



## RETAIL CANNABIS IN HALTON HILLS

### Frequently Asked Questions

**This information has been provided as a courtesy to support understanding about cannabis. Content will be updated as new information becomes available.**

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*Q1: When will the Town make a decision on whether to opt out of having cannabis retail stores in Halton Hills?*

A1: Town Council will be considering the matter at its meeting on January 21.

*Q2: What happens if the Town opts out?*

A2: Cannabis retail stores will not be permitted in Halton Hills until the Town officially opts in by Council Resolution. The Town can opt back in any time after January 22.

*Q3: What happens if Town Council chooses to allow cannabis retail stores?*

A3: Halton Hills will be eligible to receive a store authorization provided all required licences are obtained.

*Q4: What happens if Council does not make a decision on January 21?*

A4: Under provincial legislation, a failure to make a decision by January 22 means the municipality has opted in and will be eligible to receive a store as of April 1.

*Q5: How does the Cannabis Retail Store Lottery work?*

A5: Under new provincial regulations, a limit of 25 stores will open in Ontario on April 1. Currently Halton Hills is part of the GTA for this lottery, which will be granted 6 of the 25 stores, and includes all municipalities with a population over 50,000 in the Regions of Halton, Peel, Durham and York. Applications to enter the lottery will be accepted between January 7 and 9, with the draw taking place on January 11. Selected applicants will be notified on January 12.

*Q6: Will the public be notified if an applicant hoping to locate in Halton Hills is selected?*

A6: The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario will post the results of the lottery within 24 hours of the draw.

Q7: *What licences is a retail store required to have to operate legally?*

A7: The owner and/or operator of a cannabis retail store must have a Retail Operator Licence issued by the Government of Ontario in order to sell cannabis.

The owner and/or operator must also have a Retail Store Authorization issued by the Government of Ontario in order to sell cannabis at a specific storefront.

A Cannabis Retail Store with employees (other than the owner) requires a Cannabis Retail Manager Licence to ensure that knowledgeable staff is overseeing the sale of cannabis in a retail environment.

Q8: *What will retail stores look like and where can I expect to see them?*

A8: Under provincial regulations stores must be stand alone. They can be part of plazas and malls but must have their own private entrance and cannot be combined with any other business activities. Provincial regulations have stipulated that stores cannot be located within 150m of a school (as defined under the Education Act).

Q9: *What authority does the Town have over where retail stores can locate?*

A9: Store authorizations are controlled by the Province and municipalities cannot enforce their own zoning rules. However, communications from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission (AGCO) of Ontario have suggested that cannabis stores will be directed to areas that are zoned for retail operations. For information on where retail stores are permitted in the Town, please refer to the maps provided or contact the Town's Planning Department.

Q10: *Could we see stores locating in the rural areas of Halton Hills?*

A10: While stores are more likely to locate in urban areas, there are some rural settlement areas in Halton Hills that are zoned to allow retail stores. Additionally, provincial regulations allow for cannabis producers to open up a store on their sites. Should cannabis production be permitted in the agricultural areas, a store could become part of the operation.

Q11: *Can people appeal the proposed location of a retail store?*

A11: Both the Town and private residents can appeal a Retail Store Authorization application within 15 days of the AGCO's notification that an application has been received. All appeals must argue that the proposed location is not in the public interest. Under provincial regulations public interest is limited to:

- Protecting health and safety;
- Protecting youth and restricting their access to cannabis; and,
- Preventing illicit activities in relation to cannabis.