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County residents encouraged to complete Recreational Cannabis Legalization Survey

The County of Grande Prairie will be launching a survey and online engagement website on Monday, January 15 to seek feedback from residents on how the legalization of recreational cannabis will affect the community.

“It is important that residents complete the survey on recreational cannabis legalization,” said Reeve Leanne Beaupre. “The feedback we receive will help shape the changes that are made to the County’s Land Use Bylaw and help identify whether we need to create other bylaws to help us best prepare our community for the upcoming legalization.”

The Government of Canada is anticipating that Recreational Cannabis will be legalized this summer, and as a requirement by the federal and provincial government, all municipalities are required to amend the Land Use Bylaw and possibly introduce new bylaws to help prepare our community for the change.

A Land Use Bylaw is a legal guiding document that the County uses to regulate future development of land and buildings to ensure sustainable growth of communities and maintain quality of life. It sets out various zoning districts, what is acceptable land use in each district and how decisions on development permits are made.

“Through the survey and engagement website, residents will be able to provide input on responsibilities that fall under municipalities to regulate such as where recreational cannabis facilities should be located, the types of operations and hours of operation permitted, and the areas and venues recreational cannabis should be consumed in the County,” said Nick Lapp, Planning & Development Services Director. “Residents will also be able to share concerns and ask County Planning and Development staff questions in regards to recreational cannabis legalization.”

Residents have until March 12, 2018 to complete the survey. The survey will be available to complete on **engagecountygp.ca**. Print copies of the survey will also be available to complete on January 15 at the County Administration Office located at 10001 84 Avenue in Clairmont. To access the online engagement platform visit **engagecountygp.ca**. For more information, contact Planning and Development Services at 780-513-3950.

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