

Dear Sir/Madam

The Town of The Blue Mountains has been made aware of an application for a Cannabis Retail Authorization proposed at 49 Bruce Street South (AGCO Application# 1115348). This location is located within the downtown area of Thornbury, a primary settlement area within the Town. It is also along a road under the jurisdiction of the County of Grey. This matter was brought to the attention of Town Council and was discussed by Council at a Council meeting on Wednesday January 27, 2021 and again at a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday February 1, 2021. As a result, a resolution (see attached) was passed outlining Council's objection to this proposed application noting the following matters of public interest, as per O. Reg. 468/18, Section 10:

- 1. Protecting public health and safety** – The segment of Bruce Street in the vicinity of the proposed Cannabis Retail Store currently experiences parking congestion and other related issues. While the Town applauds the prudent approaches undertaken by the AGCO to ensure customers at Cannabis Retail Stores are properly vetted, this does result in patrons spending more time at such stores. The most recent use of this building was an office not a retail storefront. If approved in the proposed location, Council believes that the proposed Cannabis Retail Store would exacerbate parking supply and congestion, as well as potential traffic safety issues.
- 2. Protecting youth and restricting their access to cannabis** – The Acorn Montessori School currently leases space to operate a Child Care Centre within the Errinrunc Long Term Care & Retirement Facility at 67 Bruce Street South. While not a school or private school as defined by the Education Act, Council has concerns that the proposed Cannabis Retail Store is located within 150 metres of the location used by the Acorn Montessori School. The location is in the well-travelled corridor near our local elementary school, downtown stores, our local park with skateboard park and ball diamonds and our community centre, all of which contributes to regular youth pedestrian and cycling traffic past this location.

Furthermore, Council has concerns regarding the public notification process related to Cannabis Retail Store Authorization applications. Currently, AGCO Notices for Cannabis Retail Store Authorization applications are placed on the AGCO website and a placard/sign is placed in the window of the proposed location for 15 days. However, due to the current COVID-19 stay-at-home order and related restrictions, Council is concerned the 15-day notice period is insufficient and may not provide the opportunity for members of the public to view the window sign. As such, Council requests that the 15-day timeline for all applications be extended. Furthermore, while the AGCO website allows for members of the public to subscribe for applications in a certain area, or province-wide, it is requested that this subscription feature be organized by municipality, rather than the city/community/town/village that may be listed on an application.