



#21, 4802 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1C4
Phone: (867) 920-4944
Fax: (867) 920-4640
ExecutiveDirector@YKChamber.com

PRESS RELEASE:

Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce Calls for Competitive Process for Determining Cannabis Retailers

April 5th, 2018 (Yellowknife, NT) – The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce urges the Government of the Northwest Territories to consider a competitive process for determining cannabis retailers.

Our formal position is that the territorial government should regulate the private retail of cannabis, and if licenses are going to be issued for cannabis retail, Yellowknife entrepreneurs should have the opportunity to apply for these licenses and operate within the chosen regulatory framework.

The territorial government is proposing a retail model where cannabis will be sold through existing liquor stores in Yellowknife, with the potential for “cannabis only” stores in the future. In a November 27th, 2017 letter to Minister Sebert, we expressed our disappointment with the proposed retail model and requested that the territorial government consider a competitive process for determining cannabis retailers.

In Minister Sebert’s January 18, 2018 response, he stated that the GNWT chose to forgo an open process in order to “draw upon the experience of the Liquor Commission and the existing retail infrastructure for liquor to accommodate the sale of cannabis in a regulated environment”. We believe that in doing so, Yellowknife will also have to forgo the economic benefits that cities in Alberta are reaping as new stores fill vacant spaces, create jobs, and drive foot traffic to downtown areas.

“The proposed retail model runs counter to basic principles of fair competition and economic diversification,” said Mike Lalonde, President of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce. “We’re asking for an open and transparent process that provides entrepreneurs with an opportunity to demonstrate that they can operate at whatever standards are set by the territorial government.”

The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization with 370 Yellowknife businesses as members.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Deneen Everett, Executive Director
ExecutiveDirector@YKChamber.com
867-920-4944