



Tracey Ramsey

Member of Parliament
Essex

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September 24, 2018

Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Petitpas Taylor,

Re: Medical cannabis facilities in Essex

In recent months, my office has been working with Health Canada, local municipalities and law enforcement to address concerns over medical cannabis producers who appear to be operating outside the law in my riding of Essex.

I wrote to you last month about a specific grow-op, which lacks basic security measures, emits strong disruptive odours, and seems to operate with no regard for the rules. I had a productive meeting with officials from Health Canada to discuss this case, but remain frustrated that this site continues to operate.

Essex is home to many greenhouses and a vibrant agricultural sector thanks to our region's warm climate. Many are coming to our region, setting up large sites with little regard for community safety or municipal bylaws, and people in Essex County are forced to live with the consequences. Facilities are often located near established neighbourhoods, and my office is receiving an increasing number of complaints from people who are directly and negatively impacted.

Ultimately I believe Health Canada must play a stronger role in ensuring compliance and enforcement of the *Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations* (ACMPR). More inspectors are needed in my region, and authorities must be able to shutdown those who operate outside federal and municipal laws.

I have extended an invitation to Health Canada and the Office of Medical Cannabis to come to my riding of Essex and meet with local municipalities and other concerned stakeholders. It would be helpful to have officials meet and hear our concerns directly and provide information and resources. I also extend this invitation to yourself.

As the date of cannabis legalization quickly approaches, I urge you to please ensure that Health Canada has the tools and resources it needs to enforce the law, and work to mitigate the impacts of medicinal and legalized cannabis for communities like mine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracey Ramsey".

Tracey Ramsey, MP
Essex