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Ontario NDP Caucus · Caucus du NPD de l'Ontario

February 10, 2021

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

We are writing to share concerns we have heard from community members in Brampton who are opposed to approving additional cannabis stores in the city. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario is currently reviewing over 30 applications for cannabis stores in the City of Brampton. The community is concerned that your government is allowing numerous private operators to set up across the city, and they are worried about the potential impact these additional stores will have on their surroundings and young children in their neighbourhoods.

It is crucial that when determining the location of cannabis shops, the concerns of Ontarians are taken into consideration. That is why NDP MPPs Gurratan Singh and Kevin Yarde, alongside other community members, wrote to you to raise concerns about the government allowing shops to set up near schools – something that went against the explicit wishes of the community. It is also why NDP MPP Marit Stiles introduced Bill 235, to allow municipal authorities and the local community to have a greater say in where and how many cannabis licenses are issued.

Without meaningful local input and consultation with the community, the Conservative Government's actions in allowing the approval of additional cannabis stores could have grave consequences for Brampton residents. We are calling on you to support this NDP legislation and address the situation in Brampton. Communities should be able to benefit from the legalization of Cannabis while also protecting their city's diversity, character and the best interests of our communities.

Sincerely,

Gurratan Singh, MPP Brampton East

Sara Singh, MPP Brampton Centre

Kevin Yarde, MPP Brampton North

Ontario NDP Caucus Services

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