

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JANUARY 21, 2019

### COMMUNICATIONS

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#### Distributed January 11, 2019

#### Item No.

- |     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| C1. | Mr. John Mutton, President and Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Solutions Energy and Infrastructure, LLC, USA   Canada, dated December 13, 2018. | 1 |
| C2. | Ms. Melanie Woo, dated December 14, 2018.  | 1 |
| C3. | Mr. Angelo DiNardo, Greenock Drive, Maple, dated January 8, 2019.  | 1 |
| C4. | Mr. Krishnamachary Kesavan, dated January 9, 2019.   | 1 |

#### Distributed January 14, 2019

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| C5. | Ms. Kathryn Angus, President, Kleinburg & Area Ratepayers' Association, dated January 14, 2019. | 1 |
| C6. | Mr. Jeff Levy, dated January 12, 2019.  | 1 |

#### Distributed January 16, 2019

- |     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| C7. | Mr. Zehavi Zynoberg, dated January 15, 2019. | 1 |
|-----|--|---|

#### Distributed January 21, 2019

- |      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| C8.  | Ms. Sherri Kogan, dated January 18, 2019.        | 1 |
| C9.  | Mr. Furio Liberatore, dated January 21, 2019.    | 1 |
| C10. | Ms. Carolina Vandermeer, dated January 21, 2019. | 1 |

#### Distributed January 21, 2019 (at the meeting)

- |      |   |   |
|------|---|---|
| C11. | Mr. Asif Khan, National Secretary Public Affairs, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada, Jane Street, dated January 21, 2019. | 1 |
| C12. | Miss Michelle Di Stasi, dated January 21, 2019.   | 1 |
| C13. | Presentation material titled " <i>Legalization of Recreational Cannabis in Ontario</i> ".                               | 1 |

#### Disclaimer Respecting External Communications

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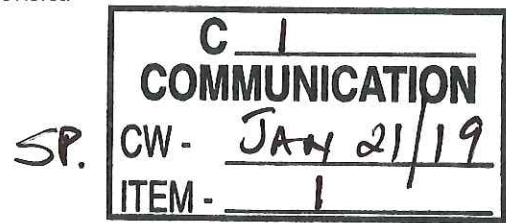
Please note there may be further Communications.

**Britto, John**

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**From:** John Mutton <jmutton@municipalsolutions.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 13, 2018 12:55 PM  
**Subject:** Correspondence for the Council Agenda

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed



Mayor and Members of Council,

On behalf of Cannapiece Corporation, the industry leader in health and regulatory compliance in the cannabis sector, we would respectfully ask Council to refer our zoning/licensing bylaw request to staff if Council chooses to "opt in" to recreational cannabis sales in your municipality.

Based on our expertise across North America, we would like to offer the following suggested wording to ensure that the recreational cannabis dispensaries have the highest compliance level, both for health and security of the patients/clients and the public.

We would request that "Preference be given to those recreational cannabis dispensaries that have a Health Canada approved medicinal cannabis health clinic with a medical practitioner on site"

Best Regards,

--

John Mutton | President and Chief Executive Officer

**Municipal Solutions - Energy and Infrastructure**

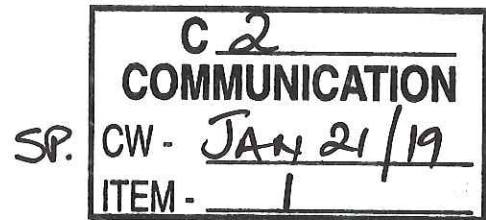
Cell: [REDACTED]

Municipal Solutions Energy and Infrastructure, LLC

USA | Canada

[www.municipalsolutions.ca](http://www.municipalsolutions.ca)

**From:** MW <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 14, 2018 4:49 PM  
**To:** Racco, Sandra <[Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca](mailto:Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca)>  
**Subject:** Please opt out the retail cannabis stores in Vaughan



Dear Sandra,

Marijuana is legalized for recreational use nationwide on October 17, 2018 despite of the absence of comprehensive regulations at both federal and provincial level due to the hasty legalization process. As residents, I am deeply concerned over the potential adverse impacts that may inflict on our life and community.

The province has provided the municipalities with a one-time window to opt out of retail sales. As residents, I am strongly opposed to allowing retail stores to sell cannabis in the City of Vaughan.

As a resident, I would like to know when the city will have this as a open discussion?

Your response will be appreciated!

Regards,

Melanie

在 2018年12月14日, 下午5:17, Racco, Sandra <[Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca](mailto:Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca)> 写道 :

Hello Melanie,

Thank you for your e-mail.

The topic of Cannabis was considered at our Council meeting of this week however despite the information that was provided to us by staff, Council was not prepared to move forward with a decision until the public has had a chance to be consulted as well.

Recognizing the fact that the Province has given us a deadline of January 22<sup>nd</sup> to submit our decision, and given that the holiday season is upon us, the first available date for consultation is on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, 2019. At this meeting, both Council and staff will have a chance to hear comments from the public on Cannabis. Further information will be forthcoming.

I encourage you and others to come out and provide your comments on whether you feel the City of Vaughan should opt in or opt out of allowing private retailers to open up in our City. If you are not able to attend, please send in your comments to us.

Public opinions are very important and will help us to make an informed decision.

I trust I have clarified your questions. Should you require more information, please let me know.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend!!!

*Sandra Yeung Racco, B. Mus.Ed., A.R.C.T.*

楊士淳 議員

Councillor, Concord/North Thornhill  
City of Vaughan

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Visit [Racco's Community Forum](#) on Facebook.

