

# Memorandum

**To:** Mayor & Council  
**From:** Larry Plourde, Administrator  
**Date:** February 15, 2018  
**Re:** Cannabis Legalization

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## **BACKGROUND**

The Federal Government of Canada intends to pass legislation that will legalize Marijuana across the Country. Indication from the Liberal government is that legalization is to occur by July 1, 2018.

## **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this Report is to identify the issues relating to local governments. Following are some recommendations to the Gold River Council on how the legalization of marijuana may impact the following:

- Village of Gold River Zoning Regulation, including but not limited to:
  - Creating a definition for Marijuana Dispensary (medical included)
  - Creating zones in which Marijuana Dispensaries may be located
  - Establishing regulations regarding distances from schools, parks, libraries, child care centres, recreation centres, playgrounds, etc.
  - Establishing minimum floor spaces for marijuana dispensaries
  - Reviewing whether marijuana dispensaries may be combined with other businesses.
- Village of Gold River Business License Bylaw, including but not limited to:
  - Process for obtaining a business license
  - Restrictions on what can be sold
  - Combination businesses
  - Application process
  - Signage requirements
  - Security requirements
  - Maximum number of dispensaries permitted
  - Public Input
  - Criminal record checking
- Growing opportunities – Zoning and requirements
- Air quality and odour control

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations are for Council to consider, and Council may wish to undertake a specific review of this matter through a Committee or Public process outside of the Zoning Bylaw review or as part of the Zoning Bylaw review.

**LAND USE:**

**Buffers/Proximity**

Buffers/Proximity to areas frequented by children and other dispensaries should be established:

- That no dispensary shall be located within \_\_\_\_ metres of a playground or library.
- That no dispensary shall be located within \_\_\_\_ metres of a school or licensed day care facility.
- That no dispensary shall be located within \_\_\_\_ metres of another dispensary.

**Quantity of Dispensaries**

Only \_\_\_\_\_ Dispensaries shall be permitted in the Village of Gold river.

**Mixed-Use Zoning**

Dispensaries shall not be combined with any other use within the same premises. And that, the Village be supportive of onsite testing and or Vape-Lounge facilities within the Dispensary, providing that the Province will be permitting onsite usage.

**BUSINESS LICENSING:**

**Hours of operation**

All dispensaries to limit hours of business between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., unless approved upon application by Council to lengthen hours on certain days, i.e. Friday and Saturday.

**Security**

A security plan must be submitted with application for business license. Cameras and alarms are mandatory for each Dispensary.

**Approval to operate.**

An approval to operate must be signed by the property owner.

**Building permit.**

The Building must meet all the requirements of the BC Building Code including but not limited to ventilation requirements.

**Application**

Applications will be open for a set period once the legalization and government regulations are finalized. The applications will be vetted and reviewed by Council. A business plan will be required to accompany all applications.

**Application fees**

Similar to liquor control fees, including an application fee of not less than the liquor control board and an annual license fee not less than the liquor control board.

**Mail delivery or home delivery**

Will not be permitted.

**Business Licenses**

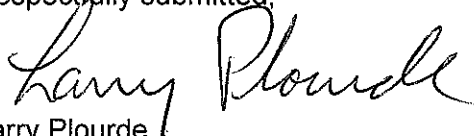
Will not be transferrable without approval of Council.

These are many but not necessarily all issues Council may wish to consider with the planned legalization of Marijuana by the Federal Government. The legalization of its use may prove to be beneficial in the view of many but how the cultivation and distribution of Marijuana in Gold River impacts and affects the community, its residents and businesses is unknown and could be detrimental to the community or its residents if not implemented in an appropriate manner.

The new OCP specifically states Council will consider the cultivation of marijuana in the Industrial Zones. The new Zoning Bylaw specifically prohibits the cultivation, sale or distribution (Dispensary) and on-site consumption of Marijuana in any zone unless explicitly permitted. Given the timing of the Federal legalization the wording in the OCP and Zoning Bylaws provides guidance on how cultivation, sales or distribution, and on-site consumption of Marijuana could occur, specifically through a Bylaw Amendment adopted by Council and considered through a Public Hearing.

If Council wishes to be proactive in proceeding with the cultivation, sales or distribution and on-site consumption of Marijuana then through the consideration of the issues identified in this Report Council could provide wording in the Zoning Bylaw to do so.

Respectfully submitted,



Larry Plourde  
Administrator