

Memo

To: Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

From: Acting Chief Dwayne Pike

Date: November 21, 2018

Re: Cannabis Legalization

Over the past several months the Amherst Police Department and the Senior Management Team have been working on developing policies, procedures and bylaws to deal with the anticipated effects of Cannabis legalization which took effect on October 17, 2018.

To date we have been directly involved in the development of a proposed Nuisance Bylaw for the Town of Amherst. Staff from the Amherst Police Department, Land Use Planning, and Operations have worked together in the development of the draft document. The proposed Bylaw deals with smoking/consumption on public lands, cultivation of cannabis on private lands and is intended to replace the current Recreational Smoke Free Places Bylaw. Our approach is to treat Cannabis and tobacco the same as it would be nearly impossible to provide enforcement for strictly cannabis. We hope to bring this Bylaw forth to Town Council in December for consideration.

As well, Acting Deputy Chief Tim Hunter has been representing our Department in a working group involved with the development of a policy that will address employee/workplace issues. The proposed Substance Use Policy has been developed to be the guide for all departments of the Town of Amherst. The policy is focused on the premise of a "Fit for Duty" standard and applies to all substances that may cause impairment of some form either from prescription or non prescription substances. This policy draft is expected to go to the Town Council in December as well.

In consultation with other Police Chiefs in Nova Scotia, the majority of departments are using the "Fit for Duty" standard. At the moment most departments and municipalities in Nova Scotia are taking a cautioned approach and monitoring their communities since legalization. To date our department has only received 2 complaints related to Cannabis legalization.