



# City of Prince Albert

**RPT 23-233**

**TITLE:** Request to Amend Zoning Bylaw Regarding Cannabis Retail Stores

**DATE:** June 5, 2023

**TO:** Executive Committee

**PUBLIC:** X

**INCAMERA:**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That this report regarding the options to amend Bylaw No. 1 of 2019, the Zoning Bylaw to allow additional Cannabis Retail Stores in Prince Albert, be received as information and filed.

## **TOPIC & PURPOSE:**

To provide information regarding regulation of the number of Cannabis Retail Stores in Prince Albert, in response to the correspondence (CORR 23-15) received during the February 27, 2023 Executive Committee meeting.

## **PROPOSED APPROACH AND RATIONALE:**

### History of Cannabis Retail Stores

When cannabis was first legalized in Saskatchewan in October 2018, Saskatchewan Liquor & Gaming Authority (SLGA) limited the number of permits for Cannabis Retail Stores available in Prince Albert to two (2). However, in October 2019, SLGA announced that they would begin to accept permit applications for additional Cannabis Retail Stores in all communities in the province by September 2020. Given this change, municipalities were able to choose whether or not they limited the number of stores in their communities. *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act* enables municipalities to designate zones where cannabis may be sold under a cannabis permit, and *The Cities Act* grants municipalities the power to limit the number of businesses that may operate in a city.

City Council, at its meeting of June 1, 2020 approved the following motion through Resolution No. 0254:

“That the Director of Planning and Development Services bring back a Bylaw restricting the number of Cannabis Stores within the City to three (3).”

Following City Council’s direction, a bylaw amendment to the Zoning Bylaw was adopted on July 15, 2020 that limited the number of Cannabis Retail Stores in Prince Albert to three.

### Requests to Increase the Number of Cannabis Retail Stores

On February 27, 2023, the Executive Committee heard from Kerri Michell, President of Farmer Jane Cannabis Co., requesting that City Council revisit the restrictions on the number of Cannabis Retail Stores permitted to operate in Prince Albert. At that time, Executive Committee made the following resolution:

“That CORR 23-15 be received and referred to Administration to provide a report for consideration at an upcoming Executive Committee meeting.”

Over the past few years, the occasional request has been received by Administration regarding the number of cannabis retail stores permitted in the city. Most recently, in addition to the attached correspondence received by the Executive Committee, Administration received another request for an increase to the number of cannabis retail stores in May 2023 (attached).

### Current Zoning Restrictions

Section 14 of the Zoning Bylaw defines a Cannabis Retail Store as:

*“a building, or a portion thereof, used to display and sell cannabis, cannabis products, and may include the sale and display of related accessories and ancillary items”.*

Cannabis Retail Stores are allowed in C1 – Downtown Commercial, C2 – Small Lot Arterial Commercial, C3 – Large Lot Arterial Commercial, and C4 – Highway Commercial zoning districts. They are not permitted to be located within 200 metres of any Elementary School, Secondary School, or park, and cannot be located within 500 metres of any other Cannabis Retail Store.

As per the attached map, with the existing separation distance requirements there are still some opportunities for new Cannabis Retail Store locations within the City. If City Council wanted to increase the number of Cannabis Retail Stores in Prince Albert, an amendment could be made to the Zoning Bylaw that maintained separation distances but increased or removed the limit on the number of Cannabis Retail Stores.

### Financial Implications

As per Bylaw No. 25 of 2018, the Cannabis Business License Bylaw, a new Cannabis Retail Store would be required to pay a \$20,000 business license fee in their first year of operation. Following the initial fee payment, license renewals would be reduced to \$100, the same

amount as a standard business license renewal fee.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

Public Notice pursuant to Public Notice Bylaw No. 24 of 2015 is not required.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Cannabis Retail Stores - Separation Distances
2. CORR 23-15 – Correspondence from Farmer Jane Cannabis Co. (February 2023)
3. Correspondence from Prairie North Construction & 1CM Inc. (May 2023)

Written by: Ellen Pearson, Planner

Approved by: Director of Planning and Development Services & City Manager