



*Norm Di Pasquale
Trustee Ward 9*

E-mail: Norman.DiPasquale@tcdsb.org

Voicemail: 416-512-3409

To: Corporate Services Committee Meeting December 8, 2021

From: Norm Di Pasquale, Trustee Ward 9

Subject: Consideration of Motion: Toronto Catholic District School Board Cannabis Store Control Motion

MOVED BY: Norm Di Pasquale, Toronto Catholic District School Board

WHEREAS: Under current cannabis laws, some communities have few legal cannabis shops, while others are seeing increasing concentrations of them that risk the diversity of neighborhoods and main streets;

WHEREAS: The vitality of city streets is diminished by the proliferation of these cannabis shops;

WHEREAS: Cannabis stores owned by multinationals are taking over “mom and pop” shops because they can pay higher rents/leases;

WHEREAS: Cannabis locations typically have frosted windows and many families don’t feel safe walking on city streets where cannabis shops exist;

WHEREAS: The City of Toronto has 25% of all cannabis stores in Ontario and growing;

WHEREAS: Cannabis shops have been locating themselves very close to many Toronto Catholic District School Boards (TCDSB) schools;

WHEREAS: Cannabis shops have caused safety and security concerns around our TCDSB school communities;

WHEREAS: The Provincial legislation governing the retail of cannabis does not give municipalities a say in where cannabis shops can open, how many can be located in a given area or how close they can be to one another;

WHEREAS: There is an existing mechanism that allows municipalities to give feedback on the sale of controlled alcohol and this process could and should apply to cannabis retailers as well;

WHEREAS: Currently a Private Members Bill 29, has been tabled to amend the Cannabis Licence Act, 2018 to align the cannabis licensing process with that of liquor licensing, allowing a greater say in where, and how many, cannabis licenses can be issued;

WHEREAS: Bill 29 amends the Cannabis Licensing Act to:

- Align the process for new cannabis retail licenses with that used for liquor licenses;
- Give municipalities and, through them, the local community, including school communities to have a greater say in the licensing process; and
- Ensure access to legal cannabis is maintained without pushing out diverse businesses that make our local economies thrive; and

WHEREAS: Bill 29 passed first reading at Queen's Park on Tuesday October 26, 2021, and City Council endorsed this amendment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That TCDSB endorse Private Members' Bill 29, entitled "An Act to Amend the Cannabis Licence Act, 2018"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That TCDSB write a letter to convey the Board's endorsement of Bill 29 to the Province of Ontario; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That TCDSB request the Ontario Government to place a moratorium on new cannabis licenses and retailers in Toronto for one year.

Norm Di Pasquale
Trustee, Ward 9