

Notice to Shawanaga

Official SFN Position on Cannabis Production and/or Sales.

We have received a number of inquiries and business proposals related to the pending legalization of cannabis (marijuana) by the Federal Government.

Since there is currently no legal framework for cannabis production and/or sales, these activities remain illegal and licensing requests will not be brought forward to Council.

On September 25th, Chief and Council passed a motion prohibiting the issuance of any business licenses for activities related to the production and/or sales of cannabis. This is not a permanent ban but a temporary measure until Canada and Ontario pass laws. Until we have consulted with our Membership about how our First Nation should proceed under the new legislation.

At this time, possessing and selling cannabis for non-medical purposes is still illegal everywhere in Canada. Current laws remain in force until new legislation and rules are in place.

There are serious public health and safety risks along with unknown traffic trespassing onto our Land associated with cannabis use that must be addressed before we can even consider allowing the production and/or sales of cannabis to take place on our Lands. We also need more information about how Ontario and Canada intend to control distribution and regulate enforcement in order to determine whether we need to establish our own laws and regulations and how they might complement Federal and Provincial laws.

To learn more about the current status of cannabis laws in Canada, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/policing/justice/legalization-regulation-marijuana.html>

We believe that consultation with our Membership will be critical to determining how we proceed once we have more information from the Governments. We will keep our Membership informed about opportunities to provide input on this complex issue.

