

# TOWN OF GODERICH CANNABIS POLICY STATEMENT

## Purpose & Vision

The purpose of this Policy Statement is to provide a format for municipal government input to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) as well as help prospective recreational cannabis retailers in their consideration of location of cannabis retail stores in the Town of Goderich.

The AGCO is the provincial authority that licences cannabis retail operators, authorizes cannabis retail locations and licenses senior store staff. Municipal governments have no licensing authority.

The AGCO regulates and reviews all aspects of the retail operation including municipal and public input, that the proposed store location is consistent with the public interest as defined in the regulations.

The Town of Goderich has chosen to allow retail sales of recreational cannabis.

The Town will encourage cannabis awareness and harm reduction programs designed to provide appropriate information to inform an individual's choices respecting their use of cannabis.

The following provides municipal staff with guidance on commenting to AGCO when notice on a specific proposed cannabis retail store site is provided on the site location.

## Principles for Cannabis Retail Store Locations

Relationship to Other Applicable Law:

- ❖ Land Use Planning – The provincial licensing process does not remove the requirement to comply with the zoning by-law and other municipal planning documents. The definitions within the Town of Goderich's Official Plan and Zoning By-law are applicable to all retail, including cannabis retail stores. Retail sale of cannabis from a provincially licensed store is legal and is a permitted use in the retail zones.
- ❖ Municipal Building Inspections – While the licencing of the store operation is the responsibility of the AGCO, the Building Code applies to cannabis retail store locations. Therefore, where a building permit is required, the building inspector will undertake duties as usual. Fire Code compliance is also mandatory.

For the purposes of this policy statement, a cannabis retail store shall mean a store licenced by the AGCO.

**1. Cannabis Retail Stores and Sensitive Activities**

In order to help ensure public health and safety, protect youth and reduce illegal sales, retail cannabis stores are discouraged where nearby properties are designed to serve youth or other sensitive facilities that service persons with mental health or addiction challenges including:

<b>Separation Distance and Location</b>
100 metres from the Goderich Municipal Child Care Centre
100 metres from the Maitland Valley Recreation Centre
100 metres from Victoria Park/Judith Gooderham Park
100 metres from Goderich Recreation (Ag) Park and Memorial Arena
100 metres from Alexandra Marine and General Hospital; includes Psychiatry Care on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor of the hospital
100 metres from Maitland Valley Medical Centre
100 metres from Community Psychiatric Services office
100 metres from Goderich Kinsmen Park

NOTE: Ontario Regulation restricts a cannabis retail store from being located within a distance of 150 meters of a public school or most private schools. The municipality cannot adopt a greater distance. The distance buffer would be measured from the property line, if the school is the primary or only occupant of a building; or the boundary of any space occupied by the school within the building, if the school shares space, like in a mall.

**2. Cannabis retail stores shall not be permitted in:**

The Town prohibits all cannabis retail stores within the Goderich Waterfront area as designated in the Town’s Official Plan and shown on the attached map; this includes Main Beach, St. Christopher’s Beach, Rotary Cove Beach (pavilions, parks and parking).

**3. Attached is a map showing the commercial zones of the municipality and the activities identified in Section 1.**

The attached map demonstrate the concentric rings around the locations identified in Section 1 within the Town of Goderich.