Please visit my new website [www.4myCommunity.ca](http://www.4myCommunity.ca)

<image001.jpg>

*"Don't be distracted by criticism. Remember that the only taste of success some people have is when they take a bite out of you"*

**From:** Mxy Woo <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Friday, December 14, 2018 11:15 PM

**To:** Racco, Sandra <[Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca](mailto:Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Please opt out the retail cannabis stores in Vaughan

Hi Sandra,

I have one more question: is there any reason the 21<sup>st</sup> of January is the first available date? I noticed many of other cities either had the meeting or their dates are much earlier..... after all the holiday season doesn't last that long.

I hope the city can set up a reasonable early date for this important subject.

Regards,  
Melanie

**From:** Racco, Sandra

**Sent:** Friday, December 14, 2018 11:20 PM

**To:** 'Mxy Woo' <[REDACTED]>

**Cc:** Coles, Todd <[Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca](mailto:Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca)>; Simmonds, Tim <[Tim.Simmonds@vaughan.ca](mailto:Tim.Simmonds@vaughan.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Please opt out the retail cannabis stores in Vaughan

Unfortunately the date is set by the city clerk. I have copied him on this e-mail for him to provide further clarification.

Have a good night!!!



*Sandra Yeung Racco*, B. Mus.Ed., A.R.C.T.

楊士淳 議員

Councillor, Concord/North Thornhill  
City of Vaughan

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Please visit my new website [www.4myCommunity.ca](http://www.4myCommunity.ca)



*"Don't be distracted by criticism. Remember that the only taste of success some people have is when they take a bite out of you"*

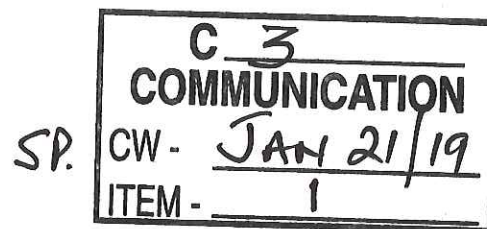
**From:** Responsible Plan <[info@responsibleplan.ca](mailto:info@responsibleplan.ca)>

**Date:** January 8, 2019 at 11:44:03 PM EST

**To:** Marilyn Iafrate <[marilyn.iafrate@vaughan.ca](mailto:marilyn.iafrate@vaughan.ca)>

**Subject:** Opt out of private cannabis stores

**Reply-To:** Responsible Plan <[info@responsibleplan.ca](mailto:info@responsibleplan.ca)>, Angelo DiNardo <[REDACTED]>



# RESPONSIBLEPLAN

Hello, my name is Angelo DiNardo and I live at [REDACTED] GREENOCK DR.

I am writing to urge you to ensure our municipality "opts-out" of hosting private cannabis retail outlets, and pressures the provincial government to provide a public option for the retail sale of cannabis in our communities.

The legalization of cannabis is the most significant public policy change that Canada has faced for generations. The people of our community are anxious about the consequences, particularly the likelihood of underage kids and teens getting their hands on cannabis. Recent public opinion research by Nanos shows that Ontarians are 11 times more likely to say the LCBO would be better than private retailers at keeping cannabis out of the hands of kids.

Unfortunately, the provincial government's plan for cannabis retail does not currently give our community the ability to choose the LCBO as a cannabis retailer. In fact, the "choice" they have given us is really no choice at all. It's an unfair Catch-22. In an unrealistically short time-frame, we must either:

- "Opt out" of hosting retail cannabis outlets, allowing an illicit market to continue to thrive at the expense of community safety and revenue.
- "Opt in" to hosting an unlimited number of profit-driven cannabis outlets, forever giving up control over how many outlets we must host or where those outlets can be located.

In either scenario, we are stripped of all community control but left with most of the enforcement costs.

We don't even have the ability to stop private stores from setting up within a stone's throw of our schools. During the election campaign, Doug Ford promised to keep them at least 450 metres from schools. But now it turns out the Ford government will allow them within just 150 metres. This is not right. This is not fair. Our community deserves a real choice. A responsible choice. A public choice like the LCBO.

The LCBO has a long, proven track record of responsibly selling a controlled substance. Existing LCBO locations could be easily retrofitted for the sale of cannabis. Our citizens will know where cannabis is sold, and they will take comfort knowing that it is being sold responsibly and effectively.

We can always opt-in later, once we have more information, more community control, and a trusted option, But for now, it's time for our community to demand a real choice.

We need to opt out of this irresponsible plan that Doug Ford is trying to impose on us, and we need to push for a responsible plan, so we can feel confident that cannabis is being sold here as responsibly as possible.

