

Report

City of Merritt
REGULAR Council Meeting
October 13, 2020

File Number: 0550-20

To: Sean Smith, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Don McArthur, Planning Manager
Date: September 10, 2020
Subject: Retail Cannabis Sales

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council direct staff to prepare, for Council discussion and debate, a report to amend Section 4.41.3 of Zoning Bylaw No. 2284, 2020, removing the maximum cap of four Retail Cannabis Sales stores in the City.

Background:

At the Regular Council Meeting on July 24, 2018, Council adopted an amendment to the City of Merritt Zoning Bylaw that allowed a maximum of four Retail Cannabis Sales stores to be established in the City.

On June 25, 2019, Council directed staff to prepare a report for Council discussion on whether to amend the cap. Subsequently, a report was brought forth on August 13, 2019. At that time, Council opted to maintain the limit of four stores.

Since adoption of the regulation in 2018, four proposed Retail Cannabis Sales stores were approved by Council. The limit of four dispensaries was continued when the new Zoning Bylaw was adopted on September 1, 2020.

However, circumstances have changed since the previous Council decision. One of those stores has since opened, a second is in the process of opening, while a third is going through the Provincial review process. The City recently received notice from the Province that the application of a fourth proposed store was terminated.

There are also now several other potential applicants who would like to apply to open a Retail Cannabis Sales business in Merritt. If the limit of four stores is not removed, a process will have to be developed on how to determine which potential business owner can apply for the now available fourth permitted store. Removing the cap would require fewer staff resources than developing and implementing a selection process for new applicants.

Options / discussion

1. That Council direct staff to prepare, for Council discussion and debate, a report to amend Section 4.41.3 of Zoning Bylaw No. 2284, 2020, removing the maximum cap of four Retail Cannabis Sales stores in the City; or
2. That Council receive this report as information.

Financial / Risk Implications:

N/A

Others Consulted:

N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A: Section 4.41 of Zoning Bylaw No. 2284, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Don McArthur
Planning & Development Services Manager