

Cannabis Retail FAQ's



Cannabis store development permits are circulated to the Councillor's office for information and input similar to existing Development Permit (DP) procedures. Business licensing for a cannabis business takes place after the Development Permit process, and during this step there is **no input** from citizens, the Ward offices, Councillors, or Community Associations as the DP process was the proper forum for this.

The licensing process requires input from Planning, Fire, Health, Police and the AGLC through review, inspection and approval process.

Feedback regarding a cannabis store that can be done through the City development permit process and the AGLC license process. The link to the AGLC licensing objections page is: <https://aglc.ca/cannabis/retail-cannabis-store-licences/retailcannabis-licensing-objections>

How can Calgarians get more information about cannabis stores and legalization?

The City of Calgary has put together information on cannabis businesses (including cannabis stores) on the website. The site goes into detail on what is required of businesses in the cannabis sector.

The Federation of Calgary Communities has also put together several articles regarding the legalization of cannabis and has been working with Community Associations across Calgary to support them.

Information on the overall cannabis legalization (including public consumption rules in Calgary) can also be found on The City's website. For FAQ's on public consumption, please [visit here](#).

How will The City decide which cannabis store applications get approved?

The standard business practice in Planning and Development is to review applications and make decisions (either to approve or refuse) based on the order that the applications were received whether online or in person.

Decisions include considering adherence to local area planning efforts, Land Use Bylaw and Cannabis Store Guidelines compliance, whether the location meets the separation distance requirements, as well as overall compatibility with the community in which it is proposed.

What happens when a development permit is approved?

Once a decision has been made on an application for a development permit it is advertised which starts a 21-day period in which affected persons may file an appeal with the Subdivision and Development

Appeal Board (SDAB). The City will release a development permit once the following has happened:

- the 21-day appeal period has passed;
- there are no outstanding appeals; and
- there are no outstanding prior to release conditions of approval

Applicants may not operate until the sale and possession of cannabis is legal on October 17, 2018.

Who can appeal a development permit decision?

In general, any affected party – the applicant, community member or others – can submit an appeal to an approval decision made within 21 days of the date of advertising. If an application was refused, the owner of the property or applicant can submit an appeal within 21 days of being notified of the decision.

The Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) provides detailed information on what can be appealed and who can appeal. There are important deadlines to understand if you are considering appealing a development permit decision.

What is the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB)?

The Calgary Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB or Board) is a quasijudicial board. The SDAB hears appeals regarding decisions made by the development authority and renders decisions based on the evidence presented.

How long does it take for an appeal to be heard by the appeal board?

Once an appeal is filed with the SDAB it likely will be scheduled for a procedural hearing within 30 days.

More information on the appeal process and timelines can be found on the SDAB website.

When can a business owner submit their building permit?

If the information for the building permit was submitted online concurrently with the development permit, the applicant will be contacted by The City to work through what's needed for their building permit to proceed. The building permit review will not begin until a Cannabis Store development permit is approved.

What kinds of inspections will be needed?

The City will work with the applicant to ensure all proper building code and safety inspections are done, typically an in progress inspection as well as a final inspection for all disciplines involved (Building, Electrical, Plumbing & Gas etc.). A Fire inspection will also be required. In addition to municipal inspections, Alberta Gaming, Liquor, and Cannabis Commission (AGLC) inspections are required.

Applicants must contact the AGLC directly to arrange for these inspections.

Is a business license needed?

A municipal business license is required for cannabis stores. At the time of application, many cannabis store applicants will have chosen to also apply for a business license, so no further application is necessary. If the applicant did not choose to apply at that time, they will be required to complete a business license application for a cannabis store. Business licenses will be issued to files that have obtained all necessary permits and have successfully completed all required inspections.

When will the AGLC decide on their licensing approvals?

When an applicant has been given a released development permit, they should send verification of this to the Alberta Gaming, Liquor, and Cannabis Commission Corporation (AGLC) so they can complete the AGLC licensing process. It is important to note that without the provincial license, a cannabis store cannot operate and will not receive product for a store, even if they have been granted municipal approval.

Can cannabis stores operate prior to the October 17 legalization date?

No, businesses cannot open for business until 10:00 am on October 17, 2018.