Sincerely,

Angelo DiNardo  
[REDACTED] GREENOCK DR

CC:

Premier Doug Ford  
Finance Minister Vic Fedeli  
Attorney General Caroline Mulroney  
Responsible Plan Team

[info@responsibleplan.ca](mailto:info@responsibleplan.ca)

OPSEU

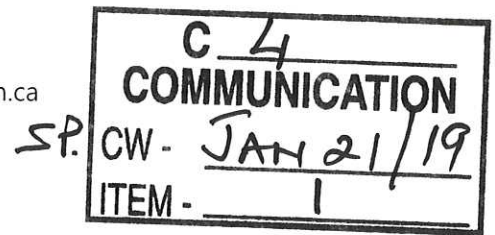
100 Lesmill Rd. Toronto, ON M3B 3P8

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**Britto, John**

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**From:** lafrate, Marilyn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 10:10 PM  
**To:** Mayor and Members of Council; Clerks@vaughan.ca  
**Cc:** Michaels, Gus; Ciampa, Gina  
**Subject:** Fwd: Opt out of private cannabis stores



FYI  
Please include as part of the public record.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Responsible Plan <[info@responsibleplan.ca](mailto:info@responsibleplan.ca)>  
**Date:** December 29, 2018 at 12:43:02 AM EST  
**To:** Marilyn lafrate <[marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca](mailto:marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca)>  
**Subject:** Opt out of private cannabis stores  
**Reply-To:** Responsible Plan <[info@responsibleplan.ca](mailto:info@responsibleplan.ca)>, Krishnamachary Kesavan  
<[REDACTED]>



Hello, my name is Krishnamachary Kesavan and I live at 62.

I am writing to urge you to ensure our municipality "opts-out" of hosting private cannabis retail outlets, and pressures the provincial government to provide a public option for the retail sale of cannabis in our communities.

The legalization of cannabis is the most significant public policy change that Canada has faced for generations. The people of our community are anxious about the consequences, particularly the likelihood of underage kids and teens getting their hands on cannabis. Recent public opinion research by Nanos shows that Ontarians are 11 times more likely to say the LCBO would be better than private retailers at keeping cannabis out of the hands of kids.

Unfortunately, the provincial government's plan for cannabis retail does not currently give our community the ability to choose the LCBO as a cannabis retailer. In fact, the "choice" they have given us is really no choice at all. It's an unfair Catch-22. In an unrealistically short time-frame, we must either:



- “Opt out” of hosting retail cannabis outlets, allowing an illicit market to continue to thrive at the expense of community safety and revenue.
- “Opt in” to hosting an unlimited number of profit-driven cannabis outlets, forever giving up control over how many outlets we must host or where those outlets can be located.

In either scenario, we are stripped of all community control but left with most of the enforcement costs.

We don't even have the ability to stop private stores from setting up within a stone's throw of our schools. During the election campaign, Doug Ford promised to keep them at least 450 metres from schools. But now it turns out the Ford government will allow them within just 150 metres. This is not right. This is not fair. Our community deserves a real choice. A responsible choice. A public choice like the LCBO.

The LCBO has a long, proven track record of responsibly selling a controlled substance. Existing LCBO locations could be easily retrofitted for the sale of cannabis. Our citizens will know where cannabis is sold, and they will take comfort knowing that it is being sold responsibly and effectively.

We can always opt-in later, once we have more information, more community control, and a trusted option, But for now, it's time for our community to demand a real choice.

We need to opt out of this irresponsible plan that Doug Ford is trying to impose on us, and we need to push for a responsible plan, so we can feel confident that cannabis is being sold here as responsibly as possible.

Sincerely,

Krishnamachary Kesavan  
62

CC:

Premier Doug Ford  
Finance Minister Vic Fedeli  
Attorney General Caroline Mulroney  
Responsible Plan Team

[info@responsibleplan.ca](mailto:info@responsibleplan.ca)

OPSEU

100 Lesmill Rd. Toronto, ON M3B 3P8

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**Britto, John**

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**From:** Coles, Todd  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2019 11:29 AM  
**To:** Bellisario, Adelina; Britto, John  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letters from The Kleinburg & Area Ratepayers" Assoc.  
**Attachments:** KARA Cannabis letter.docx; Greenbelt Bill 66.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed



Communications.

Todd Coles, BES, ACST(A), MCIP, RPP  
City Clerk  
905-832-8585, ext. 8281 | [todd.coles@vaughan.ca](mailto:todd.coles@vaughan.ca)  
City of Vaughan | Office of the City Clerk  
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr., Vaughan ON L6A 1T1  
[vaughan.ca](http://vaughan.ca)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Kathryn Angus" <[REDACTED]>  
Date: Mon, Jan 14, 2019 at 11:27 AM -0500  
Subject: Letters from The Kleinburg & Area Ratepayers" Assoc.  
To: "Council" <[Council@vaughan.ca](mailto:Council@vaughan.ca)>, "Coles, Todd" <[Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca](mailto:Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca)>, "Craig, Suzanne" <[Suzanne.Craig@vaughan.ca](mailto:Suzanne.Craig@vaughan.ca)>

Good morning all During the next two weeks there are meetings scheduled regarding the two issues noted in the attachments. I am forwarding these letters again to ensure that they are on record for each of the meetings.

With thanks for your attention to this

Kathryn Angus, President, KARA

3 December 2018

To: Mayor, Regional Councillors, Councillors, Todd Coles

#### Legalization of Recreational Cannabis

On October 17<sup>th</sup> we saw recreational cannabis being legalized in Canada and Ontario now allows on-line purchases, however on April 1<sup>st</sup> we will be seeing private retail stores begin to sell cannabis. Leading up to this time the province has provided the municipalities with a one-time window to opt out of retail sales.

The Kleinburg & Area Ratepayers' Association is opposed to this initiative being spearheaded by the federal/provincial governments. We feel that the 150M distance for the property line for a public or private school is not adequate, the hours of the retail stores are not reflective of regular store hours and will incur added security and staff training requirements. Also noted is the fact that municipalities have a limited authority to pass by-laws to further restrict the locations where cannabis can be used which could be a stumbling block when trying to reign in the areas available for smoking cannabis, and also cigarette.

