

Cannabis is legal but smoking everywhere is not

Residents asked to be aware, be respectful before smoking cannabis

Bradford West Gwillimbury, ON (October 19, 2018) – Residents of Ontario aged 19 and over are now legally able to buy, consume and grow cannabis, but there are restrictions on where smoking and vaping cannabis is allowed.

The provincial government has passed a bill that allows cannabis smoking anywhere that tobacco smoking is permitted (as per the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*), except that cannabis cannot be consumed by anyone (driver or passenger) in a vehicle or boat regardless of whether it is in motion.

Cannabis can be smoked or vaped in locations including private residences (though this can be limited by landlords and condo corporations), controlled areas in certain hospices and retirement homes, designated guest rooms in hotels/motels/inns and some outdoor public places.

Broadly speaking, places where smoking of any kind is not permitted include:

- workplaces;
- playgrounds, school grounds and sports fields (and public areas within 20 metres of these spaces);
- child care centres and early years centres (including home daycares, even when there are no children present);
- public buildings including libraries, leisure centres, municipal offices and their grounds;
- schools and universities;
- bars and restaurants (including patios and within nine metres of patios and public areas);
- any type of hospital, hospice, health care facility or retirement home, or within nine metres of the entrance/exit of these facilities, or on their outdoor grounds (unless in a designated controlled area);
- in sheltered outdoor areas with a roof and more than two walls, such as bus shelters.

While it is currently legal to smoke in many public spaces, the Town hopes that consideration will be given to non-smokers when deciding whether or not it is a good time and place to smoke cannabis.

“We’d like to encourage smokers to be mindful of the people around them who may be affected by secondhand smoke,” says Manager of Enforcement, Brent Lee. “While the public may not have legal recourse against someone smoking cannabis in a permitted location, we hope that smokers will be respectful of requests not to smoke near them, particularly if children are nearby.”

Smoking or vaping cannabis outside of permitted areas is an offence under the *Smoke Free Ontario Act*.

Cannabis edibles are still illegal in Canada. The online Ontario Cannabis Store (OCS) is the only place to legally purchase cannabis in Ontario and the province has stated that this will be the case until at least April 2019. The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury anticipates making a decision by January as to whether or not to allow retail cannabis stores within the municipality once they are legal.