



Ontario Provincial Police  
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

## News Release/ Communiqué

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**FROM/DE:** Upper Ottawa Valley OPP

**DATE:** October 15, 2018

### **ELECTION SIGNS GO MISSING IN PEMBROKE**

**(PEMBROKE, ON)** – The Upper Ottawa Valley Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police is reminding the public that damaging or removing election signs can lead to charges of mischief and theft under the Criminal Code. The reminder comes after two election signs, belonging to the same candidate, were reported stolen in the City of Pembroke over the weekend of October 13-14, 2018. Furthermore, the Canada Elections Act states, "No person shall prevent or impair the transmission to the public of an election advertising message without the consent of a person with authority to authorize its transmission."

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Pembroke Detachment of the Upper Ottawa Valley OPP at 613-732-3332 or Pembroke/Renfrew County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or at [www.valleytips.ca](http://www.valleytips.ca).

- 30 -

**Contact:** Cst. Shawn Peever  
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**Melinda Reith, Head, Clara & Maria**

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**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2018 6:30 PM  
**To:** hcmclerkmreith@gmail.com  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Bill 36 Ontario Cannabis Statute Law Amendment Act - Ready for Legislative Approval

October 15, 2018

## **Bill 36 Ontario Cannabis Statute Law Amendment Act – Ready for Legislative Approval**

### **Next Steps for Municipal Governments**

#### **A. What is Happening?**

The Standing Committee on Social Policy completed its work today and the Bill will be report to the Legislature for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading and anticipated Royal Assent for October 17<sup>th</sup>. Many groups, including AMO recommended changes to clarify elements of the framework, the Committee made only one change. It clarifies that the amount of cannabis sold at one time to an individual is limited to 30 grams, in line with individual possession limits under federal legislation.

Bill 36 will be the framework for sales, retailer licensing, store licensing, places of use and other cannabis rules on Wednesday, barring any unforeseen events. While the Committee did not accept the amendments AMO proposed, AMO will now focus on the regulation-making process to try to safeguard municipal input to the AGCO on siting and buffers from sensitive sites. For more information on AMO's Submission to the Committee, see [AMO's Recommended Amendments to Bill 36](#).

#### **B. What Do You Need To Do? Next Steps for Municipal Governments**

Municipal staff need to become familiar with Bill 36 and the legal framework for recreational cannabis. Municipal staff need to understand the Bill and be ready to respond to inquiries about where people are able to use cannabis in public and manage nuisance complaints. See AMO's [Cannabis Briefing](#) for more on the *Smoke Free Ontario Act* and how it deals with places to smoke. A council may review its bylaw to be more restrictive.

Staff should also begin to research the information needed by council to take a decision on whether to opt-out of retail licensing which is required before January 22, 2018. To ensure sufficient time is available for council's decision-making, staff will need to consider a work-back schedule taking into account the council meeting schedule and procedural by-law. AMO will continue to inform

members of any significant developments that affect municipal council decisions and local services including the status and content of any regulations that put the legislative framework into effect.

Remember, Bill 36 exempts retail stores from municipal business licensing and land use planning. The Standing Committee chose not to explicitly require only areas zoned for commercial use as eligible for cannabis retail operations. We are hopeful that we can achieve this in the days ahead and a clear process for input to AGCO on cannabis retail store siting. In the meantime, AMO recommends that the appropriate municipal staff begin looking at siting considerations.

Ontario municipal governments will share at least \$40 million of the provincial portion of the federal cannabis excise tax to help manage the transition to legal recreational cannabis. Individual municipalities will have access to at least \$10,000 and more if cannabis retail stores are to be located in their communities. The no opt out contribution is a rate per household. AMO is seeking clarity on the amount and hold back for those that may opt out initially but opt in sometime in the future.

It is likely that municipal costs for legal recreational cannabis may exceed the municipal allocation of \$40 million as front line policing (e.g., roadside and illegal dispensary), public health, by-law enforcement, paramedic and other services feel impacts. Ontario municipalities will share on a 50-50 basis with the province if the federal cannabis excise tax is above \$100 million in the first two years of legalization.

