



Town of Niverville Press Release

March 22, 2019

Re: Province of Manitoba Announcement on Rural Cannabis Locations

Dear Residents of Niverville,

Today, the Province of Manitoba announced seven additional communities have been selected as sites for potential rural retail cannabis locations. The press release from the Province of Manitoba will be attached to this release. Niverville was one of the communities. Niverville was selected based on a decision made at the Provincial level to obtain their original accessibility promise. Let me assure you this was not something Council lobbied for. Having said that, we as Council now have work to do regarding this announcement.

In order to process what this may mean for our Town I have put this issue on our agenda for the next time council meets. I have questions about all this announcement entails, and I have already requested a meeting with Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade, the branch that looks after this portfolio. Based on answers received from that meeting, next steps will then be taken by Council as we continue to do our due diligence on this important matter. I want to assure you that as Council gets answers and processes the implications of this announcement, that I will do my best to provide information to you.

I understand that there will be questions and comments from residents. Our community, like many others in the Province, contains various opinions and views related to cannabis legalization that took place last fall in Canada. I want you to know I welcome any comments or questions you may have. Email is the best way to communicate or by dropping off a written letter at the Town Office. I may not have answers right away, but I will work hard and do my best to get them for you.

We are one community, made up of diverse people, with diverse cultural and faith backgrounds. Diversity is good, division is not. Together we will work through this decision respectfully and graciously. This is a time where much wisdom is needed for all involved.

Your public servant,

Myron Dyck, Mayor

myron.dyck@whereyoubelong.ca

March 22, 2019

**MANITOBA PROVIDES UPDATE ON FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES
FOR CANNABIS RETAIL**

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**Helping to Eliminate the Illicit Market,
Ensure Public Health and Safety: Pedersen**

To meet its goal of having a non-medical cannabis retail store available within a 30-minute drive for 90 per cent of Manitobans within two years of legalization, the Manitoba government is finalizing a selection process for the second phase of its retail rollout, Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Blaine Pedersen announced today.

"Following the federal government's decision to legalize non-medical cannabis, we have implemented a system that allows private retailers to do what they do best while balancing public health and safety priorities," said Pedersen. "We are reaffirming our commitment to a competitive retail system and look forward to advancing new commercial opportunities as the industry matures."

In July 2018, the province released a Request for Pre-Qualification seeking potential retailers interested in a future opportunity to operate cannabis retail stores in Manitoba. Nearly 100 applicants pre-qualified as part of this process.

A selection process is the next step. Pre-qualified applicants will participate in a randomized draw for each location based on the geographic preferences they indicate. Selected applicants can then proceed through the agreement and licensing process to operate in one of the following seven Manitoba communities:

- Altona;
- Flin Flon;
- Lac du Bonnet;
- Niverville;
- Rural Municipality of Russell-Binscarth;
- Swan River; and
- Virden.

Pedersen noted the Manitoba government has been working with local governments to ensure they have 'fair say' and are onboard with the proposed retail locations. While municipalities control where cannabis stores are located in their communities, the province plays a supportive role to answer questions and outline options available, including reviewing how close the stores may be to schools, houses of worship and community centres, at the municipality's request.

For more information on cannabis in Manitoba, visit www.manitoba.ca/cannabis/.