

Good afternoon,

My name is Trevor Green and I am the CEO of OneLeaf Cannabis Corp., a locally owned and federally licensed cannabis producer with a cultivation and processing facility located at 2030 Winnipeg St. N. OneLeaf employees approximately 20 people and produces cannabis products for sale to licensed retailers located throughout the province and Canada.

We understand Council has passed a resolution to place a moratorium on new retail cannabis stores until at least Q1 of 2021 until such time as a study can be completed to assess the economic impact of legalization. We are respectfully asking council to reconsider implementing this resolution as we believe it will have undesirable and unintended consequences. Most notably, this decision to limit access seems to be directly opposed to the federal objectives of legalization as outlined by Health Canada and the provincial objectives governed by SLGA. Federal legalization of cannabis has three primary objectives:

1. Protection of public health;
2. Prevent youth from using cannabis;
3. Displacement of the illicit market;

Provincially, the decision to move to open system was made to better combat the illicit market and has the support of both the Saskatchewan Party and NDP (see:

<https://leaderpost.com/news/saskatchewan/slga-to-open-up-cannabis-retail-market-in-saskatchewan-by-removing-cap-on-stores>).

It is well established across Canada that providing consumers greater access (more retail stores) is the most effective tool to combat the illicit market of cannabis sales and therefore protect public health and prevent access to youth. Alberta is an excellent example of this – having over 500 retail locations and a 40% higher per capita spending on legal cannabis than Saskatchewan, indicating a significantly higher displacement of the illicit market (see: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-621-m/11-621-m2019005-eng.htm>). Additionally, the illicit market already has a major advantage over licensed producers as they do not have many of the costs that we have, which include: child-resistant packaging, lab testing, various levels of taxation and regulatory fees, etc. Less competition amongst retailers only further increases overall costs to consumers and ensures that many will continue to purchase untested cannabis products from illicit sources. The long-term viability of the legal cannabis industry, and therefore the displacement of the illicit market and elimination of unsafe cannabis products, depends greatly on providing consumers with robust access to legal retail locations.

Respectfully submitted,

Trevor Green,
OneLeaf Cannabis Corp.