It is for the reasons above, that our Association is opposed to allowing retail stores to sell cannabis in the Region of Vaughan.

Sincerely

Kathryn Angus,

President, Kleinburg & Area Ratepayers' Association

**Britto, John**

---

**From:** Furfaro, Cindy  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2019 9:54 AM  
**To:** 'jeff levy'  
**Cc:** Committee of the Whole Items  
**Subject:** RE: Cannabis meeting

<b>C 6</b>
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>
SP. CW - JAN 21/19
ITEM - 1

Thank you Jeff. I have copied the Clerks Department so that your email can be added as official communication to the agenda item.

Cindy Furfaro-Benning, M.A., Hon. B.A.  
Council Executive Assistant to Councillor Racco 905-832-8585, ext. 8198 | cindy.furfaro@vaughan.ca

City of Vaughan I Ward 4 Council Office, Concord/Thornhill North  
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr., Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1 vaughan.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: jeff levy <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Saturday, January 12, 2019 2:22 PM  
To: Furfaro, Cindy <Cindy.Furfaro@vaughan.ca>  
Subject: Cannabis meeting

I would like to record that I am opposed to the retail setting of cannabis in Vaughan in advance of your vote.

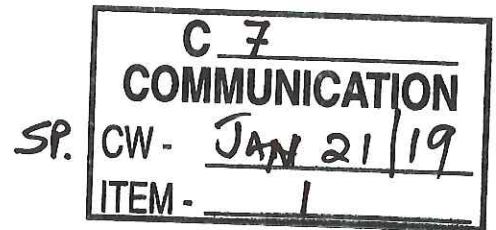


**From:** Zehavi Zynoberg <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 2:41 PM

**To:** [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca)

**Subject:** SUPPORT LICENSED RETAIL CANNABIS STORES



I am writing to you today as a constituent of the City of Vaughan to urge council to vote in favour of retail cannabis locations in Vaughan.

The whole purpose of legalization was to upend the black market and keep cannabis out of the hands of children.

By voting against having retail stores, access to cannabis will continue to be obtained through the black market as there is no rational or option to buy from a retail store as none are nearby.

Second, this would be good for the economy of Vaughan as more retailers would be thriving through an already in demand industry.

Voting against retail stores would only play into nimby-ism and create division. Please don't play into peoples fears or religious beliefs. This should be about choice. Cannabis has been legal for 3 months already, and the sky hasn't fallen. I say this as someone who is NOT a recreational cannabis user.

I strongly urge you to **SUPPORT** having licensed retail cannabis stores operate in the City of Vaughan.

Thank you in advance,

Zehavi Zynoberg

**From:** Racco, Sandra  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 1:10 PM  
**To:** 'Sherri Kogan' <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Coles, Todd <[Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca](mailto:Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca)>; Furfaro, Cindy <[Cindy.Furfaro@vaughan.ca](mailto:Cindy.Furfaro@vaughan.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Cannabis opt in

Thank you Ms. Kogan for sharing your thoughts with us.

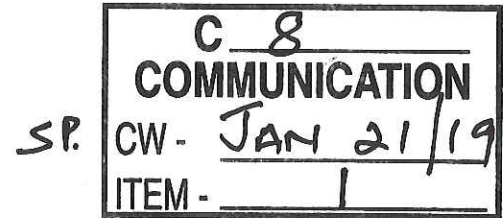
By way of this e-mail, I am forwarding to our City Clerk to be added to our communications for this item at our Special Committee of the Whole on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> when we will be discussing this matter.

Have a good day!!!

*Sandra Yeung Racco, B. Mus.Ed., A.R.C.T.*

楊士淳 議員

Councillor, Concord/North Thornhill  
City of Vaughan



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*"Don't be distracted by criticism. Remember that the only taste of success some people have is when they take a bite out of you"*

**From:** Sherri Kogan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 11:56 AM  
**To:** Racco, Sandra <[Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca](mailto:Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Cannabis opt in

Hi Sandra,

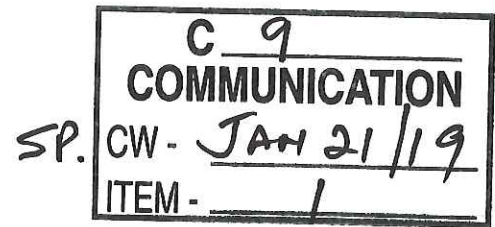
I'm from your ward in Thornhill woods and am pro opting in to allowing cannabis retailers in Vaughan.

It would be great from an economic and access point of view.

As a parent I am comfortable that this is not a risk to my kids.

I can't make the meeting but wanted to reach out to you.

Kind regards,  
Sherri Kogan



**From:** LIBERATORE <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, January 21, 2019 1:16 PM

**To:** [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca); Bevilacqua, Maurizio <[Maurizio.Bevilacqua@vaughan.ca](mailto:Maurizio.Bevilacqua@vaughan.ca)>; Ferri, Mario <[Mario.Ferri@vaughan.ca](mailto:Mario.Ferri@vaughan.ca)>; Rosati, Gino <[Gino.Rosati@vaughan.ca](mailto:Gino.Rosati@vaughan.ca)>; lafrate, Marilyn <[Marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca](mailto:Marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca)>; Carella, Tony <[Tony.Carella@vaughan.ca](mailto:Tony.Carella@vaughan.ca)>; DeFrancesca, Rosanna <[Rosanna.DeFrancesca@vaughan.ca](mailto:Rosanna.DeFrancesca@vaughan.ca)>; Racco, Sandra <[Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca](mailto:Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca)>; Shefman, Alan <[Alan.Shefman@vaughan.ca](mailto:Alan.Shefman@vaughan.ca)>; Jackson, Linda <[Linda.Jackson@vaughan.ca](mailto:Linda.Jackson@vaughan.ca)>

**Subject:** Opt out of Retail Cannabis

Mayor Bevilacqua and Council Members,

My name is Furio Liberatore and I am a life long resident of Vaughan. I wish to express my strong concerns regarding retail cannabis in our City and why I feel that the City of Vaughan should opt out. There are too many unknowns and too many unanswered questions at this point in time to make a sound decision.

