



Town Council Passes Interim Bylaw Banning Smoking and Vaping of Cannabis in Public Places

Citizen Input Invited on Public Consumption of Cannabis by Oct. 31

(October 16, 2018 – Ponoka, Alberta) – Recreational use of cannabis becomes legal in Canada on October 17, however, it will not be legal to smoke or vape recreational cannabis in public places in Ponoka.

An interim Cannabis Consumption Bylaw received third reading by Town Council last week, which prohibits smoking or vaping of recreational cannabis in public places in Ponoka upon legalization of the substance. ‘Public places’ means any property, whether publicly or privately owned, to which members of the public have access, either by right or by invitation (express or implied). This includes any outdoor area or part of a building or structure.

Bylaw is an Interim Measure until Public Consultation is Complete

Ponoka’s Cannabis Consumption Bylaw is an interim measure that will remain in place until the Town has completed public consultation on the question of public consumption of cannabis and what local citizens feel should be allowed in Ponoka. Once public consultation is completed, Town Council will make a final decision on how it will regulate public consumption of cannabis over the long term in Ponoka.

Council could choose to make the interim Cannabis Consumption Bylaw permanent (with possible revisions) or it could introduce new cannabis regulations into the Town’s Community Standards Bylaw. Council could also choose to follow provincial cannabis regulations that allow people to smoke or vape cannabis in some public places where smoking tobacco is allowed.

The provincial legislation sets minimum rules and regulations for cannabis consumption in Alberta. Municipalities have the authority to implement stricter regulations if they choose. For more details on provincial cannabis rules and legislation, go to www.alberta.ca/cannabis-framework.aspx.

Fill Out a Citizen Input Survey to Have Your Say

To help Town Council determine how to best regulate public consumption of cannabis in Ponoka over the long term, Ponoka citizens are encouraged to fill out a Citizen Input Survey that is available until October 31 at the Town Office (C, 4900-54 St.) and on the Town website at www.ponoka.ca (click the link that appears below ‘Public Consultation on Community Standards Bylaw and Public Consumption of Cannabis’).



The survey asks what citizens think Town Council should allow when it comes to public consumption of cannabis in Ponoka. The survey also invites public input on a proposed Community Standards Bylaw for the Town of Ponoka.

For more information about cannabis regulations in Ponoka – including regulations on cannabis retail and cannabis production businesses that may choose to locate here – go to www.ponoka.ca, scroll down the page and click on ‘Frequently Asked Questions about Cannabis Legalization’.

Please note: The Town of Ponoka Administrative Offices will move to the new Ponoka Civic Building on October 23 at #200, 5604-50 St. The Citizen Input Survey will be available at the new Town Office location from Oct. 23 – 31.

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