

TO: Mayors, Wardens, Councillors, All Units

CC: Chief Administrative Officers/Clerks-Treasurers, All Units

FR: Betty MacDonald, Executive Director

RE: CANNABIS UPDATE AND INFORMATION REQUEST

Today the Province has announced public consultations on cannabis, seeking input on a few key questions including legal age to purchase and use recreational cannabis, where it can be purchased, and where it can be used. (<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20171006001>) You are able to respond to the public survey, as a concerned citizen, As well, recognizing the role municipalities will be required to play, Municipal Affairs will be reaching out to municipalities to hear their views on these questions (more detail to follow). As we understand it, this is only the first part of provincial consultation, and there will be further opportunities to provide feedback to the province. There are many questions and issues to be determined.

Following the Cannabis workshop a few months ago, UNSM requested municipalities be party to the provincial discussions on cannabis. As a result, UNSM, AMANS and law enforcement representatives have been invited to participate on an Intergovernmental Cannabis Working Group involving the Departments of Municipal Affairs and Justice.

In the meantime, the UNSM and AMANS have formed a Municipal Cannabis Working Group to help focus municipal issues and concerns around the legalization of cannabis in the Province. The goal is for the Municipal Cannabis Working Group is to make recommendations to the Intergovernmental Working Group over the next several months, prior to announcing provincial legislation. This group held its initial meeting on October 4 and has agreed to prepare information in three key areas: Human Resource and Workplace Safety policies, municipal costs and revenues associated with implementing and enforcing cannabis regulations, and Roles and Responsibilities between the Province and Municipalities. This Working Group will be tasked with making recommendations to the Province.

To assist the Municipal Working Group in gathering information, we would like to know what specific issues your municipality is concerned with regarding cannabis legalization and if you have begun to set up a cannabis committee at the local level. If you could respond to this request by Wednesday, October 18 it would be appreciated. We would like to know the issues you have identified and are working on. If you would like to be part of an e-mail group sharing information, please send your name to Tracy Verbeke at tverbeke@unsm.ca.

We also wanted to make you aware that FCM, in conjunction with its municipal association partners, is working on a Municipal Guide to Cannabis Legalization that will address the following areas:

1. Introduction and context (federal legislation, consultation processes, provincial and territorial processes (where known), explanation that the Guide builds on the Cannabis Primer)
2. Land use planning/zoning /retail location

3. Public consumption/place of use
4. Business licencing and other administration
5. Public Education/Public health/Workplace Safety
6. Supplementary Information (northern communities, drug-impaired driving enforcement, production facility-related considerations not addressed in above sections).

This will be a useful document to assist municipalities across Canada.



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PLEASE NOTE: If you do not want to receive communications from UNSM, please e-mail Tracy Verbeke at tverbeke@unsm.ca, and you will be removed from the mailing list.