Some important questions that need to be answered are:

Do we know the total costs that the City of Vaughan will incur to manage, educate, and enforce cannabis related issues?

Who will decide where these retail stores will be located?

Is there a limit to how many stores will be granted?

Will the City of Vaughan have the authority to limit how many stores will be able to operate?

Does the City of Vaughan have the authority to increase the 150 m restriction on schools?

Will the City Of Vaughan have the opportunity to review the applicant/application for each retail store?

How much money will the province give the City of Vaughan if we opt in?

Will that amount of money offset the cost that they city will incur?

How far can one smoke cannabis from a school?

How will private properties backing onto schools that consume cannabis be dealt with?

Once a notice of application is posted for retail with a public objection, will the City of Vaughan be an arbitrator to the application?

What is the City of Vaughan's plan to limit points of retail?

If the City's answer is "no, or I don't know" to any of these questions, you must vote to opt out! There is too much at stake here to simply be complacent on this matter!

With neighbouring municipalities such as Richmond Hill, Mississauga, Georgina, Markham, and Milton opting out, Vaughan can expect a large number cannabis consumers to come to here to make purchases. This will bring more safety concerns and unwanted traffic to our beautiful City. Given the nature of the product being sold at these retail locations, due diligence to our health and safety must be paramount when making this decision.

This one time option to opt in or out is forcing our city to make a rash decision with too many unknowns. I am writing to you today backed with a online petition of Vaughan Residents of over 550 signatures.



A decision should not be made based on the amount of revenue that this will bring to our city, but made on our City's core values and the type of reputation we wish to portray. I along with hundreds of residents believe that this is not inline with our core values and will tarnish our city's reputation.

Please see the attached link to our online petition.

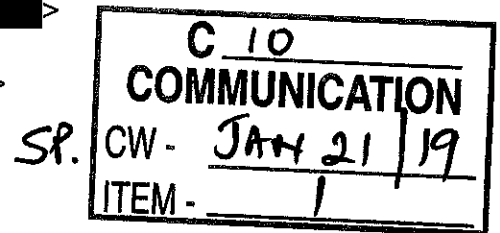
<https://www.change.org/p/maurizio-bevilacqua-vaughan-ca-stop-cannabis-stores-in-vaughan>

Thank you,

Furio Liberatore



**From:** Carolina Vandermeer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 21, 2019 2:28 PM  
**To:** Bevilacqua, Maurizio <[Maurizio.Bevilacqua@vaughan.ca](mailto:Maurizio.Bevilacqua@vaughan.ca)>  
**Subject:** Cannabis Stores



Hello Mayor Bamilacqua,

Please see attached my commentary pertaining to Cannabis stores.

Please forward it to anyone involved in the decision making.

Thank you,

Carolina

The use of cannabis, marijuana, pot, weed – whatever you want to call it – its sole purpose is to get people high. This is unlike alcohol, which pot-pushers try to use as a comparison. Alcohol is part of a gastronomical or culinary experience when consumed responsibly and as it was intended.

So what does it mean to 'get high'? In other words, it is an alternate state of mind – one that differs from our natural state. It is a form of intoxication immediately upon its consumption.

Despite the appalling, grossly irresponsible decision by our federal government to legalize its use, which conversely would now render the law against public intoxication invalid simply by contradiction, I still believe we can overcome this battle by municipalities banning these types of establishments from operating in their areas.

At present, I am ashamed to refer to myself as Canadian. To see images of the maple leaf on the Canadian flag replaced with a marijuana leaf; To hear the lyrics of the national anthem being sung as "oh cannabis"; To hear the leader of the country, the prime minister of a nation, sadly - this nation, boast on a radio ad about 'helping Canadians get high'; Having to see signs at the airport reminding Canadians that Cannabis is illegal nearly everywhere else in the world; Disgusted with Canadian publications setting out a plethora of 'weed infused' menu items that will be available upon legalization – including things like edibles -namely psychedelics and hallucinogenics ; That's correct the Liberal gov't led by Justin Trudeau have stamped their approval – by way of legalization – on the citizens of this country ingesting psychedelic and hallucinogenic inducing drugs.

The purpose of a government is to 'govern' the people. This means to set out laws that protect the citizens, keep them safe and to promote the common good. I don't believe anyone will claim this government fulfilled this obligation or duty when – due to its legalization – they are faced with someone experiencing a psychotic episode or some form of hallucination, either face to face or while operating a vehicle.

