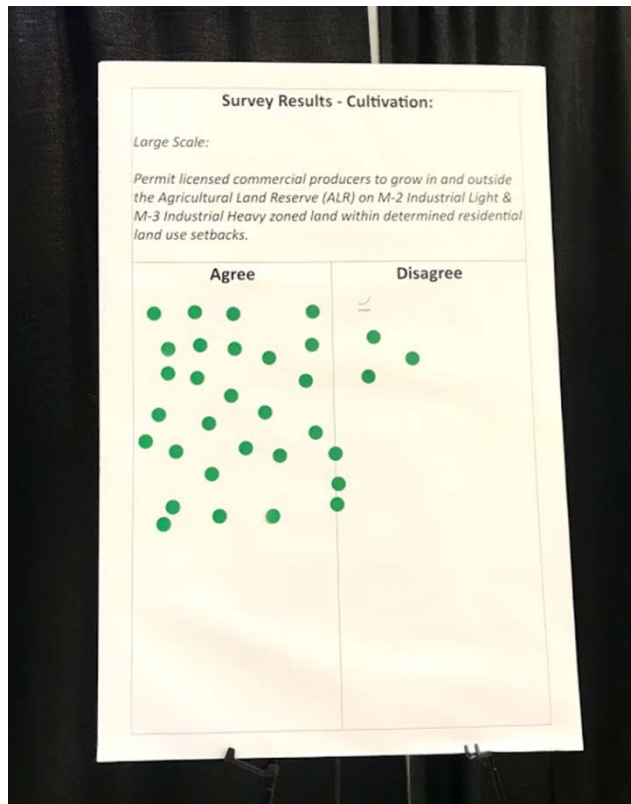
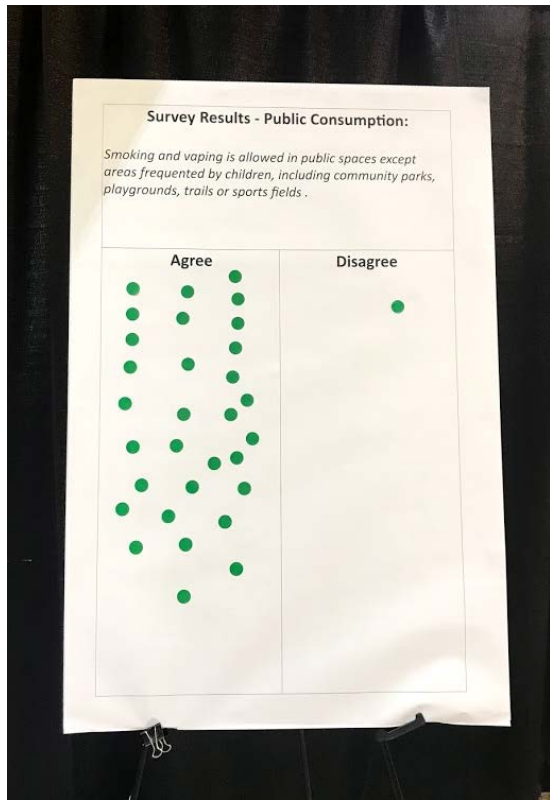
Alex Wallace
Development Services Manager

