

# Wheatland County

## Request for Decision

Regular Council Meeting

December 15, 2020

Report prepared by: Matt Boscariol, General Manager of Community and Development



## Personal Medical Cannabis Production – Rural Municipalities of Alberta and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Resolution

### Recommendation from Administration

THAT Council authorize administration to forward the proposed resolution highlighting municipal concerns with personal medical cannabis production and attached White Paper to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Central District 2 for consideration; and further

THAT Council authorize administration to forward the proposed resolution highlighting municipal concerns with personal medical cannabis production and attached White Paper to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for consideration under “Category A – Municipal – Federal Issues” at its’ March 2021 Board meeting.

### Chief Administrative Officer’s Comments

N/A

### Report

#### **Division County-wide**

In November of 2020, Wheatland County Council directed administration to draft a letter and White Paper to distribute to the federal and provincial elected officials representing the Wheatland County area, including the following:

Honourable Martin Shields, Member of Parliament, Bow River  
Honourable Premier Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta  
Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, Tracy Allard  
MLA Nathan Cooper – Olds – Didsbury – Three Hills  
MLA Leele Aheer – Chestermere – Strathmore  
MLA Angela Pitt – Airdrie – East  
MLA Joseph Schow – Carleton Place – Siksika

The purpose of the study was to investigate the current realities that (specifically) Wheatland County and rural municipalities are experiencing. Rural municipalities are concerned with ensuring compliance with municipal bylaws, regulations, and safety code requirements related to the increase of personal cannabis production. The health, safety, and environmental risks associated with indoor cultivation and processing of cannabis cannot be addressed or mitigated if the producer fails to notify the County or fails to obtain the appropriate permits. There are no requirements under the Personal Medical Use of Cannabis license, up to 485 plants can be cultivated for personal medical use without the requirement to notify local authorities. Options to obtain compliance for personal cannabis production operations are limited and would require the cooperation of Health Canada to include confirmation that municipal requirements have been met prior to issuing a license.

Wheatland County administration was also directed to draft a resolution to forward to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (“RMA”) Central District 2, as well as to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (“FCM”), stressing that both associations collaborate to advocate to Health Canada for the requirement for municipal compliance for personal cannabis production facilities shall be required for existing license holders; and further, prior approval be required for all future license holders.

### **Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation**

*The Gaming, Liquor, and Cannabis Act, G-1, RSA 2000*

### **Alignment with the Strategic Plan**

Wheatland County is committed to serving the needs of its diverse rural community.

### **Response Options**

Option 1: THAT the proposed recommendation is accepted/approved.

Option 2: THAT the proposed recommendation is not accepted/approved.

Option 3: THAT an alternate recommendation is accepted/approved.

### **Implications of Recommendation**

#### **General**

Wheatland County ensuring that steps are taken to mitigate ongoing nuisance concerns that ratepayers are expressing and experiencing.

#### **Organizational**

The Community and Development Services department is continuing its research into best practices to mitigate issues with these existing and future production facilities.

#### **Financial**

N/A

#### **Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety**

Recognizing that upper levels of government have the overall authority over the matter, staff have undertaken extensive research to highlight specific issues from a land use, environmental, and public safety perspective. These issues have been drafted in a White Paper that will succinctly explain the issues, coupled with tangible solutions.

### **Follow-up Action / Communications**

Administration to send correspondence (the resolution and appendix) to the RMA District 2 and to the FCM.

## Report Approval Details

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Document Title:      | RMA Resolution - Personal Medical Cannabis Production .docx              |
| Attachments:         | - DRAFT RMA Resolution - Personal Cannabis Production and Use (002).docx |
| Final Approval Date: | Dec 14, 2020   |

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Henderson", with a stylized, cursive script.

Brian Henderson