

Cannabis Legalization in Redcliff

WHAT WE HEARD

Report



Town of Redcliff

April 2018

INTRODUCTION

Federal legalization of cannabis is planned for summer 2018. The Town of Redcliff has a role to play in regulating the location of cannabis retail stores and production facilities, and places where cannabis can be consumed.

To collect input on cannabis, the Town released a 14 question survey to the public. The survey was open from March 6th - 31st 2018. The survey was posted on the Town website and Facebook page, and was covered by Chat News and the Cypress Courier. The goal of the survey was to provide Town administration and Council with an idea of public opinion to help guide decision-making and the development of cannabis regulations.

Redcliff also hosted 2 open houses on March 15th and 30th from 3 - 7pm. The open houses were advertised on the Town website, Facebook page, Weekly Redcliff Report, and covered by the Cypress Courier.



WHO DID THE SURVEY?

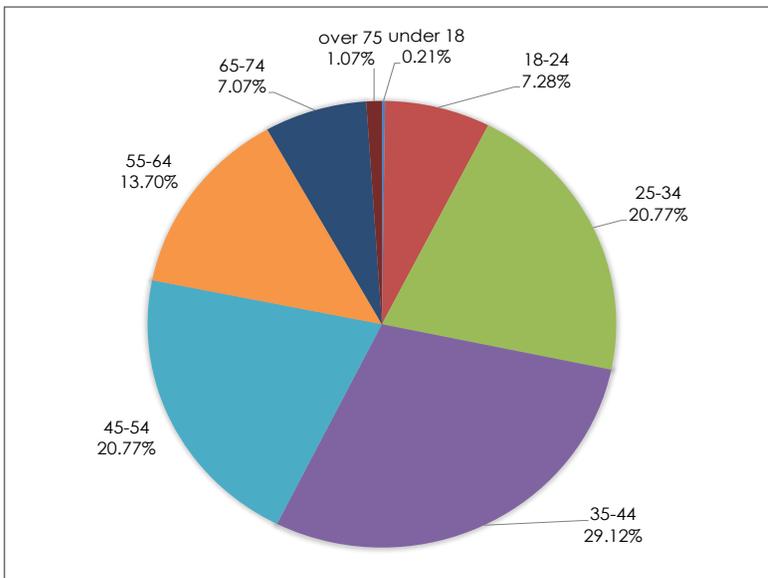
467
total responses

93%
completion rate

representing
8.3% of the
total Redcliff population

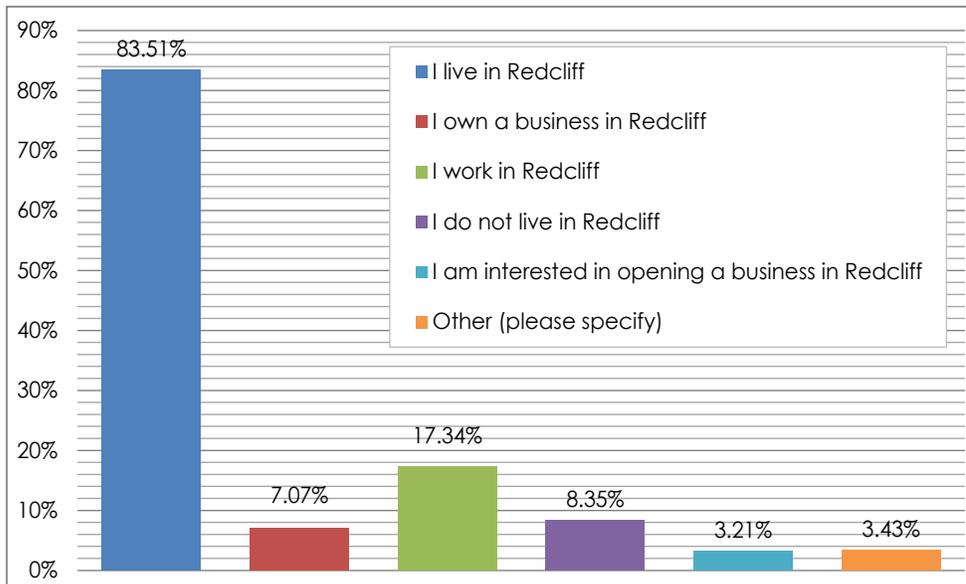
age of respondents

Q1: what is your age?