Furthermore, I have great concern for our police officers who are tasked with the burden of having to deal with these people when they become unruly, irrational and are quite literally 'out of their minds'. I have also been told by ER nurses that they have many patients who come to the ER due to the ill effects of marijuana use. An excerpt from the National Institute of Drug Abuse website states "Pleasant experiences with marijuana are by no means universal. ...some people experience anxiety, distrust or panic. People who have taken large doses of marijuana may experience an acute psychosis, which includes hallucinations, delusions and a loss of the sense of personal identity." I don't think we need to look much further than our friends south of the border, whereby many of the tragedies resulting in the loss of many lives were at the hands of marijuana users.

Because I anticipate someone addressing the supposed medicinal benefits of marijuana, and it being all natural, to them I say it is another debate for another time. But in the interim, I suggest they research the Health Canada website, specifically the Serious Warnings and Precautions, as well as research THC, especially the continuously increasing levels and with that I leave them with the question of "How and why is that happening?"

There needs to be a reality check – where there used to be the odd user, who somehow knew of a dealer and hid in their basement, garage or shed to smoke up– you will now have many more users. They are going to "try getting high" because "why not?" there is nothing stopping them and they can

easily access it. This will lead to more altercations involving police, more visits to the ER, more vehicular fatalities and more drug addictions, especially among teens.

The legalization is nothing to be proud of. It's a disgrace, an embarrassment and utterly shameful. Nearly the entire world recognizes and understands why marijuana should be illegal, what happened to Canada?

This brings me to my final and most important point, a reminder of the One whom we should always consider at the forefront of every decision we make - our God and Creator. How gravely offensive it must be to our Loving Father in Heaven who granted us with the greatest gift – life itself. How disappointed and filled with sorrow He must be to see His precious children be discontent in their natural state of mind and resort to such undignified means of supposed "recreation." This is a blatant disobedience to God's natural law.

Perhaps some of you may question the existence of God. If God, our Creator didn't exist, it poses the question of how all things came into existence? Some have adopted the theory of a 'big bang'. To those people I would ask them to analyze this more closely. More specifically ask yourself how a 'big bang' could create the complex reproductive system within humans, as one example. As an oversimplification, the sperm fertilizes the egg and a human being begins to form and grow in the mother's womb from just that. The miracle of this in of itself proves that the process of how humans would reproduce had to have been 'designed' by a Creator.

We can then ask ourselves how every single creature on earth came to exist. Every insect, sea creature, bird in the sky etc. The only plausible Truth is that God decided, by design, what everything would look like, how it would reproduce itself, how it would move about, how it would nourish itself and furthermore it's role within a larger ecosystem. We haven't even touched on fruits, vegetables, flowers, trees, plants, the solar system the list is endless. As a side note, take a moment to look at a photo of a zebra and notice how the stripes from the body lead into the stripes on the mane. Explain how a 'big bang' could do that?

When we really think about how incredible and awesome our Heavenly Father truly is, we come to acknowledge His supreme majesty, magnificence and almighty power.

And to anyone who may try to claim that God created marijuana, thus He must be fine with it – save yourself the trouble. Our human logic and human reasoning helps us to understand that God would not create something to be used in a way that alters our natural state of mind. God would expect us to be content in our natural state, in the way He created us, as He created all things perfectly, it is human error and the consequence of sin that has altered that perfection.

I believe it is important to add that when someone has a relationship with God and Jesus, as they wish for us all to have, we are more than content in our natural state. We are filled with love, peace and joy, without any void. There is a place in every human heart for God and Jesus, and without them a void exists. A void that some try to fill with such things as promiscuity, overconsumption of alcohol or mind altering drugs.

As we all know, every person shall have their judgement day, as too the nations shall be judged. Someone may ask, how will God judge nations and in what way? The nations will be judged by their laws and how closely they emulate those of God. The hope is that every nation shall strive for perfect

accuracy, without any variation. Presumably we can all understand and agree on the necessity to discipline children when they are disobedient or endangering themselves, our Heavenly Father is no different.

The way that God may impose his divine judgment on nations, as is evident by Biblical accounts, may include chastisements such as natural disasters, plagues or epidemics or allowing enemies to succeed in their attacks.

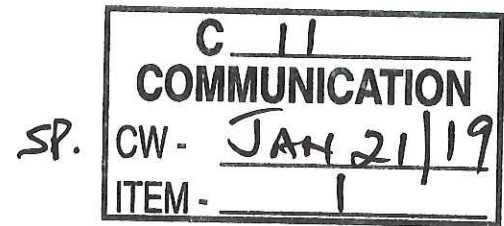
Thus, I implore you, as the decision makers, with the responsibility and duty to protect the citizens, do not succumb to the pressure. Instead, do what is right for the people who have entrusted you with this decision, and more importantly keep in accordance with God's natural law by banning any type of these establishments from operating in your area.





January 21, 2019

Vaughan City Hall  
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.  
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1



**RE: Retail Cannabis Sales in the City of Vaughan**

Dear Your Worship, Mayor Bevilacqua, Regional Councillors Ferri, Rosati, Jackson, and  
Councillors lafrate, DeFrancesco, Carella, Yeung-Racco, and Shefman:

We are writing to you today regarding the current debates and vote on allowing cannabis sales in the City of Vaughan. Along with the majority of Vaughan residents, the **Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at is against the opening of cannabis stores within our boundaries.**

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at would formally like to request the councillors of our wonderful City of Vaughan to opt-out of cannabis stores. There are many variables in play, and as our representatives we would implore you to safeguard our rights and to ensure that the people of Vaughan are safe.

