



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

March 6, 2017

Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health & Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2C4

Dear Dr. Hoskins:

Re: Marijuana controls under Bill 178, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act, 2016

The Council of the Town of Tecumseh, at its regular meeting held Tuesday, February 28, 2017, gave consideration to correspondence from the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, sent on February 3, 2017, requesting support regarding the inclusion of Marijuana as a prescribed product or substance under Bill 178, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act, 2016, a copy of which is enclosed.

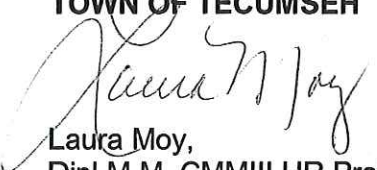
At their meeting, Tecumseh Council passed the following resolution:

"THAT the Tecumseh Council support the position of the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health and Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit recommending the enactment of the Smoke-free Ontario Amendment Act which received Royal Assent on June 9, 2016, as well as their suggestion to include medicinal and recreational marijuana as a prescribed substance within the regulations.

Carried"

Please consider this letter as confirmation of the Town of Tecumseh's support of the above matter.

Yours very truly,
TOWN OF TECUMSEH


Laura Moy,
Dipl.M.M, CMMIII HR Professional
Director Corporate Services & Clerk
LM/nm

Cc: Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario
Association of Local Public Health Agency
Ontario Public Health Association
Cheryl Hardcastle, MP Windsor-Tecumseh
Brian Masse, MP Windsor-West
Tracey Ramsey, MP Essex
Dave Van Kesteren, MP Chatham-Kent — Leamington
Percy Hatfield, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh
Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor-West
Taras Natyshak, MPP Essex
Municipal Councils in Windsor-Essex – (County Clerks)
Ontario Boards of Health
Windsor-Essex County Board of Health

February 3, 2017

The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Hoskins:

Marijuana controls under Bill 178, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act, 2016

On January 19, 2017, at a regular meeting of the Board of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, Administration brought forward a letter supported by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit regarding the inclusion of Marijuana as a prescribed product or substance under Bill 178, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act, 2016.

The Windsor-Essex County Board of Health supports the position of Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit recommending the enactment of the Smoke-free Ontario Amendment Act which received Royal Assent on June 9, 2016, as well as their suggestion to include medicinal and recreational marijuana as a prescribed substance within the regulations. By utilizing the strong framework set forth in the Smoke-free Ontario Strategy, the provincial government will take advantage of an established and effective means to address the risks associated with the use of these products using the three pillar approach of prevention, protection, and cessation.

As a result, the risks associated with increased uptake of marijuana will be mitigated through appropriate and consistent regulation, and exposure to smoking behaviour in public spaces will be minimized. Increased access to marijuana poses a significant public health concern with the most notable negative outcomes tied to impaired driving, exacerbation of mental illness and addictions, and potential harms to the children of pregnant or lactating women. First and second-hand marijuana smoke also contains known carcinogens and exposure to either can lead to respiratory or cardiovascular disease.

The Windsor-Essex County Board of Health applauds the efforts of the Ontario Government in the development of the Smoke-free Ontario Amendment Act, and the inclusion of marijuana as a prescribed substance is a practical and feasible means through which to lessen the potentially negative public health impacts of legalization. Should this approach be taken, and the enforcement behaviours fall within the scope of Ontario public health units, it is further recommended that sustainable funding and tailored enforcement training be provided.