respondent description

Q2: which of the following best describes you? (check all that apply)



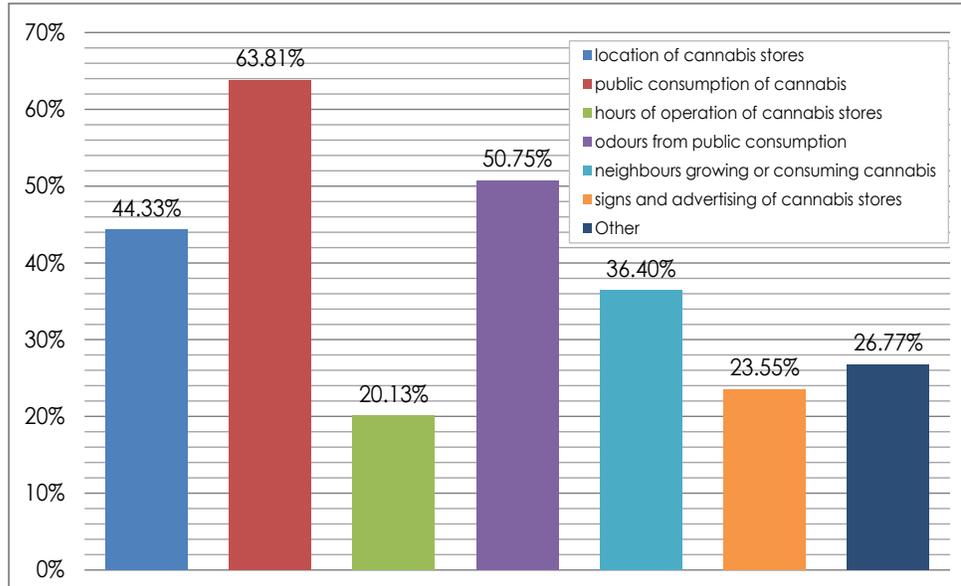
top 'other' responses:

I live outside/near Redcliff	37.5%
I visit Redcliff	25.00%
I own property in Redcliff	18.75%
I grew up/used to live in Redcliff	18.75%

GAUGING CANNABIS IN REDCLIFF

cannabis concerns

Q3: what concerns do you have with cannabis legalization? (check all that apply)

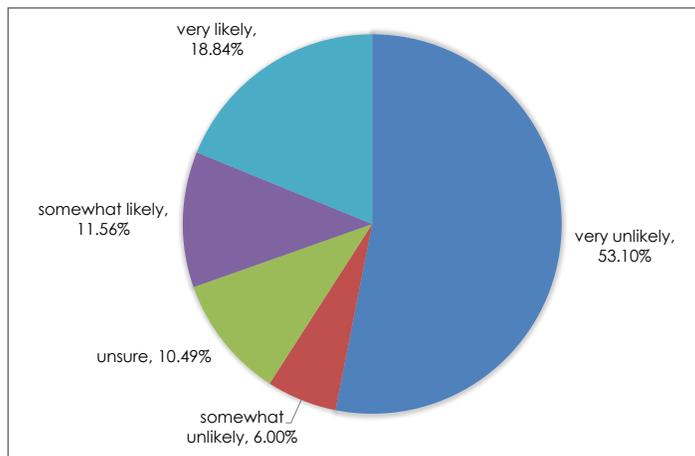


top 'other' responses:

