

Recommended City of Calgary Response to Provincial Engagement (REVISED)

Provincial Engagement Topic	Administration Comments	Recommended City of Calgary Response to Engagement
<u>Alberta's cannabis goals</u> The provincial government has developed four broad objectives that have been identified as priorities for making decisions on the legalization of cannabis: 1. Limiting the illegal market for cannabis 2. Keeping cannabis out of the hands of children and youth 3. Protecting public health 4. Promoting safety on roads, in workplaces, and in public spaces	The City of Calgary's previously established advocacy positions include a statement that there should be clear delineation of roles and expectations between federal, provincial and municipal governments to support the objectives and priorities of all orders of government. As The City develops an approach to regulating cannabis, Administration is aligned with all of these provincial objectives.	Municipal response covered under previously established advocacy positions (See Attachment 2)
<u>Purchasing cannabis</u> The provincial government will be responsible for determining how legal recreational cannabis will be distributed and where it can be sold. The provincial engagement outlines two main options for distribution: private retail stores or government owned and operated retail stores.	Subject matter experts from Administration have indicated a preference for a system similar to the current method of regulating alcohol distribution and sales within the province. A similar system would allow provincial oversight over the distribution of cannabis while allowing the City of Calgary flexibility in regulating and administering retail locations in a way that considers local context. The current method of regulating retail alcohol sales allows for discretion in a variety of areas including the location of businesses and operating hours. Further, current municipal business licensing provides an effective means of ensuring that operators have received required approvals including: Land use approvals, building/trade permits, police background checks, fire inspections, Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) approvals, and Alberta Health Services approvals. However, while a privatized system would fit best into the existing municipal regulatory framework, accommodating a new industry within that framework would result in increased strain on limited municipal resources. Ideally, this increased cost would be offset by municipal access to	Support a privatized framework for legal retail cannabis sales similar to the existing retail alcohol store model, contingent upon the sharing of tax revenues to compensate for the increased costs to The City.

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	funds collected through a federal or provincial tax regime.	
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<u>Using cannabis in public</u> While Bill C-45 would allow for adults to have up to 30 grams of cannabis in their possession in public, the responsibility of determining if cannabis can be consumed in public spaces has been delegated to the provinces. Through engagement, the ACS is requesting public input on whether cannabis should be allowed in public establishments only accessible by adults, similar to a bar or a lounge.	Similar to the existing AGLC retail liquor model, if the province were to allow for public cannabis lounges, there are parallels that can be drawn to existing liquor-serving establishments in Calgary. However, Administration would prefer to engage with the citizens of Calgary prior to providing a recommendation on this topic. Administration is developing a public engagement process to be launched in the fall following the release of the draft provincial Cannabis Framework once the municipal role in legalization is better understood.	Advocate that the province provide their Cannabis Framework in a timely a fashion to facilitate The City's engagement process.
<u>Setting the legal age</u> Bill C-45 proposes to set the minimum age for consumption of cannabis at 18, however the federal bill provides provinces with the authority to set age limits within their jurisdictions. The debate around the age limit has primarily focused on three options: maintaining the minimum age of 18 as mandated under proposed federal legislation, increasing the age to 25 years in order to limit deleterious effects to youth and the developing brain, or increasing the age to 21 which is seen as a middle ground.	Based on its extensive public and stakeholder engagement and research, the federal Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation recommended that the federal government set a national minimum age of purchase of 18, acknowledging the right of provinces and territories to harmonize it with their minimum age of purchase of alcohol. This recommendation was adopted by the Government of Canada in Bill C-45. In Alberta, the legal age for both alcohol and tobacco purchase and consumption is set at 18. Harmonizing the province's legal age with the federal minimum age limit for possession and consumption of cannabis would eliminate the requirement to establish a provincial enforcement framework that imposes additional fines and penalties beyond what is mandated in the federal criminal code. Harmonization would also result in a clear, consistent and simple framework for The City's enforcement officers. However, Administration also acknowledges the variety of health implications associated with young	Administration recommends not advocating for a specific minimum age until such time as the broader consequences of a minimum age, and the views of Calgarians are better understood.

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	people consuming cannabis. The provincial government has undertaken public opinion polling on the age limit and has agreed to share the results of these findings, with specific data for Calgary. This data will provide The City with an additional understanding of the current wishes of Calgarians.	
Provincial Engagement Topic <u>Protecting Roads and Workplaces</u> Through its engagement process, the provincial government specifically targeted two areas for input: drug-impaired driving and occupational health and safety. Bill C-45 proposes establishing a legal limit for the amount of THC allowed while driving, similar to the legal limit for alcohol. Also similar to alcohol, Bill C-45 allows provinces to create additional rules related to drug impaired driving. The province's engagement is also seeking input on whether existing provincial Occupational Health and Safety rules are sufficient to keep workplaces safe or if additional regulations are required.	Administration Comments The Calgary Police Service (CPS), as part of the cross-corporate working team, is interested in sanctions for cannabis that would mirror those already in place for alcohol. This includes the potential for immediate roadside sanctions on an escalating scale. Further discussions are also needed regarding point of contact oral fluid testing devices and the costs associated with purchasing these devices and increased training requirements. Regarding safety in the workplace, The City of Calgary has a comprehensive Substance Use policy which is currently under review given cannabis legalization. At this point, Administration does not see any need for changes to our internal Substance Policy based on potential changes to provincial legislation.	Recommended City of Calgary Response to Engagement Advocate for provincial regulations and funding models that clarify and support the Calgary Police Service's role in enforcing drug-impaired driving.

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<u>Economic Implications and Opportunities</u> The provincial engagement acknowledges that the legalization of cannabis will generate new economic activity and will likely create new employment. However, the province indicates that the potential for additional provincial tax revenue is relatively low given that the federal government will likely levy its own taxes on cannabis products and that overall levels of taxation must be kept reasonable to pull consumers away from the black market. Further, the province acknowledges the additional costs associated with regulating a distribution and retail system, carrying out public education, and costs associated with impacts to the health system.	It is expected that municipalities will have a role in regulation and enforcement of a legal cannabis regime. The City of Calgary advocates that any potential tax revenue proposals should include dividends to all three orders of government. Revenues from the legalization of cannabis would be used to support an increase in resources needed to effectively meet municipal roles and responsibilities in the regulation of a new policy area. For example, the potential funds allocated to municipalities could support enforcement efforts that may require new tools and resources to adequately measure, educate and enforce neighbourhood nuisances and public safety.	Municipal response covered under previously established advocacy positions (See Attachment 2)
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