



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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April 17, 2018

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Patrick J. Daly, President

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

Further to our memo of December 4, 2017 regarding the siting of standalone cannabis retail outlets, the LCBO and the Ontario Cannabis Store announced on April 11, 2018 four stores that will open across Ontario sometime in the summer or fall of 2018. These include:

- 304 Stone Road West, Guelph
- 770 Gardiners Road, Kingston
- 2480 Gerrard Street East, Toronto
- 570 Harbour Expressway, Thunder Bay.

As you are aware, the province has committed to opening 40 stores in total in 2018 or as soon as the federal legislation is passed.

The siting of these stores in local communities is 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 and for feedback on proposed locations.

OCSTA is strongly encouraging boards to continue to contact your local municipalities and the LCBO to express your concerns about potential siting locations of these cannabis stores. (<https://lcbocannabisupdates.com/feedback>).

In OCSTA's submission to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy it was recommended that cannabis stores be at least 3km away from the nearest school. Attached is a Toronto Star article illustrating some of the challenges school boards have experienced ensuring cannabis store locations are located at sufficient distance from schools.

OCSTA will be writing a letter to the CEO of the Ontario Cannabis Corporation to ensure that Catholic school boards are consulted regarding cannabis store locations.

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

Attachment