

# GETTING TO KNOW THE AAMDC

*A Guide for New Councillors*



## ISSUE SUMMARY:

### RECREATIONAL CANNABIS LEGISLATION

#### WHAT IS IT AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

In April 2017, the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-45 (the Cannabis Act) in the House of Commons, which will legalize recreational cannabis in Canada. The Cannabis Act is set to take force by July 2018, which has required provincial and municipal governments to create legislation and policies with specific rules and regulations for legalization issues outside of federal jurisdiction.

Municipalities in Alberta will need to adhere to the Alberta Cannabis Framework and associated legislation, and understand municipal responsibilities, as set out in the Framework.

It is important to understand your role as a municipality to meet requirements set out by the federal government and to set up your community for successfully implementing its responsibilities related to legalization. As outlined in the Proposed Alberta Cannabis Framework, municipalities will be responsible for:

- Education;
- Taxation;
- Retail locations and rules;
- Public consumption; and
- Land use/zoning.

Municipalities will also be active in business licensing, building codes, municipal safety, and enforcement of regulations around public consumption and impaired driving. Municipalities will have the ability to create additional restrictions on public consumption using their existing authorities to address unique needs of communities.

Under the proposed regulatory framework released by Health Canada in November 2017, applicants for most classes of cannabis licences would be required to provide notice to local government, fire and policing authorities. Some rural municipalities in Alberta

are already hosting medical cannabis production facilities, and it is expected that the number of production facilities in rural municipal jurisdictions will rise after legalization. It will be important for municipalities to understand the relationship between each level of government and production facilities. Once the federal and provincial regulations are approved, the AAMDC will distribute them through Contact.

The AAMDC knows that some rural municipalities will be challenged to respond to legalization of recreational cannabis by July 2018, and is working with the Government of Alberta, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, as well as communicating to the Government of Canada to ensure that the voices of rural municipalities are heard.

We will continue to communicate with you through Contact, as legislation and regulations become available.

## LEARN MORE

### AAMDC

- [Updates to Provincial Recreational Cannabis Legalization](#)

### Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

- [Cannabis Legalization Primer](#)

### Government of Alberta

- [Alberta's approach to cannabis legalization](#)
- [About cannabis](#)

### Brownlee LLP

- [Amending Your Land Use Bylaw to Prepare for the Retail Sale of Cannabis](#)