There are many threats that are posed if the City chooses to opt-in. We would like to point out three reasons as to why the **City of Vaughan should opt-out**. The first concern is in respect to locations. There needs to be more control on the number of stores and their locations due to the increased risk of exposure to children and youth. Municipalities, like Vaughan will have little to no say on where these cannabis stores will be located. The 150m minimum distance rule from schools is not enough. Additionally, Cannabis stores are simply not the same as other stores and it's unfitting to assume otherwise. Municipalities need to be able to restrict and allow with more precision based on local realities.

Second, the opening of cannabis stores **does not match Vaughan's Vision 2020: to develop a vibrant, attractive, livable downtown core**. Potentially, it will create a downtown centre (and hence an extended Vaughan City) that would push people and businesses away. Vaughan has one of the highest Socio-Economic scores in the country all while allowing family and faith values to flourish. Cannabis stores would go against our collective values. Vaughan simply does not have the social acceptance of cannabis use that cities like Toronto have. We feel through our interaction with Vaughan residents, that we collectively as residents are more concerned with creating a family-safe environment for all.



Third, there are still many unknowns so we must proceed with caution. As Mayor Crombie from Mississauga said, "We only get one chance to get this right." Many other municipalities who have similar socio-economic and social values as Vaughan have, have opted-out including: The Township of King, East Gwillimbury, Mississauga, Markham, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Tecumseh, and Wasaga Beach. In fact, 62 Municipalities to date have opted out and we believe that fact alone is a strong message. The points that are still unclear (due to a lack of time studying these issues) are the tax benefits vs social harm, and or the ability to receive extra funding from the Province regardless of opting in or not, various alternatives, the societal acceptance of simply travelling to Toronto to get their fix, and many others. Again, the motivation of the Federal Government to rush this legislation through should not constitute us as a society to simply also rush our acceptance of it.

Again, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at would appeal to you as our representatives to safeguard the livelihood and safety of the residents of Vaughan. Thank you for your time and consideration. We have faith that our representatives will make the right decision and look out for the interests of the people they serve. As always, myself and the community are available to discuss this matter further.

Regards,

Asif Khan

National Secretary Public Affairs | Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada  
416-725-9133 | asif.khan@ahmadiyya.ca

**From:** Michelle Di Stasi <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 21, 2019 7:29 PM  
**To:** Racco, Sandra <[Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca](mailto:Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca)>  
**Subject:** Vote NO to cannabis retail outlets in Vaughan



I wish to express my objection to allowing cannabis retail outlets to open in Vaughan considering that such retail space could be used for more relevant products to improve public health.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Di Stasi



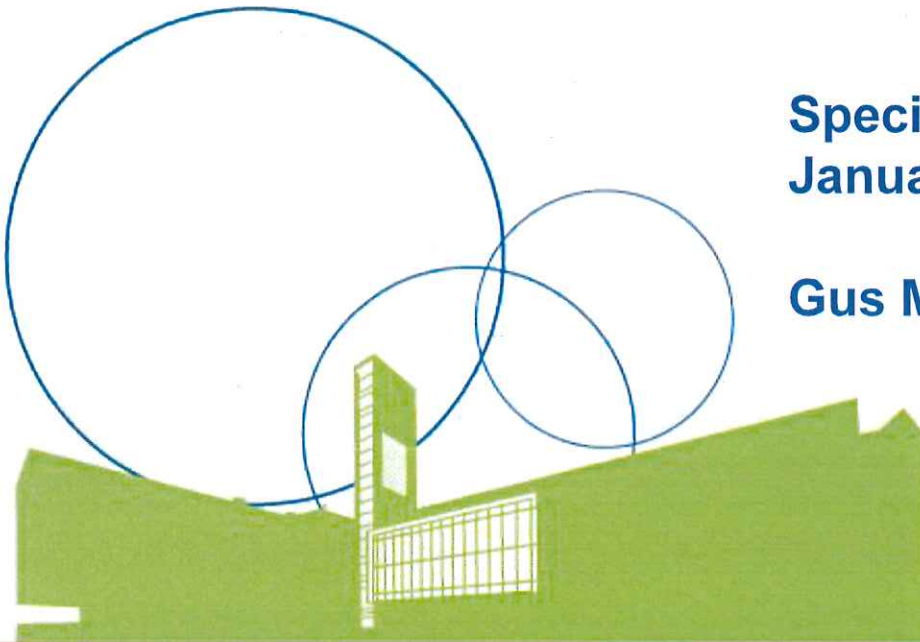
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SP. CW -	JAN 21/19
ITEM -	1

# Legalization of Recreational Cannabis in Ontario

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Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole  
January 21, 2019

Gus Michaels, Director & Chief Licensing Officer



# Legalization of Recreational Cannabis in Ontario

## Table of Content

- Background
- Retail Alternatives and Provincially Licensed Stores
- Provincial Funding Model
- Places of Use
- Public Consultation
- Recreational Sales, Consumption and Possession
- Municipal Responsibility – By-laws
- Conclusions
- Next Steps



# Today's Decision

## The purpose of this Special Committee of the Whole Meeting:

- To receive input from the residents of Vaughan; and,
- For City Council to pass a resolution on
  - Whether to permit provincially licensed retail cannabis stores in Vaughan; and,
  - If not, provide direction to staff to notify the Province of the City's decision to opt out of the province's retail model.

