

# Cramahe to put on hold for a year new marijuana production facilities

NEWS Apr 23, 2018 by [John Campbell](#) Brighton Independent

Cramahe Township — An interim control bylaw is being prepared that will put on hold for one year any proposal to establish a medical marijuana production facility in the township.

The municipality will use the time to undertake a study regarding this particular kind of land use.

Chief administrative officer Craig Brooks noted in his April 17 report to council that “municipalities across the province have been faced with increased pressure to accommodate” medical marijuana facilities since the federal government passed legislation to fully legalize marijuana. The new system is to come into effect later this year.

Brooks said most municipalities have been caught off-guard “and are attempting to stay ahead of the legislation and the new industrial sector it has created.”

The interim control bylaw will allow township staff “to liaise with colleagues” in other municipalities in Northumberland County to develop policies “that will properly deal with any medical marijuana facilities” that show an interest in setting up in Cramahe.

Sharpshooter Industries Inc. in Belleville is the most recent one. It has entered into an agreement to purchase a four-acre property on Lakeport Road and obtained Health Canada approval to operate a facility, subject to receiving a licence to cultivate after an existing building is retrofitted and passes an inspection.

Council supported the proposal in February on the recommendation of its planning co-ordinator Himanshu Katyal who said the property's general industrial zoning permits a facility of its kind to locate there.

Coun. Tim Gilligan criticized the federal government for not doing more to help communities adjust to the new circumstances being thrust upon them.

“We have to look after ourselves, it's just a matter of protecting our own township and making sure that every taxpayer is taken care of,” he said.

The facilities should be located “in one place ... (and) we should have the final say.”

Mayor Marc Coombs said the township has had “complaints” with licensed medical marijuana facilities “growing 10 times what they had permits for.

“It's got to the point we need to (act),” he said.

Asked if there is a groundswell of opposition building in Cramahe to such facilities locating in the municipality, Coombs replied: “I would think there is.”