

**Report to  
Rapport au:**

**Ottawa Board of Health  
Conseil de santé d'Ottawa  
19 June 2023 / 19 juin 2023**

**Submitted on June 8, 2023  
Soumis le 8 juin 2023**

**Submitted by  
Soumis par:**

**Dr. / Dre Vera Etches, Medical Officer of Health / Médecin chef en santé publique**

**Contact Person**

**Personne ressource:**

**Esther Moghadam, Director, Community Wellness and Chronic Disease  
Prevention / Directrice, Bien-être Communautaire et prévention des maladies  
chroniques**

**613-580-2424, x. 23789, Esther.Moghadam@Ottawa.ca**

**Ward: CITY WIDE / À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE      File Number: ACS2023-OPH-HPP-0002**

**SUBJECT:** Ottawa Public Health Submission to Health Canada on Potential  
Amendments to Cannabis Regulations

**OBJET:** Soumission de Santé publique Ottawa à Santé Canada sur les  
modifications potentielles aux règlements sur le cannabis

## **REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit approve Ottawa Public Health's submission to Health Canada's consultation on proposed amendments to Cannabis regulations, as outlined in Document 1.**

## **RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Que le Conseil de santé de la circonscription sanitaire de la ville d'Ottawa approuve la soumission de Santé publique Ottawa à Santé Canada quant aux**

**modifications potentielles aux règlements sur le cannabis, telle que présentée dans le document 1.**

## **BACKGROUND**

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has been monitoring the legalization and regulation of cannabis and responding to opportunities for fostering a public health approach that minimizes the potential health risks and public health impacts. OPH continues to implement an evidence-informed, [comprehensive 4-point plan](#), approved by the Ottawa Board of Health on February 5, 2018, to reduce the harms from cannabis use. This plan responds to the on-going community need to address the legalization of cannabis for non-medical use, including the expanding new product classes, such as edibles and vaping, with a focus on youth, young adults, individuals who are pregnant and breast/chest feeding, and individuals who store cannabis in their home.

On March 25, 2023, Health Canada launched [public consultation on potential amendments to the Cannabis Regulations](#). The deadline to submit feedback was May 24, 2023. Due to the timelines associated with the public consultation process, OPH's draft submission was circulated to Members of the Board of Health for their review and feedback and then submitted to Health Canada in advance of the deadline.

The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval of the recommendations outlined in the submission, attached as Document 1.

## **DISCUSSION**

As noted above, in late March, Health Canada launched a public consultation process on potential amendments to the Cannabis Regulations with the objectives of: 1) streamlining and clarifying existing requirements; 2) eliminating inefficiencies in the regulations such as duplications between requirements; and 3) reducing administrative and regulatory burdens where possible while continuing to meet the public health and public safety objectives in the *Cannabis Act*. Moreover, the proposed regulatory amendments targeted the following five priority areas:

- Licensing
- Personnel and physical security measures
- Production requirements for cannabis products
- Packaging and labelling requirements for cannabis products

- Record keeping and reporting requirements for cannabis licence holders

In its submission, OPH responded to specific questions on: Licensing; Production requirements for cannabis products; Packaging and labelling requirements; and Record keeping and reporting requirements.

OPH is supportive of a public health approach to the legalization and regulation of cannabis to minimize the negative health and social impacts. OPH's submission included further restrictions on cannabis products to reduce their appeal to young people, reduce accidental ingestion by children and risks of overconsumption. Refer to the submission package for the full list of recommendations.

### **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no rural implications associated with this report.

### **CONSULTATION**

To inform the development of this submission, OPH consulted the Tobacco Control Area Networks (TCANs).

No public consultation was undertaken in preparing this report.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal impediments to approving this report's recommendation.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### **ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

There are no accessibility impacts associated with this report.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

This report supports the OPH's 2019 – 2022 Strategy, *Protecting Our Community's Health*, with respect to promoting mental health and reducing health and social harms of substance use and influence the social and physical environments that support health and well-being.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Document 1 – Ottawa Public Health’s submission to Health Canada in response to the consultation on potential amendments to cannabis regulations

## **DISPOSITION**

This report is presented to the Board for approval of the recommendations outlined in the supporting document. OPH will continue to monitor cannabis regulations at all levels of government and report back as needed.