



KIMBERLEY

BC • CANADA

October 31st, 2017

File: 0220-30

**Attn: Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9285 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9J7**

Dear Minister Farnworth,

RE: RETAILING OF CANNABIS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of Kimberley's concerns regarding the legalization and regulation of non-medicinal cannabis in BC. Our perspectives will focus on the distribution and retail of cannabis in our community.

Kimberley's view has been informed by our experience in having been the first municipality to issue business licenses to two medicinal cannabis dispensaries. In over two years of operation, the City has had absolutely no issues arise from the operation of these two dispensaries, which have provided a valuable health service to our residents.

Permitting these two existing dispensaries to become retail outlets will create a seamless transition into the non-medicinal framework. The experience that both dispensaries operators have gained is through their own medical journeys. This experience will enable our dispensaries to provide experienced consultation to inexperienced cannabis-users, an important value-add for any future distribution channel.

The dispensaries have established relationships with local "craft" producers, and the cannabis economy is crucial to small-town BC. If cannabis production is centralized outside of our region, it will have a negative impact on our regional economy. Without utilizing current supply chains, it is expected that there will not be enough cannabis available to supply the demand, driving prices up and enable a parallel market to exist.

The City would also like to see a diverse set of cannabis products made available, as opposed to strictly smokeable products.

Sincerely,

Mayor Don McCormick
City of Kimberley