



Norfolk County Office of the Mayor

October 26, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Health Canada
Address Locator 0900C2
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Ontario Provincial Police
General Headquarters
Lincoln M. Alexander Queen's Park Building
777 Memorial Avenue
Orillia, ON
L3V 7V3

Dear Right Honourable Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford,

Re: Illicit Cannabis Operations

At their meeting of October 20, 2020 Norfolk County Council approved Resolution No. 6 of the Council-In-Committee meeting of October 13, 2020 which reads as follows:

Res. 6

WHEREAS illicit cannabis grow operations are a significant issue in many municipalities in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS there are often significant negative impacts from illicit cannabis operations upon surrounding communities and residents;

AND WHEREAS the intent of legalizing cannabis was to eliminate the 'black market' not allow it to expand with relative impunity;

AND WHEREAS Norfolk County estimates that there are approximately 70 cannabis operations in our municipality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Mayor issue a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, Premier of Ontario, Health Canada and the Ontario Provincial Police;

AND THAT Norfolk County Council request that solutions to the current crisis which may include but are not limited to; better regulation and tracking of the prescription of cannabis in Canada by doctors, increased regulatory and enforcement presence by Health Canada, increased OPP resources, increased funding to municipalities to deal with complaints and By-Law issues generated by illicit cannabis grow operations;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of the submission by Debbie France be attached to the Mayor's letter.

Your attention to this important issue is appreciated.

Yours Truly,



Mayor Kristal Chopp
Norfolk County

cc. Toby Barrett- MPP Haldimand-Norfolk
Diane Finley – MP Haldimand-Norfolk
All Ontario Municipalities

Submission Debbie France

Cannabis Reference Material

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Note: The list of links in this document is a small representation of information mostly connected to news articles that show there are significant issues connected to Marijuana Cultivation in Agricultural areas throughout the Province of Ontario. We encourage anyone viewing this document to search and reach out in their municipality to discover how the issues are unfolding in the Municipality they call home. Further investigation is likely to uncover similar issues in areas throughout the Province of Ontario and across the Country. We expect that further investigation is likely to uncover other elected officials who have been actively trying to find solutions for the constituents they were elected to serve. We encourage anyone viewing this information to connect with the author of the letter that accompanies this list or they can email their contact information and concerns to debbiefrence@live.ca and a representative of this group will reply to help address their concerns.

Cannabis Articles

1) *General knowledge*

Article: Gaping hole in pot legislation is hitting Norfolk hard (Ontario Farmer Jan 24, 2020)
(Perhaps best article to understand entire issue)

<https://www.ontariofarmer.com/features/gaping-hole-in-pot-legislation-is-hitting-norfolk-hard/>

Article: Change is in the wind (Ontario Planners June 1, 2018)
(Outlines challenges for Municipalities from a planning perspective)

<https://ontarioplanners.ca/blog/planning-exchange/june-2018/change-is-in-the-wind>

Submission Debbie France

Cannabis Reference Material

Article: Stench among concerns as Bradford council hears about cannabis cultivation in Holland Marsh (Barrie Today Jun 14, 2020)

(Outlines common complaints amongst those living nearby grow ops)

<https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/bradford-council-hears-from-public-about-cannabis-cultivation-in-holland-marsh-2433271>

Article: County council concerned by marijuana licences (Belleville Intelligencer June 25, 2020)

<https://www.intelligencer.ca/news/local-news/county-council-concerned-by-marijuana-licences>

2) Cannabis land use reports

Article: Final Land Use Study on Cannabis Production in The Town of Pelham

(Explains potential issues between Municipal By-laws & Farm & Food Protection Act relating to Cannabis) Review sections... 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.7 to understand potential issues

<https://pelham-pub.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=21743>

3) Municipalities not permitting Cannabis grow ops on agricultural lands

Article: Brighton sets limits on where cannabis production facilities can locate (Northumberland news Apr 9, 2019)

<https://www.northumberlandnews.com/news-story/9274359-brighton-sets-limits-on-where-cannabis-production-facilities-can-locate/>

Article: Prime agricultural land no place for cannabis, Oro-Medonte coalition says (Simcoe May 31, 2020)

<https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/10001301-prime-agricultural-land-no-place-for-cannabis-oro-medonte-coalition-says/>

4) Municipal Panel & Roundtable Discussion with Local & Provincial Law Enforcement

Article: East Gwillimbury Cannabis Production Facilities Panel Discussion OPP & YRP discuss organized crime's active involvement in Cannabis production and the risks that it poses to residents (YouTube video)

<https://youtu.be/Oisv7MEIV14>

Article: Hastings-Lennox & Addington Roundtable on Illicit Cannabis Operations – Fed MP Derek Sloan

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3216967588368948&extid=jTObBPn7swAbfxrz>

5) Police Intervention - Police shut down massive illegal cannabis operation, seize more than 100k plants (CBC News Aug 21, 2020)

Article: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/project-woolwich-cannabis-niagara-1.5695691>

6) Police Intervention - Cannabis production allegedly fueling synthetic drug production labs (Project Moon)

Article: More than \$45m in drugs and cash seized as twin drug gangs dismantled in York Region
(CP24 Aug 8, 2019)

