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P.O. Box 250
PARRY SOUND, ONTARIO
P2A 2X4

PHONE:
(705) 746-2531
FAX:
(705) 746-5984

CHIEF
Warren Tabobandung

CHIEF COUNCILLOR
Vince Chechock

COUNCILLORS
Alexander Zygniuk
Brent Tabobandung
Dave Rice
Theresa McInnes

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Moratorium on Cannabis Sales on Wasauksing First Nation

On October 16th, 2018, Wasauksing First Nation Chief and Council passed a motion placing an **Interim Moratorium on Cannabis Sales** (dispensaries or any other direct sales models) on Wasauksing First Nation. This temporary measure is to ensure the community has had time to gather information on how the new legislation will impact Wasauksing First Nation and also to allow time to consider the gaps Wasauksing First Nation needs to fill with its own cannabis legislation moving forward.

First Nations have noted numerous concerns with the federal and provincial cannabis legislative regimes including:

- A lack of consultation and engagement with First Nations;
- A lack of recognition of First Nation jurisdiction;
- First Nations are currently left out of tax and revenue sharing regimes for both medical production and recreational cannabis sales. First Nations who have had a high level of involvement in the tobacco industry are encouraging First Nations to develop legislation that will ensure that communities get a share of taxation revenues which will help to provide for community benefits, wealth creation and funding for any additional First Nation programs or services that may be required;
- a lack of First Nation specific opportunities to get involved in the medical or recreational cannabis markets;
- the potential health and social impacts on First Nation communities, especially in relation to our youth;
- Lack of additional enforcement funding for First Nation policing.

It is clear that much more work needs to be done by both Ontario and Canada to develop a workable, fair, inclusive and clear framework for cannabis production and sales. Many First Nations are in the process of discussing and engaging their communities to decide the best path forward while other communities have already seen a steep rise in cannabis dispensary start-ups.

Further to the community engagement/information sessions that have been hosted by the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation (August 24th, 2018) as well as International Cannabis Solutions (Dec. 1st, 2018), next steps include discussions and sessions to discuss specific direction that Wasauksing First Nation would like to take for regulating cannabis within the community.

To learn more about the current status of Provincial and Federal Cannabis Laws visit: Ontario Cannabis Legalization: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/cannabis-legalization>. Federal Cannabis Legalization: <https://www.canada/services/drugs-medication/cannabis/laws-regulations.html>

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Craig Brown, Chief Executive Director 705-746-2531 ext. 2235 or via email at ced@wasauksing.ca.