



## **Legalizing Cannabis Stores in Mississauga**

**April 17, 2023**

While the issue of legalizing the storefront sale of cannabis has not been raised by TOPCA members or become a point of discussion at Town Hall meetings, it is something that we feel will ultimately have an impact (whether that be positive or negative) on our main street corridor, on our tourism positioning, and on the residents who live in Port Credit.

As a result, we have reached out through our social media channels (2.2 thousand Facebook followers and 3.8 thousand Twitter followers) as well as through our membership newsletter that reaches nearly 300 residents, to ask for their thoughts/concerns on the matter. In doing so, we have also shared recent news articles that point out the pros and cons of legalizing the sale of cannabis in a bricks-and-mortar format. This, to help those unfamiliar with the issue, make a more informed decision.

The response level to date has been minimal. This suggests that concerns surrounding the retail legalization are minor but so is any type of support for this move. There was no substantive direction from resident stakeholders.

So, while we cannot take a pro or con position on behalf of our residents, we do need to continually ask ourselves whether a high-tourism corridor such as Port Credit, will benefit from retail shops with black-out windows and a propensity for break-ins (as evidenced by the recent spate of cannabis store burglaries in Toronto). Although these observations are not necessarily deal-breakers in the decision-making process, we do need to ensure this move is considered from all vantage points including streetscape and sense of security.

Thank you on behalf of,

**Town of Port Credit Association board members**