<https://www.cp24.com/news/more-than-45m-in-drugs-and-cash-seized-as-twin-drug-gangs-dismantled-in-york-region-1.4541063>

7) Police Intervention – raids involving production exceeding limits

St. Catharines

Article: Niagara police bust \$34m illegal cannabis operation (Global News July 1, 2020)

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7128873/niagara-illegal-cannabis-grow-op/>

King Township

Article: Police seize \$4.7m in illegal drugs after search of former Joe's Garden property in King
(York Region Oct 7, 2019)

<https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/9633352-police-seize-4-7m-in-illegal-drugs-after-search-of-former-joe-s-garden-property-in-king/>

Article: 8 charged after \$400k worth of 'excess cannabis' found on King Township grow-op
(CBC News Oct 2, 2018)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/eight-charged-marijuana-trafficking-cannabis-farms-york-region-1.4847114>

Article: Police bust marijuana grow op in King Township worth \$6.5m, seize 4,000 plants
(CTV News Aug 3, 2018)

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/police-bust-marijuana-grow-op-in-king-township-worth-6-5m-seize-4-000-plants-1.4039863>

Stouffville

Article: Police bust cannabis grow op in excess of licence limits near Aurora
(YorkRegion Jan 29, 2019)

<https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/9148816-police-bust-cannabis-grow-op-in-excess-of-licence-limits-near-aurora/>

8) Police Intervention - Cannabis busts at US/Canada border

Article: Canadian resident arrested in relation to massive cannabis bust at U.S. border
(Global News June 16, 2020)

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7070697/canadian-involved-significant-drug-seizure-u-s-border/>

Cannabis Reference Material

9) Federal MP's mentioned in articles who are actively requesting Health Canada to solve Cannabis issue

Article: MP Finley brings the issue of unlicensed large-scale marijuana producers to Parliament (Norfolk Today July 27, 2020) - **Fed MP Diane Finley**
<https://www.norfolktoday.ca/2020/07/27/96986/>

Article: Stomp out cannabis criminality: Sloan (Quinte News July 2, 2020) - **Fed MP Derek Sloan**
<https://www.quintenews.com/2020/07/02/stomp-out-cannabis-criminality-sloan/>

Article: 'Stinks like 10000 skunks': Tottenham residents want more potent restrictions for medical-marijuana growers (Simcoe Feb 11, 2020) - **Fed MP Terry Dowdall**
<https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/9844540--stinks-like-10-000-skunks-tottenham-residents-want-more-potent-restrictions-for-medical-marijuana-growers/>

10) Municipal guide to Cannabis legislation (by FCM)

<https://fcm.ca/en/resources/municipal-guide-cannabis-legalization>

11) The final report of the task force on Cannabis legalization and regulation

<https://hoban.law/2017/01/the-final-report-of-the-task-force-on-cannabis-legalization-and-regulation/>

12) Municipalities who have refused requests for exceptions to bylaws

Article: Marijuana setback relief denied (Simcoe Reformer May 29, 2019)
<https://www.simcoereformer.ca/news/local-news/marijuana-setback-relief-denied>

Article: Council officially denies the marijuana micro-cultivation facility (NewTecTimes March 6, 2020)
<http://newtectimes.com/?p=24388>

13) Court cases - Bylaw/Zoning violations

Article: Cannabis producer pleads guilty to violating bylaw (Simcoe Reformer Feb 20, 2020)
<https://www.simcoereformer.ca/news/local-news/cannabis-producer-enters-guilty-plea>

Article: East Gwillimbury takes medical marijuana facility to court (York Region Aug 12, 2020)
<https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/10134439-east-gwillimbury-takes-medical-marijuana-facility-to-court/>

14) Nuisance bylaw amendment - Cannabis odour

Article: Council enacts nuisance by-law addressing cannabis odour concerns

(Bradford Today Jun 19, 2020)

<https://www.bradfordtoday.ca/local-news/council-enacts-nuisance-by-law-addressing-cannabis-odour-concerns-2441245>

Article: Hamilton targets large-scale personal grow operations with nuisance bylaw amendment

(Global News Apr 23, 2020)

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6857506/city-of-hamilton-nuisance-bylaw-amendments-personal-grow-operations-cannabis/>

Article: Nuisance bylaw to deal with cannabis odour coming soon to Lincoln

(Niagara This Week Aug 3, 2020)

<https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/10128119-nuisance-bylaw-to-deal-with-cannabis-odour-coming-soon-to-lincoln/>

Article: Pelham gives stamp of approval on odour bylaw to deal with cannabis operations

(Niagara This Week Mar 27, 2020)

<https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/9918340-pelham-gives-stamp-of-approval-on-odour-bylaw-to-deal-with-cannabis-operations/>

Article: Niagara area town buys \$5,000 device to measure weed smell after repeated complaints from residents (Timmins Today Jul 7, 2020)

<https://www.timminstoday.com/around-ontario/ontario-niagara-area-town-buys-5000-device-to-measure-weed-smell-after-repeated-complaints-from-residents-2545977>

15) Municipalities that have requested assistance from Province

Article: Council supports request for more control over cannabis production in municipalities

(Bradford Today May 22, 2020)

<https://www.bradfordtoday.ca/local-news/council-supports-request-for-more-control-over-cannabis-production-in-municipalities-2366228>