
Dear Councils:

City of Port Colborne Resolution Re Salvia Divinorum

At its meeting of May 14th, 2007, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

"WHEREAS Salvia Divinorum is a perennial herb native to Mexico that is legally available for purchase in Canada by all persons, including minors, at corner stores, pharmacies and through the internet;

AND WHEREAS the active constituent salvinorin A is the most potent hallucinogen known, causing the onset of hallucinogenic activity within five to ten minutes of being chewed and within 30 seconds of being inhaled;

AND WHEREAS the effects of salvia divinorum include psychic effects such as the perceptions of bright lights, vivid colours and shapes, as well as body movements and body or object distortions, other effects including dysphoria, uncontrolled laughter, a sense of loss of body, overlapping realities and hallucinations and adverse physical effects such as incoordination, dizziness and slurred speech;

AND WHEREAS Salvia divinorum and/or salvinorin A have been placed under regulatory controls in Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Spain and Sweden and in the States of Louisiana, Delaware, Missouri, Tennessee and Oklahoma;

AND WHEREAS the federal department Health Canada, headed by the Minister of Health, is responsible for helping Canadians maintain and improve their health and also for developing legislation and regulations, policies and operations that support the control of illicit drugs and other substances;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne believes that the availability of salvia divinorum and the risks associated with its use, particularly by adolescents and young adults, threatens the health of Canadians and out-weighs any benefits the substance offers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne petitions the Minister of Health to immediately call for Health Canada to undertake a review of salvia divinorum and its derivatives to determine the risks associated with the use of this substance and its widespread availability and with a view to taking the same proactive stance on the regulation of this substance for the health and safety of Canadians as other nations have for their citizens;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to J. Maloney, M.P. and to AMO for circulation to all municipalities in Ontario for their consideration and endorsement."

Your favourable consideration of Council's request for support would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in viewing the staff report respecting Salvia Divinorum, please contact the undersigned directly.

Janet Beckett
City Clerk.

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