**NOTE:** Issues relating to where cannabis may be consumed will be addressed at a later date.

# Background

- Staff became engaged in review of cannabis legalization in November of 2017.
- Regional Working Group was established to share and leverage information.
- Internal City of Vaughan Cannabis Working Group was formed to co-ordinate municipal policy efforts. Departments include:
  - Legal, Planning, Building Standards, Recreation, Corporate and Strategic Communications, Economic & Cultural Development, Vaughan Fire & Rescue and Finance.
- Ongoing consultation with external partners, including YRP, Public Health and AMO.



# Legalization

- October 17, 2018: the federal *Cannabis Act* legalized cannabis in Canada.
- In Ontario, the *Cannabis Statute Law Amendment Act* was passed with the intent to protect youth, ensure strict rules against impaired driving and combat the illegal market.

# Retail Alternatives

- Currently, cannabis can only be purchased legally through the on-line Ontario Cannabis Store, by those 19 years and older.
- As of April 2019, provincially licensed retail stores will be allowed in areas zoned to permit retail establishments.
- Municipalities are deemed to have opted in unless they explicitly opt out of the provincial private retail model by January 22, 2019.
- 2018 Comprehensive Cannabis Report from Deloitte found the majority of persons who purchase cannabis will do so from a legal source if it is available.



# Provincially Licensed Stores

- Stores may not to be located within 150m of any school.
- Store Requirements/Regulations as prescribed by the Ont. Reg. 468/18, including but not limited to:
  - Restricted hours of operation (9am to 11pm)
  - Prevent entry to 19 years of age or older
  - Security/Surveillance systems
  - Training for license holders, retail managers and all employees
  - Store manager must be licensed/holder of a Cannabis Retail Store Manager License
  - Regulation of advertisement and promotion
  - Display of “Provincial Cannabis Authorization Seal”
  - Any other condition as determined by the Registrar



# Provincially Licensed Stores

- Municipalities and the public may comment on proposed locations, through the provincial notification process.
- The City is developing a municipal cannabis policy statement to guide its submissions.
- Cannabis will continue to be available on-line and its consumption and possession will continue to be legal in accordance with the applicable legislation.



# Provincially Licensed Stores

- On Dec 13, the Provincial Government announced the passing of Ontario Regulation 497/18 of the *Cannabis Licence Act, 2018* requiring a phased in approach to issuance of licenses, imposing a lottery system and initially, up to 25 retail stores licenses to be issued on April 1, 2019.
- The distribution of licenses will amount to six (6) retail stores in the Greater Toronto Area, between York, Durham, Peel and Halton Regions.
- 5 retail stores in Toronto.
- Remaining 14 store licenses distributed across Ontario to municipalities with a population greater than 50,000 residents.
- Unclear on how the province plans to issue retail store licenses beyond the initial 25.



# Provincial Funding

- Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund to be split into three parts:
  - a) \$15M for all municipalities; distributed on a per household basis.
  - b) \$15M for those who do not opt out (incl. \$5k lump-sum for each who opt out); and
  - c) \$10M contingency fund, with priority for those who do not opt out.
- Additionally, Province will provide 50% of its share of federal excise duty that exceeds \$100M only to those who have not opted out.
- City of Vaughan's first entitlement is \$124,949 with the equivalent to be provided to York Region.

# Places of Use

**Cannabis is legal where tobacco is permitted under the Smoke Free Ontario Act.**

## Where Smoking is Permitted

- Private Residences
- Outdoor Public Places
- Designated Guest Rooms in Hotels, Motels and Inns
- Controlled Areas in Long-Term Care Homes; Retirement Homes and Other Provincially-Funded Supportive Housing

## Where Smoking is Prohibited

- Enclosed Public Spaces and Workplaces
- Schools
- Restaurants, Bars and Patios
- Transit Buses, Terminals and Bus Shelters
- Near Entrance/Exit of Hospitals
- Near Entrances to Municipal Buildings
- Near Playgrounds and Publicly Owned Sports Facilities



# Public Consultation

- The City has been keeping the public up to date through its website.
- Staff have been fielding and keeping track of calls, emails and social media.
- Staff conducted a poll through Forum Research to assess public opinion.
- Majority of those polled have concerns about legalization in general, primarily with driving offenses and use in public places.
- 54% opposed to allowing retail stores in Vaughan.



# Recreational Sales & Consumption

- Recreational cannabis is legal in Ontario and available for purchase on-line.
- Council's decision is therefore only with respect to the consideration of, acceptance of provincially licensed stores and associated increased funding.
- Provincially licensed stores may discourage purchases from illegal sources.
- Adopting the Province's retail model will maximize opportunities for revenue to offset municipal expenses and costs relating to legalization.

# Municipal Responsibility

By-laws under review:

- Vaughan Smoking By-law
- Vaughan Parks By-law
- Property Standards By-law
- Business Licensing By-law (related sections)
- Any other identified by-law



# Conclusions

- Greater funding from not opting out will allow the City and York Region to better meet infrastructure (e.g., signage), educational, policing, and by-law demands and related enforcement costs associated with cannabis legalization.
- Staff intend to bring forward a report in Q1, 2019 to ensure the City's By-laws are aligned with the Province's smoking legislation and the broader public interest.
- City Council must make a decision whether or not to opt out.



# Next Steps

- By-law & Compliance, Licensing & Permit Service is completing review of impacted regulatory by-laws.
- Depending on Council's decision, staff will either notify the Province of the decision to opt out or develop a public policy to guide response to possible store locations.
- Continue to advocate and engage the Province for the interests, safety and well-being of Vaughan residents.
- Continue to monitor and respond to the evolution and progression of provincial and federal cannabis legislation (e.g. edibles).