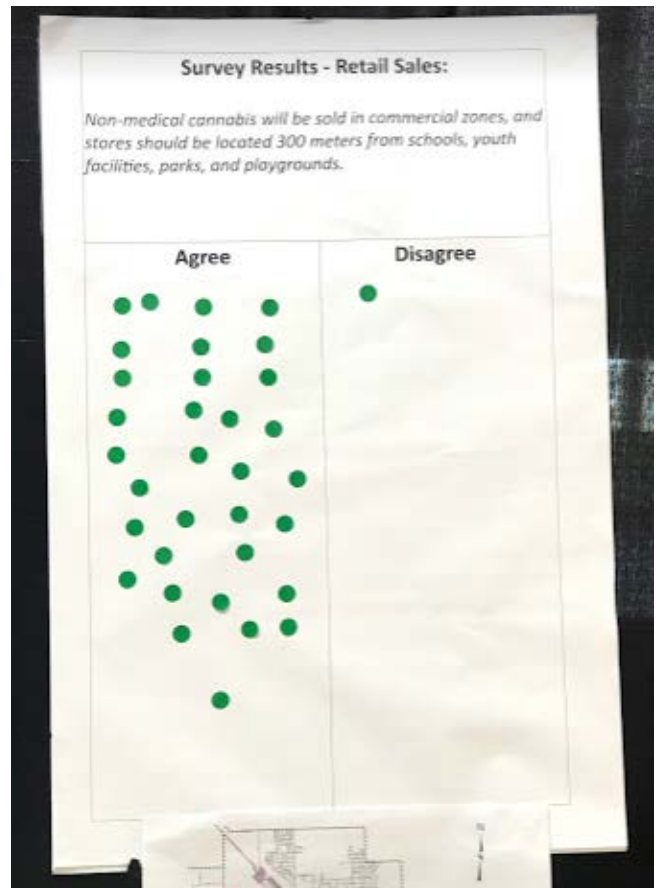
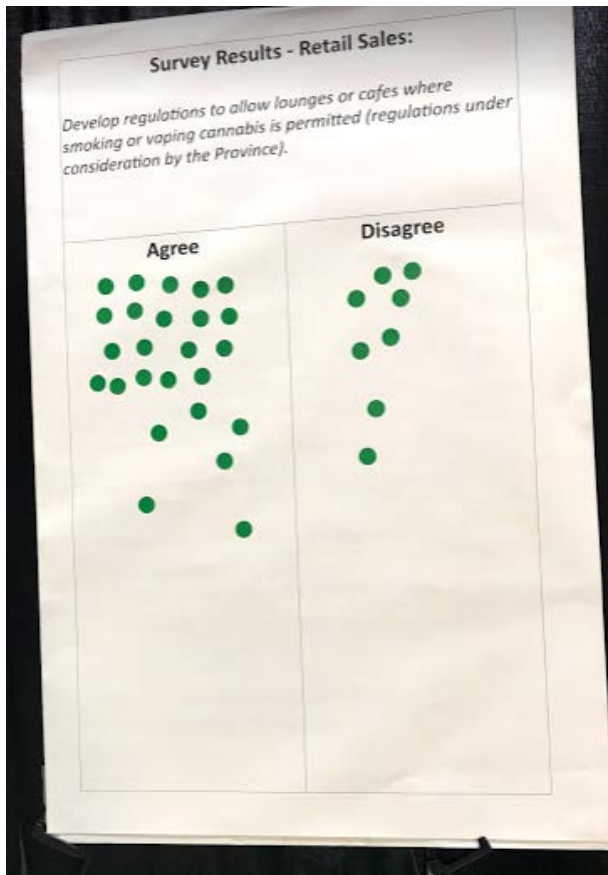
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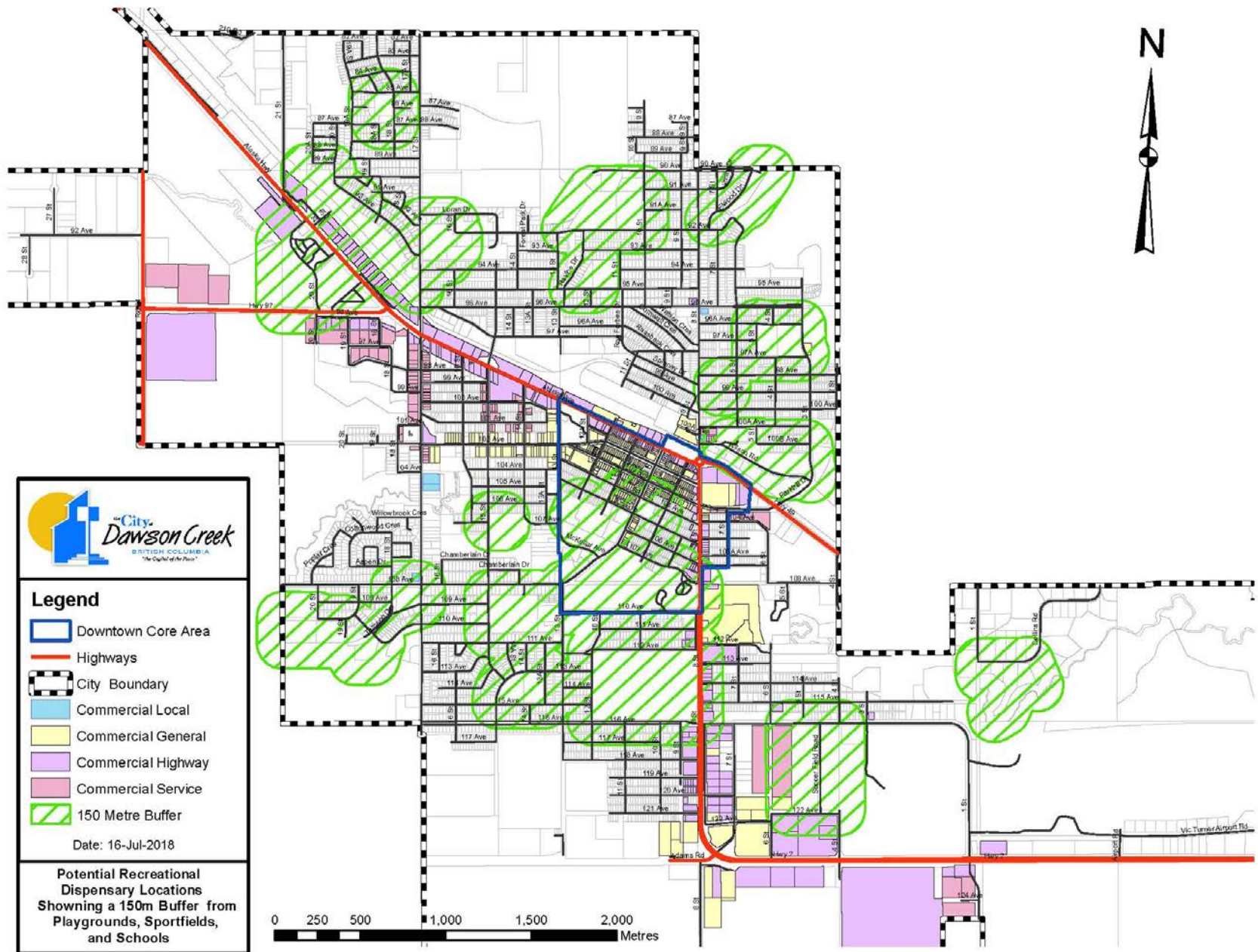
Public Meeting Results







150 Metre Buffer



300 Metre Buffer

