



# AGCO

Alcohol and Gaming  
Commission of Ontario

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## OPTING OUT OF CANNABIS RETAIL STORES

As per Ontario Regulation 468/18, municipalities must notify the AGCO of their decision to opt out by having the municipal Clerk, Chief Administrative Officer or Mayor send the AGCO Registrar written notification that the municipality has passed a resolution prohibiting cannabis retail stores. This written notification must be sent by email to [municipal@agco.ca](mailto:municipal@agco.ca) and received by the AGCO no later than January 22, 2019.

The notification must include:

1. The official name of the municipality, and;
2. The date the resolution was passed.

Once received, the AGCO will acknowledge receipt by email.

A municipality that decides to prohibit cannabis retail stores may later reverse its decision; however, under the *Cannabis Licence Act, 2018*, a decision by a municipality to allow cannabis retail stores is final and may not be subsequently reversed.

## OPTING IN TO ALLOW RETAIL CANNABIS STORES

If at any time before January 22, 2019, a municipality decides it will allow cannabis retail stores within its jurisdiction they are encouraged to notify the AGCO as soon as possible. Early notification to the AGCO, using the [municipal@agco.ca](mailto:municipal@agco.ca) email, will not change the earliest date that licensed retail stores may open, which remains April 1, 2019. If the AGCO does not receive written notification from a municipality by January 22, 2019 they will be considered to be allowing cannabis retail stores by default.

## INFORMATION FOR ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES ABOUT CANNABIS RETAIL STORE LICENSING

The maximum 25 Retail Store Authorizations will be allocated in accordance with Ontario Regulation 468/18, which provides for the maximum number of stores in the following Regions:

- a. **East** (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Prescott and Russell, Ottawa, Leeds and Grenville, Lanark, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, Hastings, Prince Edward, Northumberland, Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Simcoe, Muskoka, Haliburton, Renfrew): five (5) stores



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- b. **GTA** (Durham, York, Peel and Halton): six (6) stores
  - c. **North** (Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury, Greater Sudbury, Timiskaming, Cochrane, Algoma, Thunder Bay, Rainy River, Kenora): two (2) stores
  - d. **Toronto**: five (5) stores
  - e. **West** (Dufferin-Wellington, Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand-Norfolk, Brant, Waterloo, Perth, Oxford, Elgin, Chatham-Kent, Essex, Lambton, Middlesex, Huron, Bruce, Grey, Manitoulin): seven (7) stores

The AGCO has defined [42 municipalities](#) within Ontario with a population minimum of 50,000, based on the 2016 census.

In the **East** Region: City of Barrie, City of Belleville, City of Kawartha Lakes, City of Kingston, City of Ottawa, and City of Peterborough

In the **GTA** Region: Town of Ajax, Town of Aurora, City of Brampton, City of Burlington, Town of Caledon, Municipality of Clarington, Town of Halton Hills, City of Markham, Town of Milton, City of Mississauga, Town of Newmarket, Town of Oakville, City of Oshawa, City of Pickering, Town of Richmond Hill, City of Vaughan, and Town of Whitby

In the **North** Region: City of Greater Sudbury, City of North Bay, City of Sault Ste. Marie, and City of Thunder Bay

In the **Toronto** Region: the City of Toronto

In the **West** Region: City of Brantford, City of Cambridge, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, City of Guelph, City of Hamilton, City of Kitchener, City of London, City of Niagara Falls, Norfolk County, City of Sarnia, City of St. Catharines, City of Waterloo, City of Welland, and City of Windsor

These changes are in effect until December 13, 2019, when Ontario Regulation 468/18 will be amended.

Although the initial phase of 25 stores will only be located in municipalities with a minimum population of 50,000, **the one-time opt-out date for all municipalities remains January 22, 2019.**



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## HELPFUL RESOURCES

- [AGCO's list of Ontario municipalities prohibiting or allowing cannabis retail stores](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 468/18](#)
- Cannabis Retail Store Licensing [Expression of Interest Lottery Rules](#)
- [Answers to frequently asked questions](#) on the Cannabis Retail Store Licensing Expression of Interest Lottery
- [Timeline for Cannabis Retail Lottery, Licensing and Store Authorization Process](#)
- Information about Ontario's approach to cannabis legalization can be found at [ontario.ca/cannabis](http://ontario.ca/cannabis).
- For more information about the legalization and regulation of cannabis in Canada, please visit [canada.ca/cannabis](http://canada.ca/cannabis).