### **C. What Else Do You Need To Know?**

On October 17th, the federal government will lift criminal prohibitions on cannabis subject to certain limits. In Ontario, people will be able to grow, possess and use cannabis as set out in federal and provincial laws. People in Ontario can smoke or vape cannabis anywhere they can currently smoke tobacco. Public Health Units are responsible for enforcing places of cannabis and tobacco use including prohibitions on use in enclosed workplaces, near playgrounds and restaurant and bar patios, among others. Municipal governments are able to set stricter rules for use of tobacco and cannabis. Councils will need to consider community needs along with likely increase enforcement costs where more restrictions occur.

Retail establishments, licensed by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), will open on or after April 1, 2019. AGCO operator license applications open in December 2018 with store site licenses to follow after councils decide whether to ban sales. Police forces are responsible for unlicensed storefronts. Current storefront operators that wish to avoid legal action or to obtain a license must close by the Wednesday to be eligible for an AGCO license.

Ontarians can buy cannabis on-line from the Ontario Cannabis Store (OCS) starting this Wednesday. The OCS will deliver cannabis to adults 19 and over anywhere in Ontario, including municipalities that choose not to host a retail store. Identification checks are required for delivery and packages cannot be left at the door. The OCS has created a cannabis learning resource for Ontario residents that focuses on the health and biological effects of the drug to help people better understand the risks of the product. It offers a great deal of information.

74

# Panel recommends big hike in county pay

BY VANCE GUTZMAN

The reeves and mayors who sit on Renfrew County council could be in line for a pay increase.

A three-member citizen's panel is recommending that county councillors receive an increase in pay of just more than \$3,000 in 2019.

County councillors are currently paid \$10,612 for their duties at the county.

The pay hike would bring their annual compensation up to \$13,796 in 2019, with further increases in each of the three following years that would see them getting paid \$16,796 in 2022.

The county warden meanwhile, who currently gets paid \$58,366, would see a bump in pay to \$75,876 next year, climbing to \$78,876 by 2022.

The recommended pay increases stem largely from the federal government's 2017 decision to eliminate the long-stand-

ing exemption for municipal politicians to receive one-third of their compensation as non-taxable income, in lieu of expenses related to their duties.

"This provision was included in the 2017 federal budget without consultation or any advance notice of the legislation," the remuneration panel's report states.

"When coupled with the councillors' compensation received as a member of the lower-tier council, and with any other personal income, the result is a significant reduction in net income."

The panel's report goes on to note that the elimination of the one-third exemption "is clearly a downloading of costs to the municipal taxpayer and a significant increase in federal revenues."

The panel also points out that some larger urban centres in Ontario have already incorporated the loss of the tax exemption by increasing council salaries and enrolling elected officials in the Ontario

Municipal Employment Retirement System (OMERS) to partially offset their loss.

The panel notes that a 2017 report prepared by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario estimated that similar action for a county council in eastern Ontario comprised of 17 members (such as what exists here) and a population of 77,000 would result in an annual increase of at least \$74,000.

## INADEQUATE

The panel points out that Renfrew County has the second highest population of the six other counties in eastern Ontario which it used as a comparator group, "as well as one of the lowest levels of compensation."

Among the panel's many recommendations is that the Renfrew County warden and councillors should not participate in the OMERS pension program, nor should they be entitled to a severance upon leaving office.

The panel solicited input from all members of Renfrew County council by means of a questionnaire to determine, among other things, changes in workload and suggested improvements.

"While all councillors did not respond, those who did unambiguously stated that the increased legislative and regulatory requirements over the last term re-

sulted in a much heavier workload, an increased level of responsibilities and the current compensation was inadequate and failed to recognize the complexities of their elected office," the panel's report states.

The panel also noted that some county councillors expressed concern that "inadequate compensation, coupled with the ever-increasing workload, will discourage younger residents from offering their time and expertise to serve their community on council."

"The time commitment, away from family and career, are major decisions in making the decision to offer to serve," the report states.

"It is important to note that county councillors also have responsibilities at the lower-tier level (their own respective municipalities), in most cases as head of council."

"While the compensation from both the upper and lower tiers may be inadequate to compare to full-time employment, an improved salary at the county level may result in increased interest in participating in the political process."

Among the panel's other recommendations, standing committee chairs at the county council should receive an additional \$2,068 per year for the four-year term of 2019 to 2022, and standing committee vice chairs should receive a \$194 per dem for each meeting they chair during the four-year term.