

Delegation: Brian Millward, re Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Store Licence Application No. PL2019-043 – 3125 Van Horne Road, Electoral Area F

Summary: To clarify any questions or concerns regarding PL2019-043, provide a background on the cannabis industry, Pros vs Cons of legal vs illegal cannabis.

Action Requested: Board support regarding PL2019-043.

Legal vs Illegal Retail Dispensaries

LEGALLY LICENCED NON-MEDICAL CANNABIS RETAIL STORE	ILLEGAL CANNABIS RETAIL STORE
Must be licenced by Health Canada and follow stringent rules and regulations	Do not answer to anyone or have any rules or regulations to follow. They are subject to raids by police authorities that will confiscate the illegal merchandise and the employees present can be charged with possession and sales.
Product is obtained from approved government operations and is purchased through the Liquor Cannabis Regulation Branch, which has been quality tested and is sold in sealed packages.	Product is obtained from illegal growers, not tested for quality or safety for consumption and may contain other deadly illicit drugs like fentanyl, LSD, coke or heroin and is just as unsafe as product sold on the streets.
Cannot make medical claims about the products, they are strictly recreational use (no different than selling alcohol at a liquor store). Medicinal marijuana comes with a prescription that should be filled at a legal medical marijuana licenced facility whereby patients can claim their prescription purchases for tax purposes	Make medical claims for health benefits, do not require a prescription and cannot claim these purchases on income taxes, and again are using the same untested, illegally obtained product as above.
Requirement by Health Canada to have High security and surveillance around and inside the premises so everything and everyone is monitored and recorded around the clock. Any questionable activity can be reviewed and acted upon.	No requirement for any type of security on their premises.
Every package of cannabis sold has a product label, is dated and has a unique bar coding that identifies exactly what facility the product was purchased from and where the consumer bought it. This makes it very traceable.	Product most often sold in unsealed packages, paid for with cash and is not at all traceable back to the supplier. So there is no liability to anyone selling tainted products.
Customers must show photo ID and are required to be 19 years of age or older to enter the premises. Fines and store closures will be levied to stores not in compliance.	Although some illegal dispensaries will ask for ID, there are under no obligation to sell only to customers over the age of 19. They can sell to anyone that walks through their doors that has the money to pay for product.
Windows must be tinted so that product is not visible to people walking by the store. Signage cannot display pictures of cannabis or indicate that it is a dispensary of any kind and you cannot have street signs advertising or promoting cannabis sales.	Illegal operations do not follow these guidelines
There are legal limits to the amount of product a licenced store can sell to a customer, just as there are legal limits to the amount of alcohol an individual can purchase. This limits the amount of	Can sell as much as they want to anyone. This person can turn around and go sell it to kids or could have collected a bunch of money from his/her friends and went in to buy it for everyone.

	product one obtains and makes it difficult for someone who is of age to come into the store and buy a whole bunch of products and turn around and sell it back to minors.	
	Just as you are not legally allowed to go into a liquor store, come out and crack open a can of beer, you are also not permitted to do this with product purchased from a licenced non-medical cannabis retail store. Customers are supposed to take their product home and consume it there.	Some illegal stores have lounges inside their premises or outside for their customers to go out and enjoy their purchase and have a visit with others afterward.
	Smell – there is none in a licenced facility. Products are sold in sealed packages so there is no smell until the package is opened.	Packages are not sealed and smoking outside the premises is not regulated so the smell will linger and draw attention to it.
	LEGALLY LICENCED NON-MEDICAL CANNABIS RETAIL STORE	ILLEGAL CANNABIS RETAIL STORE

NOTES:

1. If this application is denied, the illegal dispensaries in the area will continue to operate under no guidelines or regulations and will continue to distribute illegal, untested, potentially laced drugs to whoever has the money to pay for them.
2. As long as there are no legally licenced non-medical cannabis retail stores in operation in the area, there is no obligation on the part of authorities to remove the illegal operations because of the claims they make with respect to the medical benefits of the product they are selling. When there is a legal facility operating, the Liquor & Cannabis Regulation Branch is obligated to investigate complaints of illegal operations and can ask the local authorities for their assistance in shutting them down.
3. Cannabis is now a legal substance that is accessible to anyone over the age of 19. No different than alcohol and it is not going to go away. We are trying to make the purchase of cannabis in this community safe and keep it out of the reach of minors.

For more information, you can call Marlee Brown at 250-240-5090 or Nicole Richard at 250-816-3864, or via email at nicole.richard88@gmail.com.

If you do not support this application, you will be endorsing the operation of illegal dispensaries in your community that are selling cannabis from illegal growers which is untested, untraceable, unregulated and may possibly contain illicit drugs such as LSD, fentanyl or heroine.

The legalization of cannabis is no different than alcohol and it isn't going to go away. Which type would you rather have in your community? The sooner a licenced facility is operating in your community, the faster we can work toward shutting down the illegal operations.

If we do not have written community support, the application for a licenced facility will be defeated and the illegal store will continue to operate. If you would like to express your support for this application (PL2019-043), please email Nick Redpath at the RDN: NRedpath@rdn.bc.ca by May 27th, 2019