



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Chris Mills, CAO

DATE: December 12, 2022

MEMO NO.: ADMIN-2022-0021

SUBJECT: Federal Cannabis Act Review

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of the memorandum is to provide Council with information regarding review of the Federal Cannabis Act.

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with legislation, the federal government is undertaking a review of the Canadian Cannabis Act. An independent Expert Panel will provide advice to the federal Ministers of Health and Mental Health and Addictions on progress made towards achieving the Act's objectives and will help identify priority areas for improving the functioning of the legislation. The Act requires the Minister of Health to conduct a review of the legislation, its administration, and operation three years after coming into force, and for the Minister to table a report on this review in both Houses of Parliament 18 months after the review begins.

As an initial step in the legislative review, an online engagement process was launched. This includes a discussion paper and associated questionnaire for all Canadians.

COMMENTS:

The online questionnaire was announced September 22, 2022 and remained opened until November 21, 2022. The questionnaire was open to all Canadians, including individuals and various organizations and groups.

Town staff circulated the discussion paper and questionnaire to town departments for review and input on any matters pertaining to the Town's interests. Inquiries were also made with various other organizations that may have been providing input, including public health, members of the youth network and regional police. At the time of the writing of this memo, staff are unaware if any of these organizations provided input via the online questionnaire.

Based on the Town's approved Cannabis Retail Policy and past experience with retail store applications; specifically related to objections raised regarding the proximity of the proposed retail locations to youth-oriented facilities, staff completed the relevant parts of the questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire is attached to this memo.

CONCLUSION:

The Town of Halton Hills has submitted a response to the online questionnaire made available as part of the review of the Canadian Cannabis Act.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer