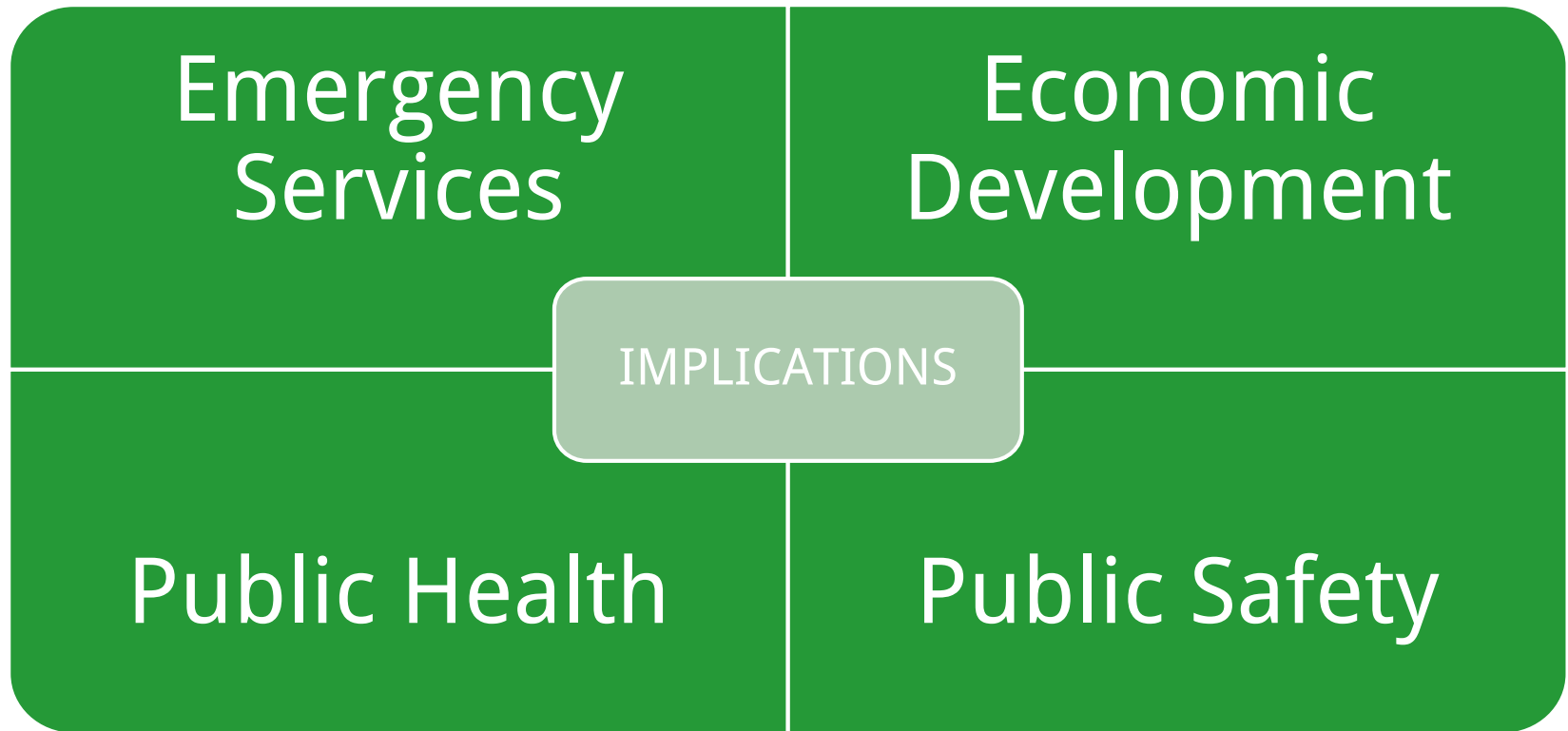


LEGALIZED CANNABIS IN ONTARIO: SUPPORTING YOUTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY

AMO Conference 2018

Craig Reid

MUNICIPAL INTERESTS AND IMPLICATIONS



ROLE BY JURISDICTION

Federal Government	Provincial Government	Municipal Governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to criminal law (cannabis legalization) • Cannabis production (licensing of suppliers) • Online mail-delivery system in P/Ts that do not set up a retail and distribution regime in time for legalization • Taxation/revenue • Public Education and Awareness • Continued oversight over the medical marijuana regime • International agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to provincial offences • Retail policy and Distribution • Safe driving laws • Coordinating enforcement/training • Public Education and Awareness • Taxation/revenue • Public health policy • School curriculum and youth justice • Workplace safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siting of storefronts • Licensing? Or input into licensing? • Enforcement (police, by-law, possibly public health) • Driving, storefronts, illegal use and nuisance complaints, personal growing, etc. • Paramedic services • Workplace safety as an employer • Role in promoting economic development as the market broadens • Planning and service for growing facilities

AMO POSITION – ADVOCACY

Since 2016, AMO has worked to advance municipal interests in cannabis legalization, including through the AMO Marijuana Legalization Taskforce, Board and other groups. Throughout, AMO said successful legalization must benefit communities.