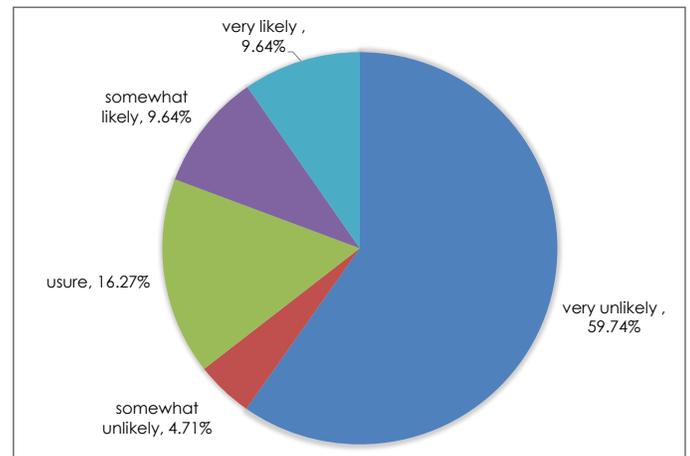
No concerns	56.00%
Keeping cannabis away from youth	15.20%
Impaired driving	9.60%
Crime/policing	2.40%
Workplace safety	2.40%

purchasing cannabis

Q4 & Q5: once legal, how likely are you to purchase cannabis from a retail store or online?



likeliness of purchasing from a retail store



likeliness of purchasing online

takeaways and recommendations

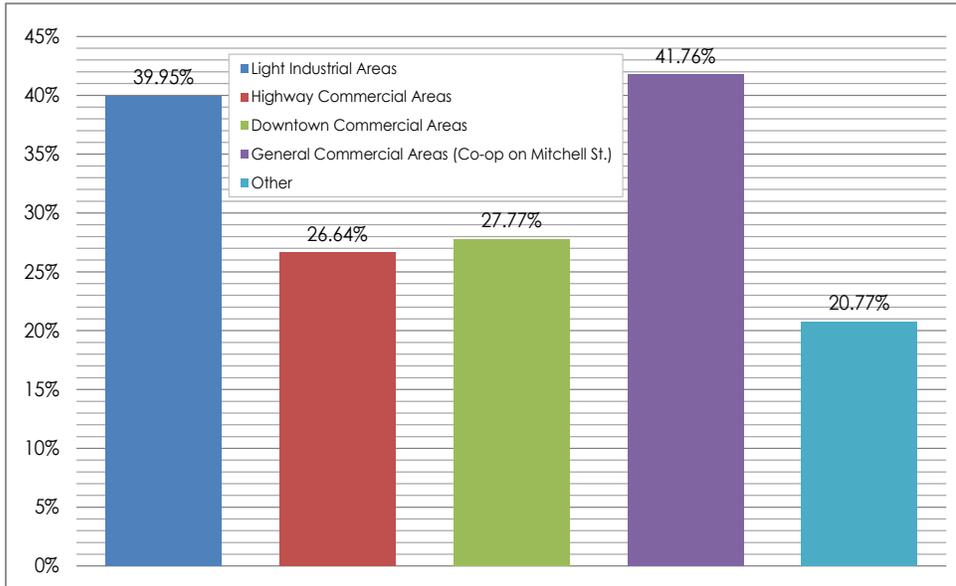
Public consumption and odours from consumption were the largest citizen concerns. These concerns will be addressed through limiting places for the public consumption of cannabis, and ensuring cannabis is not consumed near children. While crime, policing, and workplace safety were mentioned under 'other', it should be of note that these concerns fall within the authority of the provincial government and the RCMP.

Cannabis retail store location was also a large concern. Store locations are addressed in further survey questions.

CANNABIS RETAIL STORES

preferred locations

Q6: do you have preferred areas cannabis stores **SHOULD** be located? (check all that apply)

