



Mayor's Monthly Message

September 2018

The federal government enacted legislation over the summer that means cannabis will be legal across Canada on October 17, 2018. The provincial government, however, has jurisdiction over matters regulating the public consumption of cannabis under Alberta's Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act. This statute prohibits smoking and consumption of cannabis in most public places.

The provincial government outlines a number of key issues which can be referenced at <https://www.alberta.ca/cannabis-legalization.aspx> and includes the following points:

- Albertans will be allowed to consume cannabis in their homes and in some public spaces where smoking tobacco is allowed, but use will be banned in cars.
- In an effort to protect children and limit second-hand exposure, public smoking or vaping of cannabis in Alberta will be prohibited from any place where tobacco is restricted, and on any hospital property, school property or child care facility property.
- Use of cannabis is also prohibited in or within a prescribed distance from a playground, sports or playing field, skateboard or bicycle park, zoo, outdoor theatre and outdoor pool or splash pad.
- There will also be no consumption of cannabis at any cannabis retail outlets.
- Municipalities may create additional restrictions on public consumption using their existing authorities.

Your Council developed a four-year strategic plan titled "Realizing our Potential" last fall that was made available on the Village website once the plan was formally approved. Our mission from that plan states that our primary focus in all that we do is "to create a vibrant community that promotes sustainable growth, noticeable community spirit, and a safe, caring, and family focused lifestyle."

In light of that vision and our desire to create a suitable safe environment for a family focused lifestyle, Council has directed administration to introduce a bylaw that prohibits all public smoking, vaping or consumption of cannabis within the Village. Many communities across the country are implementing different measures to regulate public consumption of cannabis. These restrictions do not impact or restrict a citizen's rights to consume cannabis on private property or in their own homes unless otherwise prescribed in either federal or provincial legislation.

Our local bylaw is planned to be introduced for consideration at the next Council meeting on October 3rd and will be available for comment from the Village office and website if it passes first reading. We would certainly welcome your input and feedback on this proposed regulatory change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trevor Lewington".

Trevor Lewington

Have a comment? Question? Idea? Suggestion?

I'd love to hear from you.

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