

<b><i>The Town of Fort Frances</i></b>	<b>SECTION</b> Planning & Development Division
<b><u>Policy</u></b>  Municipal Cannabis Policy Statement	<b>NEW:</b> October 2020  <b>REVIEWED:</b>
Resolution No. #####	
Policy Number 6.3	<b>PAGE 1 of 2</b>

## 1. Purpose and Vision

The purpose of this policy statement is to provide a format for municipal government input to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) as well as help prospective recreational cannabis retailers in their consideration of location of cannabis retail stores in The Town of Fort Frances.

The AGCO is the provincial authority that licences cannabis retail operators, authorizes cannabis retail locations and licenses senior store staff.

The AGCO regulates and reviews all aspects of the retail operation including municipal and public input, that the proposed store location is consistent with the public interest as defined in the regulations.

The Town of Fort Frances has chosen to allow retail sales of recreational cannabis. The following provides municipal staff and residence of the Town of Fort Frances with guidance on commenting to AGCO when notice on a specific proposed cannabis retail store site is provided on the site location.

For the purposes of this policy statement, a cannabis retail store shall mean a store licenced by the AGCO.

## 2. Principles for Cannabis Retail Store Locations (Relationship to Applicable Law)

*Land Use Planning:* The provincial licensing process does not remove the requirement to comply with the zoning by-law and other municipal planning documents. The definitions within the municipality's Official Plan and Zoning By-law are applicable to all retail, including cannabis retail stores. Retail sale of cannabis from a provincially licensed store is legal and is a permitted use in the employment or downtown business areas of the Municipality.

*Municipal Building Inspections:* while the licencing of the store operation is the responsibility of the AGCO, the Building Code applies to cannabis retail store locations. Therefore, where a building permit is required, the building inspector will undertake duties as usual. Fire Code compliance is also mandatory.

### **3. Cannabis Retail Stores and Sensitive activities**

Cannabis retail stores shall conform with the Town of Fort Frances Official Plan and Zoning By-Law designations.

Cannabis retail stores shall carry all required AGCO licences as well as a Town of Fort Frances Municipal Business Licence.

Cannabis retail stores are encouraged to locate in the Downtown Business Area.

In order to promote public health and safety, protect youth and restrict their access to cannabis and reduce illegal sales, retail cannabis stores should be located at least 150 m from nearby properties which are designed to serve youth including schools or private schools.

Schedule A attached hereto identifies areas where retail stores may be permitted, as well as identifying a 150m buffer where a retail cannabis store may not be permitted through Provincial Regulation and Municipal recommendation.