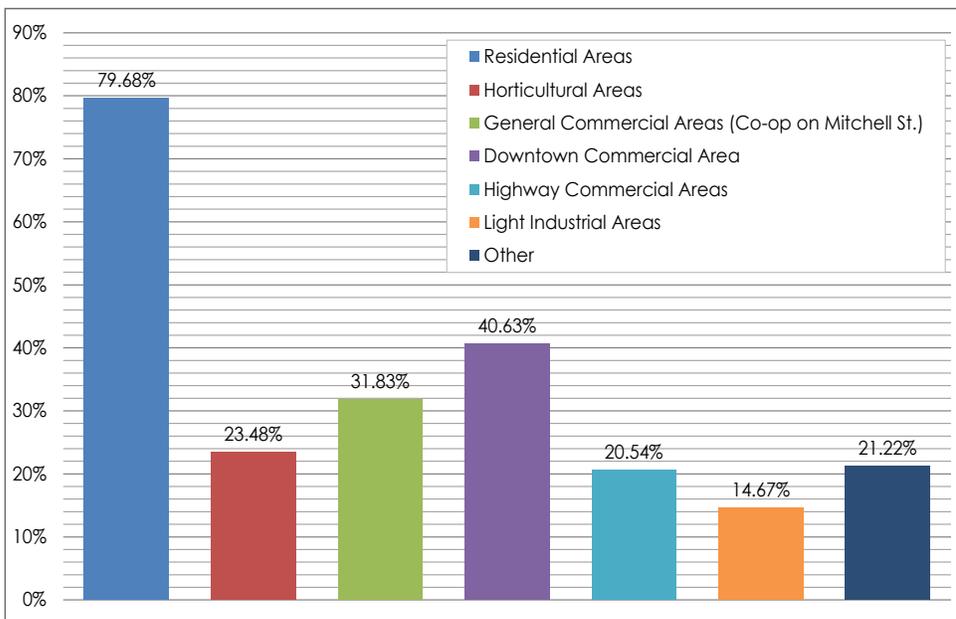


top 'other' responses:

Don't want stores in Redcliff	45.65%
Location doesn't matter	20.65%
Away from schools & youth	6.52%
Away from business	3.26%
North side of the Highway	3.26%
Not hidden	2.17%

non-preferred locations

Q7: do you have preferred areas cannabis stores **SHOULD NOT** be located? (check all that apply)



top 'other' responses:

Near schools & youth	47.87%
Location doesn't matter	26.37%
Don't want stores in Redcliff	15.38%
Pubs & bars	2.20%

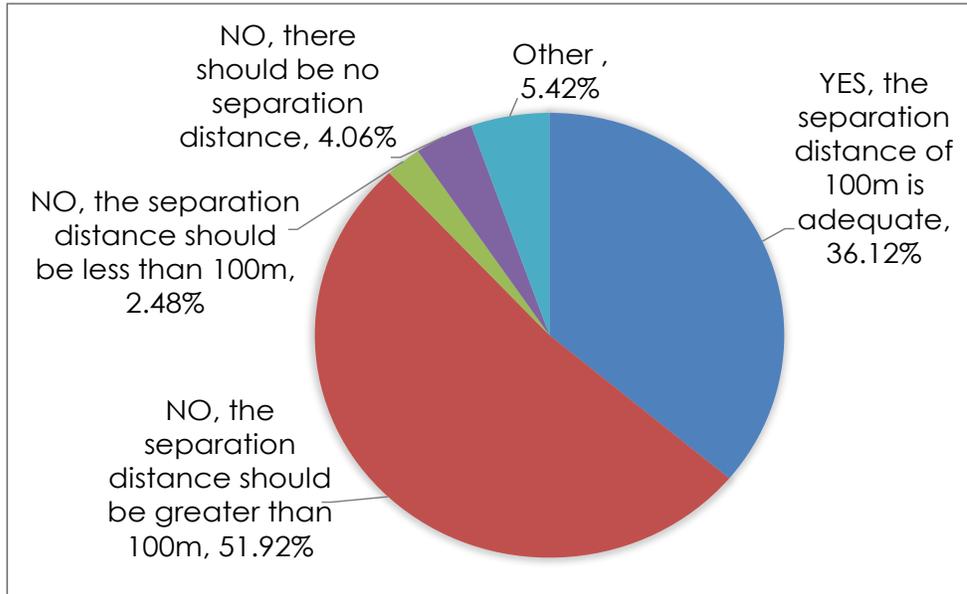
takeaways and recommendations

Nearly 80% of respondents did not want cannabis stores in residential areas. This will be addressed by prohibiting cannabis stores in neighbourhood commercial zones, and in the 2 general commercial district lots currently in Redcliff's residential area. Respondents preferred cannabis stores in general commercial and light industrial areas over downtown. Buffers from sensitive uses will minimize potential downtown locations. A buffer from the highway will also be considered.

