

## Enabling Cannabis Retail Stores and Facilities

By Kristoffer Moen for Calgary City Council | February 21, 2018

Good morning Councillors and Administration staff, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation to regulate Cannabis retail stores and facilities through the City's land use planning process.

I have three brief comments on the following topics:

- (1) Limit the retailing of cannabis to include future school sites
- (2) Expanding the exclusion zone for Cannabis Stores near schools to 300 metres
- (3) Relaxation of separation distances

### Limit the retailing of cannabis to include future school sites

Thank-you Administration for including attachment 6 to report PUD2018-0056.

In reviewing the map, I noted that future school sites are excluded from the map. Further, the proposed legislation appears to focus on current built schools but is silent on future school sites.

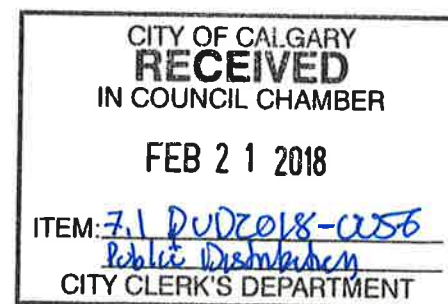
My concern is that normal course development of a community has small scale retail development build out years before the Province funds a public school. I'm unsure how the proposed legislation addresses the linear community development with school sites activated at the end of the buildout cycle well after commercial sites are in operation.

### Expanding the exclusion zone for Cannabis Stores near schools to 300 meters

The current proposed separation distance between Cannabis Store and school is 150 metres.

To put this into the context of the Community of Arbour Lake, the 150 metre separation would prevent a Cannabis Store from occurring at the Amaranth retail complex. Robert Thirsk High School is more than 150 metres from the northern boundary of "The Corner" at the Crowfoot retail center. The Corner shopping complex includes numerous small-scale retail sites that are frequented by students of Robert Thirsk school.

The 150 metre separation distance is well within the lunch time walking distance of a junior high or senior high school student. However, 300 metres is outside the walking zone for a student to leave the school, have lunch, and return to class on time.



## Relaxation of Separation Distances

The cover report describes a maximum 10 per cent relaxation to the stated separation distance.

My concern is the 150 metre separation distance from schools is the bare minimum publicly acceptable separation distance. Allowing an additional 15 metre relaxation pushes the cumulative effect of the calculations to push the bare minimum to 135 metre separation.

I would advocate for one of several solutions to address the concern:

- (1) Expand the minimum separation distance to include the 10% relaxation.
- (2) Include a clause that restricts the Development Authority to a 5% or 10 metre relaxation.
- (3) Tighten the Cannabis Store Guidelines to further restrict the Development Authority from granting a relaxation at or near the maximum allowed.

Thank-you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions.