

TOWNSHIP OF ENNISKILLEN
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Duncan McTavish
Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer
Mike Cumming
Road Superintendent

October 5 2021

Hon Lisa Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
1 Stone Road West
Guelph ON
N1G 4YZ

Dear Minister,

Re: Cannabis Resolution-Township of Enniskillen

At the regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Enniskillen of October 4 2021 the following resolution was endorsed:

As the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Enniskillen through a resolution January, 2021 had enacted an Interim Control Bylaw to undertake a review of land use policies related to Cannabis Production & Processing Facilities.

And Whereas the Township of Enniskillen is considered rural with several settlement areas and is primarily zoned Agricultural and has endured the placement of a cannabis facility in our township since the inception of the *Cannabis Act* with little or no compliance, enforcement or oversight from Health Canada. Furthermore, dealing with the enforcement of nuisances such as odour, lights and noise on the shoulders of the ratepayers of this municipality, with the only recourse being an appeal to the *Normal Farm Practices Protection Board or LPAT*. These processes are both costly and lengthy and, in the meantime, causes negative impacts on neighbouring homeowners and unsatisfactory living conditions.

And Whereas Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs stated Dec 20, 2019 "The ministry recognize the broader concerns raised about the potential for nuisance impacts with the expansion of federally licensed and registered cannabis operations in the province. We also recognize the need for research to inform control measures and effective planning." We are still waiting for this research.

And Whereas the Minister also recommended townships have "tools under the Planning Act and Municipal Act to set siting requirements providing the Provincial Policy Statement 2014 is followed." The "tools" as such consist of Official Plans and Zoning Bylaws. Many municipalities have tried to use these tools effectively only to be slammed with appeals to LPAT and NFFPP at huge expense. Many of the surrounding municipalities have allowed cannabis facilities to be situated only in Industrial/Commercial Zones. For those allowing these facilities in Agriculturally zoned, there are required setbacks. However, our experience has shown the setbacks to be too small and of little assistance to neighbours as far as nuisance complaints.


And Whereas the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has stated cannabis is an agricultural product with little regard to the PPS. Provincial Policy Statement must be read in its entirety and make reference to *Part IV: Vision for Ontario's Land Use Planning System* – “The Province’s natural heritage resources, water resources, including the Great Lakes, agricultural resources, mineral resources, and cultural heritage and archaeological resources provide important environmental, economic, and social benefits., The wise use and management of these resources over the long term is

a key provincial interest. The province must ensure that its resources are managed in a sustainable way to conserve biodiversity, protect essential ecological processes and public health and safety, provide for **the production of food, fur and fiber**, minimize environmental and social impacts, provide for recreational opportunities (e.g. fishing, hunting and hiking) and meet its long-term needs.” This statement explicitly identifies **food, fur and fiber** and this reference sets the playing field for Agricultural Resources. Cannabis is neither food, fur nor fiber.

Now therefore, the Council of the Township of Enniskillen enacts the following:

- That Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs re-evaluate their position that cannabis is **not** an agricultural product such as food, fur and fiber but is in-fact Industrial/Commercial in nature;
- That Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs support all Ontario municipalities to be able to determine appropriate setbacks in Zoning Bylaws as appropriate for their municipality for the placement of cannabis facilities within their Official Plan knowing full well that one size does not fit all;
- That copies of this resolution be forwarded to **ALL** Ontario municipalities, and the following:
Federal Minister of Agriculture & Rural Affairs – Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau
Provincial Minister of Agriculture & Rural Affairs – Hon. Lisa Thompson
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing – Hon. Steve Clark
Sarnia-Lambton-Kent MP – Marilyn Gladu
Sarnia-Lambton-Kent MPP – Bob Bailey
London West MPP - Peter Fragiskatos

Yours truly,


Duncan McTavish
Clerk