

DECISION DEFERRED UNTIL ONE DAY BEFORE DEADLINE

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an entrepreneur and cannabis researcher, brought forth his expertise in both biomedical toxicology and economics, discussing the health implications and economic opportunities of cannabis, and specifically, having recreational storefronts in town.

"I have serious concerns that this decision to opt out by council further ingrains alcohol as the preferred intoxicant in Halton Hills, whereas we should be supporting access and alternatives that balance public health and economic opportunity, both of which cannabis could potentially provide," he said.

Greub compared the effective-to-lethal dose ratios of both alcohol and cannabis, concluding that alcohol is a much more dangerous substance in that regard.

"The effective dose to a lethal dose of alcohol is 10 to 1, however when we move and look at cannabis the effective dose to lethal dose is greater than 1,000 to 1, which is so high that inducing a lethal response would require 1,500 pounds of cannabis smoked in 15 minutes," he said, as some residents in the gallery laughed in response. "It's virtually impossible."

Greub then went on to speak about the role cannabis plays in reducing opioid use and also how he believes having cannabis

retail stores in town will significantly reduce cannabis access for minors.

"As we look at the recreational storefront, I do believe that we will significantly reduce youth access because we're reducing the margins of the black market," he added.

Following Greub, Kristin Kowalski and Kate Downes, co-founders of local cannabis advocacy group Greenlight for Cannabis - Halton Hills, stepped up to the podium to ask council for a month of public engagement prior to the provincial deadline.

"Council has been given until Jan. 22, 2019 to make this decision you have seemingly made today, without any public engagement," Kowalski said to the councillors.

She went on to highlight some economic benefits of brick-and-mortar stores across the U.S., comparing the state of Colorado to the province of Ontario.

"With a population of roughly five million, in 2018 alone, Colorado generated \$250 million in cannabis taxes through its storefront sales. We would undoubtedly see the same trends here," she said.

Prior to the end of the delegation, Kowalski aimed to show the true face of the cannabis user.

"We are the people you see here gathered in this room. We are your family, your friends and your colleagues. People from every

social class and profession," Kowalski said. "We are doctors, lawyers, teachers, nurses, therapists, real estate agents and business owners. We are the sick, the healthy, the disabled, the abled."

The mayor and councillors could not get on the same page when it came down to whether to defer the decision.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said he thinks the town would benefit from the original, longer consultation period, gained by initially opting out by the provincial deadline.

"I just don't like having a gun to my head, by the province, (saying) 'You have until Jan. 22, that's it, make up your mind,'" he said. "I think we really want to get it right and we want to give everyone a chance to have a say."

Councillor Bryan Lewis expressed his agreement in deferring the resolution to Jan. 21, adding that he believes that having pot retail stores in town is inevitable.

"At some point the dollar has to stop on our desk and if Jan. 21 is the date, then I say fine to that," he said. "That would be my vote from a public perspective right now."

Council voted by simple majority to defer the decision. They subsequently voted to commence public consultation in order to ensure they can make an informed decision on Jan. 21.

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Q What is bridge financing?

A A bridge loan is a temporary loan obtained when the closing date for your purchase comes before the closing date for your sale. Usually, when you are buying and selling, you rely on the sale proceeds to fund the purchase. Often you will arrange both closing dates to be on the same day, so your sale closes and then you are able to close your purchase. However, if you would like to close your purchase before your sale, you would obtain a bridge loan for the time in between, whether it is for just one day or a number of weeks. The interest rate is a little higher than it would be for conventional bank mortgage, but the benefits may be worth the extra cost. For instance, this process allows you to stretch out your moving-in over more than one day. Also, it avoids the dilemma of having your sale not go through quickly or at all, which results in your purchase being delayed or derailed.

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