



The City of Calgary's Advocacy Position on the Legalization and Regulation of Marijuana - IGA2016-0737

Presentation to Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

2016 November 03

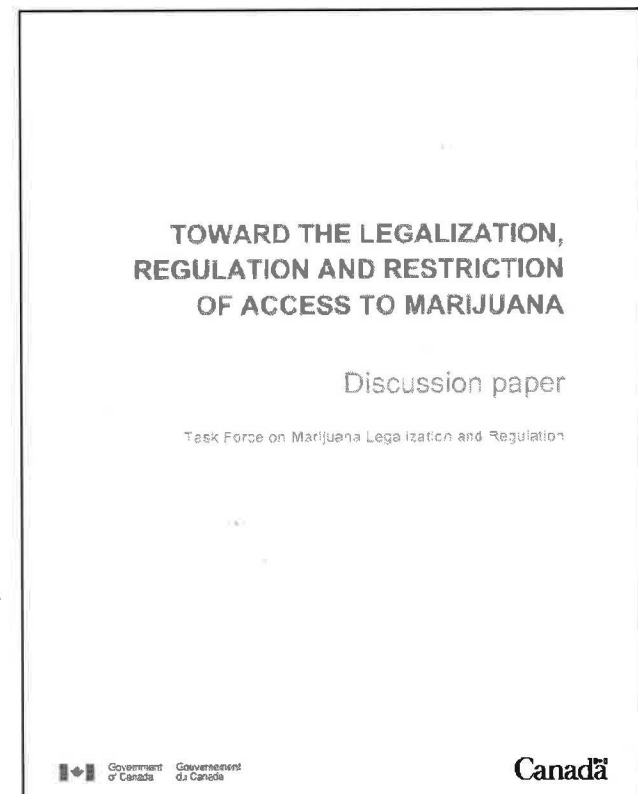
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Background

- In the 2015 Speech from the Throne, the Government of Canada committed to legalizing, regulating and restricting access to marijuana.
- The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, supported by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and the Minister of Health created a Task Force on Marijuana Legalization and Regulation.
- The federal government indicated that legislation to legalize and regulate marijuana will be introduced in the spring of 2017.

Background Cont'd

- In the summer of 2016, the Task Force released its discussion paper titled “Toward the legalization, regulation and restriction of access to marijuana”.
- The federal government was seeking advice in these areas:
 - Minimizing harms of use
 - Establishing a safe and responsible production system
 - Designing an appropriate distribution system
 - Enforcing public safety
 - Accessing marijuana for medical use



The City's Working Team Members

- Calgary Building Services
- Calgary Growth Strategies
- Calgary Police Service
- Calgary Community Standards
- City Manager's Office
- Calgary Neighbourhoods
- Intergovernmental & Corporate Strategy
- Law
- Mayor's Office

Submission to the Task Force

Administration's working team submitted a letter which shared The City's areas of concern based on the discussion paper for the Task Force's consideration.

Areas of concern included:

- Land Use and Business Licensing
- Community Standards
- Enforcement and Community Safety
- Information Sharing
- Social Supports
- Federal Standards

The City's Role in Advocacy

Administration wants to be proactive and communicate to the other orders of government what type of role we may want in the legalization and regulation of marijuana.

Administration will continue to participate in any opportunities for engagement and prepare for legislative change.

Advocacy Position 1:

Continuing to Engage Municipalities

Administration advocates that The City continue be engaged throughout the legalization process to ensure clear delineation of roles and expectations between Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments in this regulatory system.

Advocacy Position 2:

Authority of Each Order of Government

- Advocate for a national or provincial licensing system.
- The City could regulate public use of marijuana and nuisance factors related to recreational use.
- The City would like to regulate elements of marijuana growing and sales through the Land Use Bylaw and other related bylaws.

Advocacy Position 3:

Prohibiting or Restricting Residential Growing

Administration recommends that growing marijuana in the home be prohibited. If residential growth is allowed, Administration recommends restricting the scale of residential growing for health and safety reasons.

Advocacy Position 4:

Sharing Federal Tax Revenues

The City advocates that the federal government create a tax revenue proposal that includes funding being allocated to municipalities.

Advocacy Position 5:

Give Municipalities Time to Develop and Implement Necessary Local Regulations

Until there is more clarity on how the Government of Canada will structure Federal marijuana regulations, The City will not be able to fully understand how existing City rules will be impacted .

Administration Recommendation

Administration recommends that the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee approve the proposed advocacy position on marijuana legalization and regulation.

Next Steps

- Letter to the Ministers outlining The City's advocacy position
- Seek out further engagement opportunities with the Federal and Provincial Governments