



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804
20 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459
ocsta@ocsta.on.ca www.ocsta.on.ca

Patrick Daly, *President*
Beverley Eckensweiler, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

December 4, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Patrick Daly, President

SUBJECT: **Cannabis Retail Outlet Siting in Local Communities**

As you are aware, the government is moving forward with Bill 174, the Cannabis, Smoke-Free Ontario and Road Safety Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017 and will become law by the end of 2017.

Part of the proposed legislation will establish a new Crown Corporation (Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporation) that will create 150 standalone stores by 2020 with 40 stores opening by July 1, 2018. The siting of these stores in local communities will be the responsibility of local municipalities within general guidelines set by the province. At the present time, the Ministry of Finance, the LCBO and municipalities have identified the following guidelines:

- Adhering to municipal zoning by-laws
- Proximity of sites to nearby schools
- Equitable access for consumers within municipalities
- Illegal storefront activity.

In terms of public engagement, proposed locations will be identified based on municipal input and real estate searches and a public notice identifying a potential location. The LCBO will also have a website: <https://lcbocannabisupdates.com/> for further siting information.

OCSTA is strongly encouraging our boards to contact their local municipalities to express their concerns about potential siting locations of these cannabis stores.

In our OCSTA submission to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy we recommended that cannabis stores be at least 3km away from the nearest school. We have attached for your reference the Declaration from the Canadian School Boards Association regarding the Impact of Cannabis Legalization on Schools.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Stephen Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.

Attachment