CANNABIS RETAIL STORES

separation distances

Q8: do you think the 100m separation from sensitive uses, set by the province, is adequate for Redcliff?

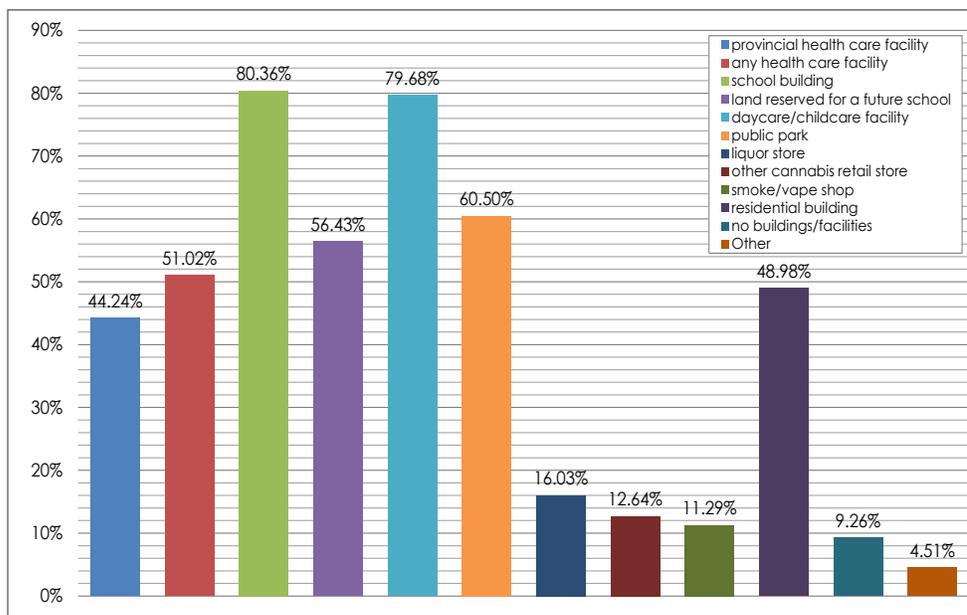


top 'other' responses:

Don't want cannabis stores in Redcliff	16.67%
Separation distances should be the same as for liquor stores	16.67%

separation places and locations

Q9: what places should have a minimum separation distance from cannabis stores? (check all that apply)



top 'other' responses:

Don't want stores in Redcliff	20.00%
Follow the same rules as liquor stores	20.00%
Pubs & bars	10.00%

