

REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: June 13, 2018 **REPORT NO.:** 18-103

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

SUBJECT: Cannabis Survey Results

PURPOSE

To provide Council with an update on the Legalization of Recreational Cannabis – Community Engagement survey results.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

This data will be received for information and be used to help shape policies and bylaws relating to cannabis legalization.

SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

From May 24th to June 8th, the Legalization of Recreational 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. A presentation was also given to the Dawson Creek & District Chamber of Commerce. During the 16 day period the survey received:

Response Counts



Totals: 854

Attached is a detailed report of the survey results. Staff will post with the results on Facebook and the City’s website. More results were received during this period than the fiscal gap survey or any survey in recent memory.

Next Steps:

The Request for Proposals for Retail Sales of Cannabis Regulation Development will close on June 29, 2018. Staff will review the proposal and select a consultant. Survey data will be used to develop cannabis regulations. On Jun 19 the senate passed Bill C-45, the government's legislation to legalize recreational marijuana. A target date has been set for October 17, 2018 this is 17 weeks away. It is staff's recommendation to amend the implementation plan:

Date	Activity	Details
June 11 th – June 15 th	Staff summarizes survey data and prepares for the public meeting.	Staff will summarize the data that has been collected so it can be presented to Council and the public.
June 25 th meeting	Staff presents data to Council.	Staff will present the summarized survey data to Council.
TBD based on Council Schedule	Public meeting to present the results and next steps.	This event will summarize the feedback received from the online survey. This event will be an opportunity for the public to ask staff and Council about cannabis legalization.
June 25 th to July 23 rd	Staff prepares bylaws and policies based on public and Council feedback for the July 23 rd meeting.	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 the changes that have been made.	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.

Due to the overwhelming response to the survey Council may want to consider not holding a public meeting the upcoming weeks but instead allow the public to comment on proposed changes to the bylaws during the public hearing and notification process. This will allow the public to suggest changes and addition to draft proposed bylaws.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Direct staff to not proceed with a public meeting and instead use the public hearing and notification process to hear public comments after bylaw development.
2. That Council provide alternative direction to staff.
3. That Council defers any changes to its bylaws and the public engagement strategy until the Provincial regulations are passed into law. The Province will start accepting applications for

NMC. It is suggested that staff be proactive towards NMC implementation to be prepared for the pending legalization in Oct 17 of 2018.

IMPLICATIONS

(1) Social Legalization of cannabis is a vast and complex issue. The regulation of the use and sale of cannabis, like tobacco and alcohol, has been a very controversial issue due to various moral, ethical, public health, legislative and logistic 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 will close on June 29, 2018. 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 Cannabis implementation and engagement plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That Report No. 18-103 from the Development Services Manager re: Cannabis Survey results be received; further, that staff be directed to organize and promote a public meeting as per the implementation plan; further, that staff be directed to create non-medical cannabis regulations based on survey results:

- Individuals will be allowed to grow a maximum of four cannabis plants (indoor or outdoor) plants must not be visible from public spaces.
- Non-medical cannabis will be sold in commercial zones, and stores should be located 300 meters from schools, youth facilities, parks, and playgrounds.
- Smoking and vaping is allowed in public spaces except areas frequented by children, including community parks, playgrounds, trails or sports fields.
- Restrict smoking at special public events, for example, beer gardens.
- Cannabis 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).
- Develop regulations to allow lounges or cafes where smoking or vaping cannabis is permitted.
- Permit licensed commercial producers to grow on land outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) within determined residential land use setbacks.
- Permit licensed commercial producers to grow M-2 Industrial Light & M-3 Industrial Heavy zoned land within determined residential land use setbacks.

Respectfully submitted,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Alex Wallace
Development Services Manager

Attachments: Survey Results

APPROVED FOR AGENDA BY CAO