

Cannabis Readiness Committee Recommendations

The Cannabis Readiness Committee will soon be making its recommendations to Council to ensure the City is well prepared for the legalization of cannabis later this year. The Committee's recommendations are summarized below.

What is Cannabis?

Recommendation #1	What this means	Next Steps
Add the following land use definitions to the Land Use Bylaw: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannabis & Cannabis Accessory, Cannabis Retail Sales, Cannabis Lounges, Cannabis Production & Distribution – Major/Minor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Land Use Bylaw (LUB) defines the types of uses that may occur in the City of Lacombe. Land Use Zoning specifies the locations of and rules that apply to each use. The new definitions allow the City to apply land use rules to commercial and retail cannabis uses. The commercial production, processing and retail sale of cannabis will be prohibited from a home. 	Revise Land Use Bylaw 400

Buying Recreational Cannabis in Lacombe

Recommendation #2 ¹	What this means	Next Steps
Cannabis retail stores be permitted in (see map): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C1 - Downtown Commercial District, C3 - Transitional Commercial District, I1 - Light Industrial District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannabis retail stores will be allowed to locate anywhere within these districts subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> licensing from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission receiving a development permit from the City. 	Revise Land Use Bylaw 400
Cannabis retail stores will be discretionary in (see map): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C2 Neighbourhood Commercial District, C4 - Highway Commercial District, C5 - Shopping Centre District, DC2 - Direct Control District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannabis retail stores may be allowed to locate anywhere within these districts subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> licensing from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission presenting to the Municipal Planning Commission for approval receiving a development permit from the City. 	Revise Land Use Bylaw 400

¹ All retail cannabis license applicants must undergo extensive mandatory background checks and retail stores must comply with AGLC [premises](#), [security](#) and [signage requirements](#).

For reference Liquor stores are permitted in:

- C5 Shopping Center District

and discretionary in:

- R-CM Residential Commercial Mixed Used District,
- C1 Downtown Commercial District
- C2 Neighbourhood Commercial District
- C3 Transitional Commercial District
- C4 Highway Commercial District

Commercial Production and Processing of Cannabis in Lacombe

Recommendation #3 ²	What this means	Next Steps
Cannabis production and processing be permitted in (see map): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I1 - Light Industrial District, I2 - Heavy Industrial District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The commercial production and processing of Cannabis will be allowed to locate anywhere within these districts subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> licensing from Health Canada receiving a development permit from the City. 	Revise Land Use Bylaw 400
Cannabis production and processing be discretionary in (see map): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C3 - Transitional Commercial District, C4 - Highway Commercial District, C5 - Shopping Centre District, DC2 - Direct Control District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The commercial production and processing of Cannabis may be allowed to locate anywhere within these districts subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> licensing from Health Canada presenting to the Municipal Planning Commission for approval receiving a development permit from the City. 	Revise Land Use Bylaw 400
Cannabis production and processing be prohibited in the I1 - Light Industrial District located on 40 Brownstone Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The commercial production and processing of Cannabis is prohibited to locate on this site 	Revise Land Use Bylaw 400

Consuming Recreational Cannabis in Lacombe

Recommendation #4	What this means	Next Steps
Prohibit the consumption of recreational cannabis in any public place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational cannabis consumption is prohibited outside private property. 	Revise the Community Standards Bylaw

Secondary Recommendations Related to Consuming Recreational Cannabis in Lacombe

Recommendation #4 .1	What this means	Next Steps
(FUTURE) If the Province allows for the consumption of recreational cannabis in premises and at events licensed for cannabis consumption in the future, regulate it in a similar way to licensed premises for liquor consumption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At this time the Province is not issuing licenses that will allow for the consumption of cannabis in Cannabis Lounge or Cannabis Gardens type use. If the Province allows this in the future, the Committee recommends the City regulate it like it does liquor. 	Monitor for changes in Provincial regulation on cannabis consumption licensing.
Prohibit smoking of any substance (including tobacco) in public spaces including parks, trails, and all City owned land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoking and vaping in public spaces will be prohibited regardless of the substance. 	Revise the Community Standards Bylaw

² All commercial cannabis producers must receive a license under Federal regulation which includes: satisfying physical site security requirements, personnel security clearance requirements, maintain strict production and record keep practices, and report production, inventory and sales information. The federal government has proposed a number of license types which allow for small and large scale production and processing.

Community supports

Recommendation #5	What this means	Next Steps
Cannabis Excise Tax Grant funds from the Province will be allocated to cover the City's expenses related to cannabis legalization with the balance going toward local substance abuse social support strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AUMA is advocating the Province to commit 70 per cent of the cannabis excise taxes it receives from the federal government to municipalities to offset their costs associated with cannabis legalization. However details on the allocation of this funding to municipalities has not been released by the Province. When that information is confirmed, the Committee recommends that that City use it to cover its costs related to the legalization of cannabis and allocate the balance toward local substance abuse social support strategies 	Track the City's costs related to the legalization of Cannabis.
Improve community awareness around existing substance abuse social support programs in Lacombe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City will develop a communications strategy to increase awareness of existing substance abuse social programs available to the citizens of Lacombe. This may include the use of social media, paid media, the City's website and partnerships with community organizations and other levels of government. 	Develop a communications strategy