

Council Votes to Opt In to Cannabis Retail, Changes to Cannabis Consumption By-Law

By **Megan Pounder** - January 14, 2019



file photo

No local municipalities were chosen during the first round of Doug Ford's Province-Wide [Cannabis Lottery](#), but that didn't stop City Council from opting in to be a potential destination for retail cannabis sales in the future, adding it to the [list of local municipalities](#) who have their names in the hat.

The city has until Jan. 22 to submit their decision in writing to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.



Council carried the motion during Monday's meeting, with a vote of 9-1 in favour of this resolution. The resolution was passed without discussion or debate. Even the Councillor who voted against the resolution didn't speak before the vote.

Council also voted 9-1 in favour to regulate the consumption of cannabis, with Councillor Gardi voting in opposition after comparing smoking cannabis in public to walking down the street drinking a beer. This means that cannabis will be treated the same as tobacco, allowing users to consume it in the same public places as tobacco. As goes with tobacco, smoking in any enclosed workplace, any enclosed public places and specifically designated outdoor places, such as parks and playgrounds, will be prohibited.

In light of this vote, Councillors Shoemaker and Hillsinger presented a motion – that was passed by all – that the Hub Trail be added to the Sault Ste. Marie smoke-free by-law.

Correction: Councillor Gardi voted in favour for the cannabis retail.

Megan Pounder

Megan Pounder is an enthusiastic individual who's always striving to learn and grow. She's been a part of the SaultOnline team since May 2018. She has an Advanced Diploma in Journalism: Online, Broadcast and Print from Loyalist College. Along with her diploma, she has some freelance video journalism and social media experience. Growing up in Prince Edward County sparked her enthusiasm for all things nature.

When she isn't reporting, you can find her reading, jamming out to music, or looking for new adventures.