

**Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

**Corporate Services**

**Municipal Governance**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Judy Smith, Director, Municipal Governance/Clerk  
**Date:** December 6, 2019  
**Subject:** Cannabis Host Communities Network

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that:

1. The Mayor (or designate, when necessary) be selected as the municipal representative on the Cannabis Host Communities Network.

**Background**

At the December 2, 2019 Council meeting, Councillor Harrigan pulled a letter from the Municipality of Clarington that was listed in the communication package. It was addressed to Heads of Councils where host cannabis production facilities were located.

The letter stated the importance of host communities having a collective voice when advocating with the government and industry. The Cannabis Host Community Network (CHCN) was established with this in mind.

**Comments**

It is important that cannabis producers and host communities work closely together as the Federal and Provincial governments continue to shape public policy. Some of the key issues may include community safety, education and training (workforce capacity), economic development, retail roll-out and odour control.

The CHCN was formed by two municipalities who act as host communities to Licensed Production facilities. The founding members were the Town of Smiths Falls (Mayor Shawn Pankow – Co-Chair) and the Municipality of Clarington (Mayor Adrian Foster – Co-Chair).

The purpose of the committee is:

1. To bring municipal leaders and cannabis industry experts together to build common goals around community safety, public health, economic development, and community growth.
2. To provide municipal perspective to the Federal and Provincial government as it pertains to cannabis legislation and the industry at large.
3. To work closely with Licensed Producers and other industry stakeholders to understand the evolving space and provide input from a municipal perspective.

The membership consists of:

- Members of host municipalities - Mayor or designate from municipalities that house a Licensed Producer (full member with one vote per municipality).
- Ex-officio members – Leadership from cannabis businesses, cannabis trade associations, and other related entities (Non-voting member – ineligible for Board of Director positions).

The benefits of the membership include:

- Coordinated lobbying of cannabis related community issues to senior levels of government
- An awareness network to advise members of significant developments in the cannabis industry
- Expertise development through the sharing of experiences between members
- Support for elected officials and staff in development of cannabis related bylaws and policies
- Greater overall protection of local community interests

Members are chosen by their respective municipal councils to serve on the CHCN. Each community may select designated alternates to participate in the absence of their member assigned to the Network. The alternate may act in all capacities of the member for whom he/she is replacing.

### **Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors**

The recommendation in this report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

- Economic Prosperity:  
Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy
- A Healthy and Safe Community:  
Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth
- People and Culture:

Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community

- Environmental Sustainability:  
Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendation in this report supports the following critical success factors:

- Financial Sustainability:  
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable
- Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:  
  
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership
- Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors
- Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

### **Consultation**

No other department was consulted.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications at this time.

Prepared by:

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Reviewed by:

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