

# Report

**City of Merritt**  
**REGULAR Council Meeting**  
**October 27, 2020**

**File Number: 3900.2284**

**To:** Sean Smith, Chief Administrative Officer  
**From:** Don McArthur, Planning Manager  
**Date:** October 22, 2020  
**Subject:** Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2293 – Retail Cannabis Sales

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT Council give First Reading to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2293, 2020**

**And**

**THAT Council give Second Reading to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2293, 2020.**

**And**

**THAT Council direct staff to set a Public Hearing date.**

**Background:**

At the October 13, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, Council directed staff to prepare a report for discussion and debate an amendment to Zoning Bylaw No. 2284, 2020, removing the limit of four Retail Cannabis Sales stores permitted in the City (Section 4.41.3 of the Zoning Bylaw).

The proposed amendment would not alter minimum distance requirements. Retail Cannabis Sales stores must be a minimum of 100 metres from other Cannabis stores, and 150 metres from parcels in the Park & Cemetery (P1) zone, as well as 150 metres from daycares and schools in the Institutional & Public Use (P2) and City Centre District (C6) zones.

There is currently one cannabis store in operation, a second opening soon, and a third going through the Provincial process. The Provincial application of a fourth store was terminated recently. As a result, there is now a fourth slot available.

### **Business Interest**

The retail cannabis industry is currently the only business type on which the City places a cap. While staff have no preference on whether Council maintains the limit of four stores, removing the cap would enable any potentially interested businesses to apply. There are several groups which have expressed interest in starting a Retail Cannabis Sales business in Merritt.

### **Alternate Options**

Alternatively, if Council elects to retain the cap of four stores, the City would need to establish a process to select an applicant for the now available fourth slot. Further, should any of the stores not make it to opening in the future, this process would need to be repeated, requiring significant staff resources.

Council could also propose to amend the Bylaw in another way, such as increasing the maximum number of stores to a limit more than four, or elect to create neighbourhood caps to regulate the number of stores in particular areas of the city.

### **Options / discussion**

1. THAT Council give First and Second Readings to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2293, 2020, and direct staff to set a Public Hearing date; or
2. THAT Council give First and Second Readings to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2293, 2020, with any amendments deemed necessary, and direct staff to set a Public Hearing date; or
3. THAT Council request additional information before proceeding further; or
4. THAT Council receive this report at information.

### **Financial / Risk Implications:**

N/A

### **Others Consulted:**

Chief Administrative Officer

### **Attachments:**

Attachment A: Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2293, 2020

Attachment B: Retail Cannabis Sales section of Zoning Bylaw No. 2284, 2020

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Don McArthur**  
**Planning and Development Services Manager**