



Municipality of South Huron
322 Main Street South, P.O. Box 759, Exeter ON N0M 1S6

January 2019

RE: Cannabis Legislation – Exeter BIA Perspective

Council of the Municipality of South Huron,
Recently, council representatives reached out to the Exeter Business Improvement Association (BIA) to collect feedback regarding the allowance of retail cannabis stores in South Huron.

The Cannabis Act (Bill 45-C) was introduced by the Federal Government of Canada to legalize and regulate recreational cannabis in Canada. Within this legislation, provinces have the authority to regulate the use, distribution, and sale of recreational cannabis.

Bill 36, introduced by the Government of Ontario, legalized the use of recreational cannabis on October 17, 2018. In addition to legalizing online sales of cannabis, Bill 36 legislates a tightly regulated private retail model that will launch by April 1, 2019, whereby the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) is the provincial regulator. Under this legislation, individual municipalities have the option of opting in or opting out of allowing cannabis retail stores in their municipalities.

The Exeter BIA is in support of opting in to allow cannabis retail stores in South Huron. As defined in the Exeter BIA's Strategic Plan, the BIA's mandate is to "beautify and market Exeter's commercial districts as a business, shopping, and service destination. We do this through marketing and events, beautification, and economic development initiatives." The BIA works to strategically promote, beautify, and encourage economic development to enhance opportunities for its membership.

Selling cannabis is a legal activity under the legislation the Government has introduced. As a business organization, we actively endorse free enterprise and encourage economic development and activity in our community. The BIA is conscious of opportunities that will increase our tax base and fill in gaps present in our business areas. Therefore, we would support a decision by Council to opt-in to allowing recreational cannabis retail stores in South Huron, given the Municipality of South Huron sets out appropriate guidelines for any cannabis store opening in our community.

For further information, to provide feedback, or to ask questions, please contact the BIA Chair Rose Glavin or the BIA Manager Georgia Athanasiou at the email addresses listed below.

Kind regards,

Rose Glavin
Chair, Exeter BIA
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