



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

CANNABIS COMMITTEE

May 2018

Better government. Stronger communities.

OVERVIEW OF WORK

- Committee formed with representatives from municipal staff, police, elected officials and Department of Municipal Affairs
 - Shawn Cleary, Jim Perrin, Luc Cote, Tammy Hamlin, Ben Sivak, David MacNeil, Blair MacMurtery, Jim MacLeod, Peter McIsaac, Jeff Merrill, Laura Mosher, Kelly Rice, Mico Schwartzentruber, Marie Walsh, Bill Morris.
 - Staff: Janice Wentzell, Betty McDonald, and David Atchison



OVERVIEW OF WORK

- Committee formed with representatives from municipal staff, police, elected officials and Department of Municipal Affairs
- Established 3 sub-committees
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - Costing and Revenues
 - Workplace Occupational Health and Safety



ISSUES IDENTIFIED

- Legalization model (fed)
- Distribution (prov)
- Business Regulation (prov)
- Land Use Management (municipal)
- Public Consumption (prov, municipal)
- Workplace (fed, prov, municipal)
- Enforcement (fed, prov, municipal)



CONSIDERATIONS

Workplace Implications

- AMANS working on this issue
- Identifying training, particularly on impairment
- Model or example Human Resource Policies



POLICING

Police Chiefs working with Province

Drug Impaired Driving a major concern, will vigorously enforce but concerned with costs

-Funding for equipment and training from Feds

Retail: enforce rules on illegal store fronts

Personal & Illegal Cultivation – difficult to enforce, concerns of health and safety hazards, youth access, organized crime



PUBLIC CONSUMPTION

- Changes to Smoke Free Places Act, MVA, and CCA eliminate smoking cannabis (& using cannabis of any kind) in vehicles, and increase distances from public places but may not be enough for our citizens
- Concerns around the normalization of cannabis, exposure to children and youth, and smell
- Complicates enforcement
 - Dept of Environment will enforce Smoke Free Act: enough resources?
Does public know who to call?
 - Potential for different bylaws across municipalities: confusing?
 - Enforcement of municipal bylaws not a priority for police, and consequences weak.



FIRE SERVICES

- **Experience elsewhere shows a significant increase in fires, injury**
- Mostly from butane cylinders used to create BHO
- Concerns around chemicals being used in processing



POLICE & FIRE SERVICES

- Illegal Operations
- Crime and Safety Issues
- Physical Hazards
 - Fire
 - Electrical
- Chemical/Environmental Hazards
 - Hash oil explosions
 - Air Quality (SO₂, CO₂)
 - Mold
 - Pesticides
 - Odors



IMPLICATIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

- **Calls from the public**
 - Complaints about smoking in illegal places
 - Complaints about smell, unable to enjoy walking around, public spaces, impact on children
 - Concerns about personal cultivation and personal possession
 - Concerns around illegal operations
- So will need to record and respond to these calls



EXAMPLES: POSSIBLE BYLAWS

- Prohibit/allow smoking in fewer/more spaces or in municipality:
 - e.g., public parks, sports fields, downtowns
- Require fences or secure areas for outdoor cultivation
- Restrictions on where you can have micro cultivation
- Land use and zoning: accessory retail; commercial cultivation; cannabis retail if NS provides agency licenses



COST/REVENUE IMPLICATIONS

- Uncertainty around extent of incremental costs
- Public Safety and Health is a shared responsibility – municipalities a key resource to the province
- In discussions with the province on this issue, no commitment



HALIFAX COST ESTIMATES

- \$3m on-going costs; \$900k in start-up costs
- Cost drivers include:
 - Police (\$1.6m)
 - Fire & Emergency Services (\$800K)
 - Planning & Development (\$530K)
 - Legal Services (\$400K)
 - Human Resources (\$180K)
 - Corporate & Customer Services (\$300K)



WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

- Continue to research on implications
- Continue to push with the province for sharing of excise revenue, and for ways to enhance enforcement of municipal bylaws
- Push for strong education on health implications, and on laws
- Model bylaws, working with FCM, Halifax, others municipal units
- Facilitate training and development of HR policies to deal with workplace issues

