

Motion to Demand a Responsible Plan for Public Cannabis Sales

WHEREAS the legalization of cannabis is one of the most significant public policy changes that Canada has faced in a generation;

AND WHEREAS public opinion research shows that nearly 70 per cent of the people of Ontario are worried about cannabis being sold to underage children;

AND WHEREAS public opinion research also shows that Ontarians are 11 times more likely to trust a responsible public retailer like the LCBO over private stores to keep cannabis out of the hands of underage children;

AND WHEREAS the government's current plan allows private cannabis stores within just 150 metres of schools (which is three times closer than Ford promised to allow them during the election campaign);

AND WHEREAS existing LCBO stores can be quickly and inexpensively retrofitted to sell cannabis;

AND WHEREAS the Ford government's current cannabis retail plan allows only for private cannabis retailers, and leaves municipalities with no local control over how many outlets it must host, or even where those outlets can be located;

AND WHEREAS municipal governments have the right to, before Jan. 22, 2019, "opt out" of hosting private cannabis retailers;

AND WHEREAS municipalities which opt-out of the government's cannabis plan can still decide to opt-in later;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT [the municipality of ...] will "opt-out" of hosting private cannabis retail outlets, and send a formal letter to Premier Doug Ford stating that [the municipality of ...] won't "opt-in" until it is given the option of publicly owned and managed LCBO cannabis retail outlets;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT [the municipality of ...] send copies to all other municipalities within the county, and also to the municipality's federal and provincial representatives, and to local reporters and media outlets.