

CANNABIS PRIVATE RETAIL STORES



On January 21, 2019, the **Town of Whitby** made the decision to opt-out of having private retail cannabis stores within its municipal boundaries.

More than 2,600 residents and people who work in Whitby provided feedback that helped Whitby Town Council make this decision.

In addition to the **lack of municipal control**, there are several outstanding local issues and concerns related to private retail cannabis stores including:

Total number of storefronts

Despite the current phased approach to issuing licences, there is no local control over the number of storefronts that could be licensed (and opened) in each municipality in the future.

Location of storefronts

Provincial regulations set no minimum distance between cannabis retail stores and some potentially sensitive locations, such as daycares and post-secondary institutions. It is also the responsibility of the Town to search for store applications, as the AGCO (Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario) will not provide direct notification. Municipalities only have 15 days to comment on proposed locations, and comments are limited to certain topics and are not binding.

Private retail, instead of government operated

Private retailers will be permitted to sell recreational cannabis, as opposed to having government-operated establishments as is done currently with alcohol through the LCBO.

Lack of meaningful funding support

The current proposed level of provincial funding is not a fair revenue split for municipalities to address cannabis legalization. There is also no funding currently dedicated beyond the next two years. The province – and the federal government – should do more to provide municipalities with meaningful sustained cannabis revenues.

Hours of operation

Private retail recreational cannabis stores will be permitted to open between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. under the new extended hours that were announced in December 2018 for the LCBO and the Beer Store. There is no local control over hours of operation.

The Town will continue to work with the Regional Municipality of Durham, Durham Regional Police Service and other area municipalities to address local impacts of the legalization of cannabis.