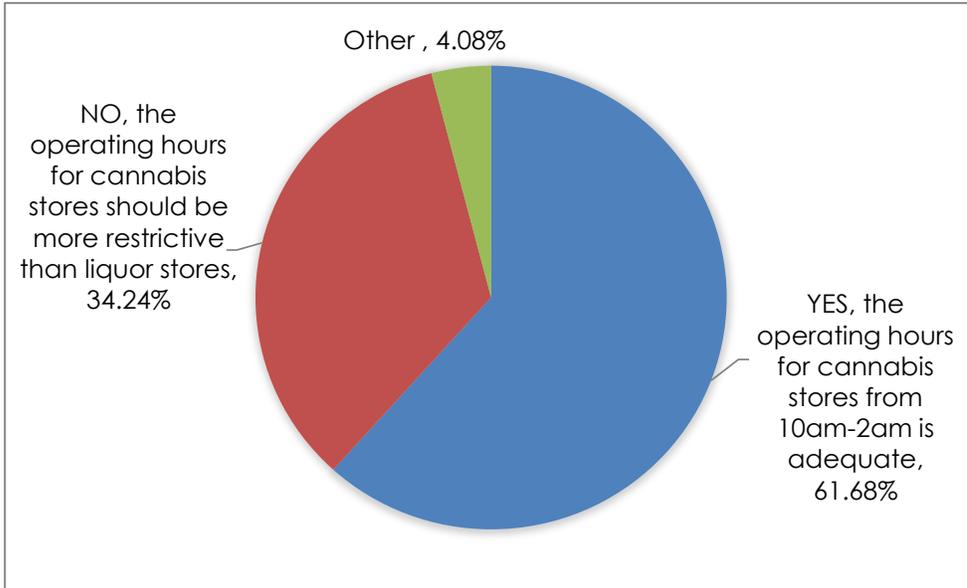
takeaways and recommendations

A map of the 100m setbacks will be created to get a better understanding of appropriate separation distances in Redcliff. The majority of respondents did not feel separation from other cannabis stores, liquor stores, and smoke/vape shops was necessary; therefore, separation from these uses will not be considered. The Town will add to the province's recommended list of places requiring separation distances, considering adding parks, daycares, and all health facilities.

CANNABIS RETAIL STORES

operating hours

Q10: are the operating hours of 10am - 2am, the same as for liquor stores, adequate for Redcliff?



top 'other' responses:

Don't want legalized cannabis in Redcliff	38.89%
Indifferent/unsure/don't care	33.33%

takeaways and recommendations

The majority of respondents (over 61%) indicated the operating hours of 10am - 2am set by the province are appropriate. Further restricting operating hours would require Redcliff to pass an operating hours bylaw singling out cannabis stores.

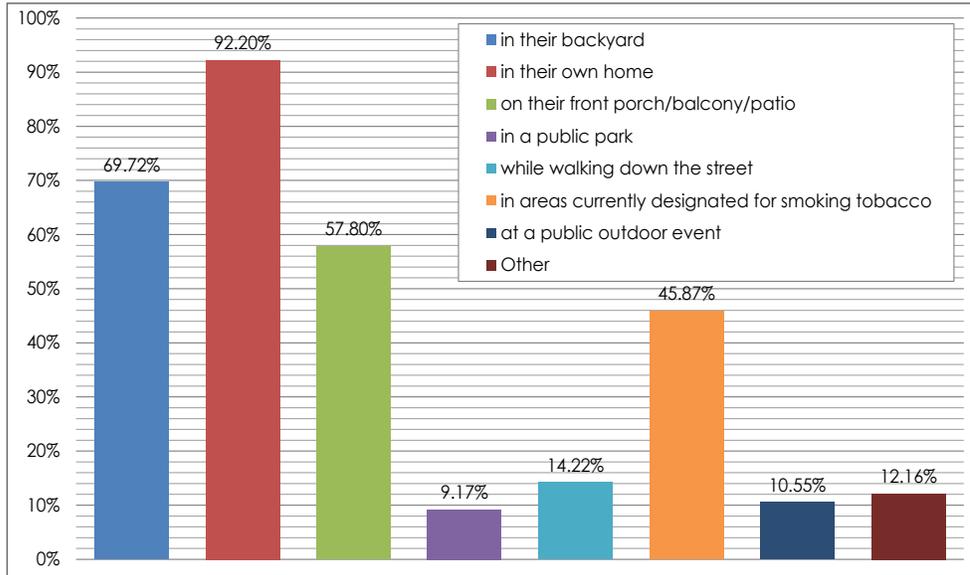
The operating hours of 10am - 2am are maximums, meaning each individual store may operate with more restricted hours if they choose.

The Town will therefore not consider passing an additional bylaw to further restrict operating hours.

CANNABIS CONSUMPTION

acceptable locations

Q11: what places do you think are **ACCEPTABLE** for people to consume cannabis? (check all that apply)

