

3. Will there be any cannabis retail stores or production facilities in Ponoka once cannabis is legalized on October 17?

- Now that the Town's Land Use Bylaw has been amended to include cannabis-related uses, and recreational cannabis has been legalized, the Town is accepting applications from interested parties wishing to establish cannabis retail or production facilities in Ponoka.
- The Town amended its Land Use Bylaw on October 9, 2018 to include Cannabis Retail Sales as a Discretionary use in the downtown Central Commercial (C1) and the Highway Commercial (C2) districts in Ponoka. A public hearing on the amendments to the Land Use Bylaw was held prior to Council's approval of the Bylaw amendments.
- The Bylaw requires a minimum separation distance of 100 metres between cannabis retail locations and sensitive uses such as schools and provincial health care facilities. The 100-metre separation distance is the same minimum requirement established under provincial regulations for cannabis retail licensing through the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission (AGLC).
- The proposed Bylaw also includes specific-use regulations for Cannabis Retail Sales such as limiting hours of operation between 10 a.m. and 2 a.m., and prohibiting drive-through windows to limit accessibility and exposure of the products.
- To view the October 9 amendments to the Land Use Bylaw, [click here](#). To view a map showing where Cannabis Retail Sales are allowed as a Discretionary use in Ponoka, [click here](#).

- Additional amendments were made to the Town's Land Use Bylaw in May 2018 that introduced new definitions for cannabis-related uses into the Bylaw. These amendments also introduced 'Medical Cannabis Production Facility' as a Permitted use in the Town's Industrial Land Use Districts (M1 and M2).
- Businesses that receive approval to establish a cannabis retail facility and meet the regulations outlined under the Town's amended Land Use Bylaw will then be able to sell cannabis in specialty cannabis-only retail stores in Ponoka.
- These retail stores will not be allowed to sell alcohol, tobacco or pharmaceuticals; will be privately run; must sell provincially-licensed product only; and must follow provincial guidelines for hours of operation, staff training and security.