



### The Problem

It is a **perfect storm** of circumstances that allows the prolific growth of illegal cannabis operations to grow in environments that are difficult to monitor and regulate properly.

Medical cannabis licence holders are authorized to grow large quantities of cannabis plants at designated locations. Each license allows approx. 450 plants to be grown. They stack these licenses allowing them to house thousands of plants in their greenhouses. If the licenses are in order and the producers have not exceeded their plant limit, the police are powerless to remove them. These production facilities are usually in contravention of municipal zoning.

Email your Mayors, Councilors, MPP's, MP's & residents, start the conversation, call the media, police, and work together to solve the problem. Increase awareness, educate yourselves and residents and work with your community leaders to demand legislative change NOW in the Cannabis Act

# IF YOU LIVE IN A RURAL COMMUNITY, YOU NEED TO READ THIS

A shareable letter to increase awareness, education and advocacy about the **"LOOPHOLES"** in cannabis legislation.

## AWARENESS OF CANNABIS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

**Yes to any one of the following** means your community needs to be aware & concerned about the growth of part 2 cannabis operations in your community:

- **Greenhouses and hoop-houses**- increase in the number of these structures, and privacy fences to block sightlines
- **Skunk smell**—the 24-7 smell of that pungent odour from greenhouses
- **Complaints** of light pollution coming from greenhouses
- **Losing local farm land** that produces food for markets and Canadian families. This land is being lost to cannabis facilities.

## EDUCATION ABOUT THE CANNABIS "LOOPHOLES"

**Part 2 cannabis operators** are licenced to grow hundreds of cannabis plants for "personal possession". Current regulations allow for up to 4 license holders to be housed at one location. Police have investigated some of these "legally" licenced locations and have discovered that they often harbour thousands of plants more than what their license allows. Each crop that is licenced to have approximately 2000 plants can yield anywhere from 500lbs to 2000lbs per harvest. Each crop can be harvested 2-4 times a year. Since it is classified a crop, they can legally avoid municipal by laws & law enforcement because it is protected by Agriculture Canada. Municipalities are burdened with attempting to invoke their rights and protect residents while cannabis operators engage lawyers to tie them up in court with the "loopholes".

**It's bad. The criminal threat is real.** According to police, Organized Crime is deeply embedded in Ontario's illegal cannabis trade. Criminal networks operate aggressively and comfortably within existing laws. Profits have been known to fund other crime such as methamphetamine labs and cannabis can be used as currency to trade for cocaine and guns entering from the United States. Workers at these facilities have been found concealing illegal firearms as a means to protect themselves from violent robberies. This violent activity poses serious risk to the community

**It's bad. The impact on our communities is significant and could be costly and irreversible.**

- **Farmland is lost.** Land used to grow food for Canadian families is now turned over to cannabis greenhouses. There could be irreversible damage to farmland by the concrete poured by greenhouse pads.

## FEDERAL CABINET MINISTERS

### Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau  
[Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca)

### Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

The Honourable Bill Blair  
[Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca)

### Minister of Health

The Honourable Patty Hajdu  
[Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca)

### Minister of National Revenue

The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier  
[Diane.Lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Diane.Lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca)

### Minister of Finance

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
[Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca)

### Minister of Environment and Climate Change

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson  
[Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca)

- **Potential water & environmental damage is a serious concern.** Run-off from unmonitored sites flows untreated into local water sources compromising water supply for local residents, farms and livestock, wildlife and neighbouring protected water sources.
- **Municipal response to issues at illegal cannabis grow operations could be costly:** Extra funds are needed to defend challenges to by-laws in court and to accommodate the increased response at the sites by fire, police and by-law officers. These extra costs could impact local property tax rates.

## ADVOCACY & CALL TO ACTION TO REMOVE THE LOOPHOLE

Protect your community, preserve farmland, protect water & the environment, protect your home & lifestyle.

Email your local, provincial and federal elected representatives. Be specific about why you are concerned and the request for change.

For example:

- Light pollution
- Pungent odour
- Public safety
- Negative impact to water
- Potential loss to property value
- Strain on municipal resources

Cannabis operations that are difficult to monitor and improperly regulated violate the Minister of Health's Mandate from the Prime Minister which states: "Work with the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to continue to implement the strict regulation of cannabis across Canada. Your key priorities are public safety, responsible usage and keeping cannabis away from children."

Timing is critical since the Cannabis Act is open for change and review in early 2021. There is one chance to save & protect your community. Cabinet Ministers need to be put on notice of our concerns by December-2020

## PROVINCIAL CABINET MINISTERS

### Minister of Agriculture

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman  
[ernie.hardeman@pc.ola.org](mailto:ernie.hardeman@pc.ola.org)

### Minister of Health

The Honourable Christine Elliott  
[christine.elliott@pc.ola.org](mailto:christine.elliott@pc.ola.org)

### Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Honourable Steve Clark  
[steve.clark@pc.ola.org](mailto:steve.clark@pc.ola.org)

### Minister of Finance

The Honourable Rod Phillips  
[rod.phillips@pc.ola.org](mailto:rod.phillips@pc.ola.org)

### Environment, Conservation and Parks

The Honourable Jeff Yurek  
[jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org](mailto:jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org)

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PART 2 CANNABIS OPERATIONS

<https://youtu.be/Oisv7MEIV14/>

<https://www.ontariofarmer.com/features/gaping-hole-in-pot-legislation-is-hitting-norfolk-hard/amp>

<https://ospace.library.queensu.ca/handle/1974/27891>

<https://www.norfolktoday.ca/2020/07/27/196986>

<https://www.barrietoday.com/police-beat/barrie-police-help-uproot-massive-illegal-cannabis-network-video-2655084>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-medication/cannabis/tracking-system/monthly-reporting-guide.html>

This document will change as new information becomes available. Please check for the latest updates at the "<https://www.scottcrone.ca/2020/09/07/cannabis-production-facilities/>" here." Sept 2020