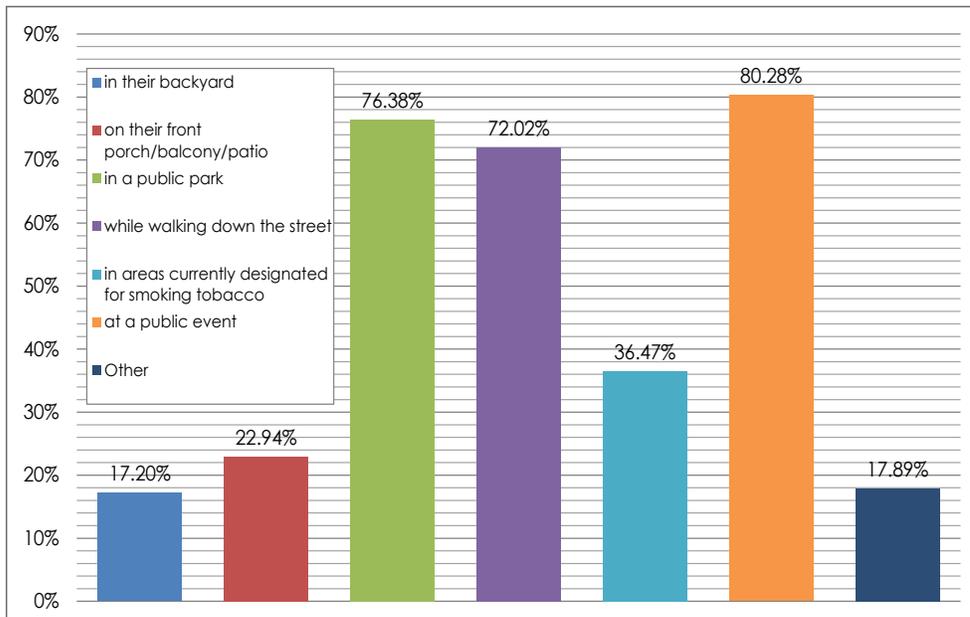


top 'other' responses:

Nowhere	24.53%
Where alcohol consumption is permitted	15.09%
Not in public	9.43%
In designated areas	7.55%
Away from youth	5.66%
Cannabis cafes	5.66%

unacceptable locations

Q12: what places do you think are **UNACCEPTABLE** for people to consume cannabis? (check all that apply)



top 'other' responses:

Near schools/ children	39.74%
Allow it everywhere	15.38%
Same restrictions as tobacco	11.54%
Public areas	8.97%
Everywhere (don't want legalization)	7.69%
Same restrictions as alcohol	5.13%

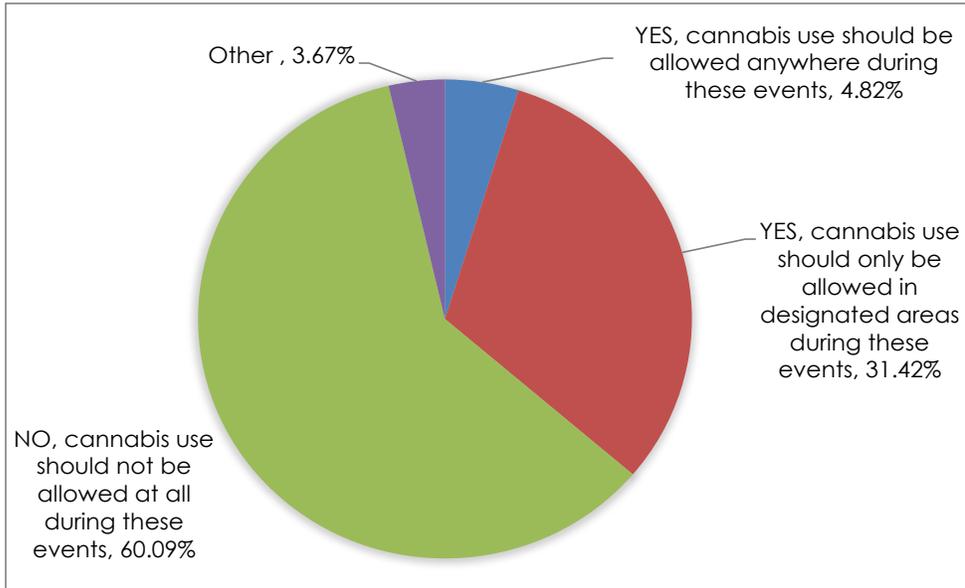
takeaways and recommendations

The majority of respondents felt consumption on private property was acceptable, and consumption in parks, sidewalks, and public areas was unacceptable. Redcliff will consider restricting cannabis similar to alcohol to mirror this feedback (i.e. you cannot consume while on the street, sidewalk, or in public).

