

To: Councillor Ross
Cc: Council
From: Matthew Goudy,
January 22, 2020

RE: Lacombe Days Events

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the legalization of cannabis and the chance of having a Beer/Cannabis Garden at Lacombe Days.

When you think of a beer garden, the image that comes to mind is cornered off area in a sports field or parking lot where beer can be purchased and consumed with friends or teammates. A cannabis garden would be somewhat different as there is more stringent legislation surrounding the sale and use of cannabis. There are two possibilities for a cannabis garden: One, an area for the sale and consumption of cannabis, or two, an area that only allows the consumption of previously purchased cannabis.

The first option of selling and consuming/smoking cannabis is not available as there is no licensed or permitted way to sell cannabis in a temporary location. All retail stores and sales are regulated through the AGLC. The province stresses the importance of security for cannabis inventory and that cannabis business owners are to employ 'SellSafe' certified staff who are eligible to ensure that they understand the responsibilities to customers and the rules in places to protect any one from cannabis related harm. To date, the AGLC does not issue cannabis special events licenses similar to that of a liquor license for a beer garden through the AGLC; therefore, an event planning committee would not be able to legally host a cannabis garden where people are able to purchase and use cannabis.

The second option of having a 'consumption only' area is possible if the municipality allows for smoking or use of cannabis in a public area. The City of Lacombe's Smoking Bylaw does not allow smoking or consumption of cannabis in any public place within Lacombe. On this section alone, the City would not allow an event, such as Lacombe Days, to set up a cannabis consumption garden. The Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act and the Municipal Government Act are the mechanisms that provide municipalities with the authority to create bylaws which determine how or where cannabis can be used within the municipality.

In the future, if the AGLC starts to issues special event licenses for cannabis, the sale of cannabis may need to be separate from any sale of liquor as the AGLC does not allow for any combination of liquor and cannabis to be sold together. Section 90.01(1)(b) of the Gaming,

Liquor and Cannabis Act speaks to the separation of businesses. If this were to happen, a festival planning committee would likely need to make a choice between the sale of liquor or the sale of cannabis.

I hope this satisfies this query. Please let me know if you would like to discuss this matter further, or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Goudy', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Matthew Goudy, P. Eng.
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