

## Comments on Cannabis Report

### Public Interest

Opting out will address both the **youth** and the **safety** matters which are, and should be, major concerns. Youth is the chief one. Adults can access cannabis elsewhere so opting out poses minimal, if any, hardship. Thus, we can protect youth and accommodate adults, as Markham and Richmond Hill are.

### Permitted Use

Cannabis use is permitted in **parks** and on **streets**. Opting out will disallow both. Many municipalities are rightly concerned that the same restrictions as apply to alcohol have not been applied to cannabis. Hopefully, the Province will correct this. Opting out will give the Province time to reconsider that discrepancy.

### Enforcement

Police will only respond if other potentially criminal complaints are also involved. Bylaw Officers will thus face any risk from impaired persons. Opting out will give Council time to observe and evaluate the experiences of municipalities who choose to get involved immediately.

Words like 'decipher', 'not understood', and 'separation only' in the report indicate clearly the confusion the federal and provincial haste has prompted. Opting out will give Council time to observe consequences that may result elsewhere.

Georgina has more than its share of fragile youth, often in fragile home situations. Anything Council can do to avoid adding to circumstances facing those youth and their families is prudent. Markham and Richmond Hill enjoy far more stable socio-economic conditions than does Georgina. Their action in dismissing cannabis sales out of hand almost as soon as they were approved offers sound guidance to us.

Staff state that opting out will cause 'no impact' to Georgina. It will also enable Council to 'evaluate' impacts elsewhere. That delay would be extremely wise and is what I would recommend also. Thank you for considering this input. Best wishes as you wrestle with this matter.

Sincerely,

Ron McCracken