



## STAFF REPORT

**Title:** Government of Alberta - Costs Associated with the Enforcement of Cannabis Legalization

**Meeting Date:** October 15, 2019

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### **Executive Summary:**

On October 1, 2019 Administration participated in a webinar hosted by Municipal Affairs with support from Justice and Solicitor General of Alberta about the costs associated with enforcement resulting from cannabis legalization.

### **Background:**

The webinar discussed the funding that was available through the Municipal Cannabis Transition Program (MCTP) which had an expired application deadline of February 1, 2019. The MCTP represented Alberta's commitment to provide funding to support municipalities with increased enforcement and other implementation costs related to cannabis legalization. The total funding available under the program was \$11.15 million over 2 years. Only the 52 Alberta municipalities that currently pay for policing in Alberta potentially qualified for the funding. The funding was intended to address additional costs in relation to municipal enforcement and municipal administration.

The City of Cold Lake received \$65,565 in funding under the program, (\$37,931 was received for fiscal year 2018, and \$27,634 is expected for fiscal year 2019).

Although rural municipalities did not qualify for MCTP funding, they were asked to participate in the webinar. A copy of the powerpoint presentation is attached for information.

Webinar participants were forwarded a survey requesting municipal input in three areas:

- The total additional costs a municipality experienced due to cannabis legalization;
- Extraordinary and/or non-routine costs experienced due to cannabis legalization;
- Any unique community features impacting costs experienced due to cannabis legalization.

Several participants asked questions following the webinar. The majority of questions centered around what could potentially be included as "additional costs" due to legalization. There were also several questions and comments from participants who did not qualify for funding under MCTP (due to not paying for policing in Alberta)



requesting access to future funding and expressing that they have experienced significant costs due to cannabis legalization. Details of the significant costs experienced were not explained.

There was no commitment of future funding provided.

Administration will provide feedback to the Alberta Government through completion of the survey.

**Alternatives:**

The report is provided as information only.

**Recommended Action:**

This report is provided as information only.

**Budget Implications (Yes or No):**

No

**Submitted by:**

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