Recommendations:

- Strong municipal voice in cannabis legalization as impacts will be felt locally;
- Municipal costs must be fully funded
- Training/resource supports/authorities must be provided to enable municipal front line worker role (e.g. police, bylaw; public health);
- A portion of marijuana tax revenues should be dedicated towards municipal needs;
 - Community development benefits from legalization
- Strong municipal voice in the siting of retail venues to address community needs;
- The Province should take an evolutionary approach to enable the broadening of the legal market (once stabilized) – economic development to sustain communities
- Municipal role in promoting economic development opportunities arising from cannabis legalization (e.g. agricultural/processing sectors, consumption venues, private retailers)
- Need for more research moving forward to ensure evidence-based decision-making and public education

ONTARIO SUPPORT

- The Ontario government is providing municipalities \$40 million in cannabis excise revenue funding for the first two years of legal recreational cannabis implementation. If Ontario's excise duty revenues exceed \$100 million in that time, the revenue will be shared 50/50.
 - Funding will be based on a per household basis – adjusted to ensure no municipality receives less than \$10,000
 - Shared 50/50 for upper tier and lower tiers
 - To flow as soon as possible after the federal government cannabis bill receives assent
- This begins to deliver on municipal needs
- The funds will support all municipalities to manage the transition to legal cannabis and help with incremental costs for service demands such as enforcement, paramedic, etc.
- Ontario and municipalities will collect data on these service demands to establish baseline needs
- In the longer-term, AMO believes there is a case to be made for revenues to support community development needs, especially for youth

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES: SERVICES TO YOUTH

WHAT ARE OTHER JURISDICTIONS DOING?

Iceland

- Addresses the reasons youth use drugs by providing natural highs through activities
- Changed laws, strengthened relationships with parents, and set a curfew for children between 13-16

“Communities that Care”

- 5 Phases
 - Identify community leaders & stakeholders
 - Form a board or partner with existing coalition
 - Assess risks & strengths
 - Create community action plan
 - Implement, monitor & evaluate

WHAT ARE OTHER JURISDICTIONS DOING?

Spruce Grove

- Youth involvement within the community shown to have positive impacts
- Support for youth driven programs and events, supporting volunteer opportunities, youth engagement in municipal planning, and other activities

“Rise Above Colorado”

- Includes classroom lessons, afterschool programs, interactive websites, social media, and PSA campaigns
- Emphasizes peer-to-peer influence and parental discussions
- Youth Council maintains a teen-targeted website focused on healthy behaviours and stories

WHAT ARE OTHER JURISDICTIONS DOING?

Portugal

- Redirection of resources towards treatment programs and harm reduction
- Drug prevention and healthy development included in educational curriculum
- Interventions targeting vulnerable groups

City of Brantford

- Established Cannabis Task Force
- Cannabis Education Campaign to launch in September 2018
 - Encourage safe use
 - Prevention among youth and vulnerable populations
 - Prevent cannabis impaired driving

WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON?

- Holistic approaches involving communities, schools, parents, and government
- Focus on youth empowerment and engagement
- Evidence-based approaches informed by ongoing research

WHAT CAN BE LEARNED FROM THESE CASES?

- Whole of community approach
 - Strategy needs to involve schools, community leaders, parents, government, services – everyone who interacts with and influences youth
- See youth not just as targets but as partners and stakeholders
 - Involve youth in program design and implementation (ex: through youth councils, peer-to-peer education, mentorship, etc.)
 - Invest in youth through programs that improve life skills and provide outlets for meaningful engagement and development of talents
- Conduct continuous research to develop evidence-based policies and programs
 - Conduct youth surveys to establish baselines and measure progress
 - Learn best practices from within the community and elsewhere to ensure that programs are informed by the most up-to-date research
- INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES = BETTER RESULTS

Thank you.

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