CANNABIS CONSUMPTION

public events

Q13: should cannabis consumption be allowed during public outdoor events like Redcliff Days?



top 'other' responses:

Regulated the same as tobacco 31.25%

Regulated the same as alcohol 25.00%

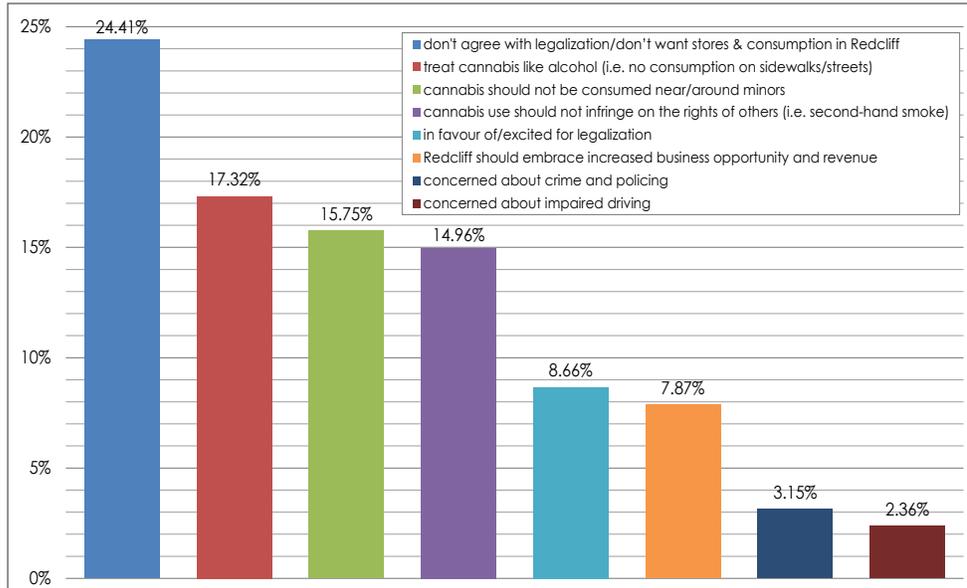
takeaways and recommendations

The majority of respondents (over 60%) indicated cannabis use should not be allowed at all during public outdoor events. The Town will therefore consider banning cannabis consumption at public outdoor events like Redcliff Days.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

comment box

Q14: do you have any additional comments you would like to add regarding cannabis in Redcliff?



total responses in the
comment box:

127

comments were categorized into
similar responses, with the most
popular and repeated responses
depicted in the adjacent chart

clearing up comments and questions brought up by survey respondents

Comment: Banning cannabis sale and consumption in Redcliff

A: According to current legal advice, Redcliff and other municipalities do not have the authority to outright ban or prohibit the sale and consumption of cannabis. Cannabis is being legalized by the federal government, and Redcliff's bylaws and regulations must conform to federal laws and regulations.

Comment: Cannabis consumption in specialized cannabis cafes or lounges

A: The federal and provincial governments have indicated cannabis cafes or lounges will not be legal in summer 2018, nor will the sale of cannabis edibles. However, cafes and edibles will be legal within 1 year of recreational cannabis becoming legal. If the federal government sticks to the cannabis timelines, we can therefore expect cannabis cafes and edibles to be legal in summer 2019.

Comment: Cannabis store locations and separation distances from sensitive uses should be regulated the same as liquor stores

A: The provincial government does not have any minimum separation distances from liquor stores and sensitive uses such as schools and parks. Regulating cannabis stores the same as liquor stores would therefore mean there would be no separation distances.

Comment: As the "Greenhouse Capital of the Prairies" Redcliff should embrace legalized cannabis and greenhouses should grow it

A: Producers and growers of recreational cannabis must be licensed by Health Canada. There are strict regulations regarding the security of cannabis production facilities. The typical glass and plastic greenhouses in Redcliff would not meet Health Canada requirements for cannabis production facilities. Therefore, one could not simply switch their plants to cannabis plants.