

October 14, 2019

Iqbal Bath & Inder Dhillon  
4435 Lakelse Avenue  
Terrace, BC  
V8G1B1

The Honorable City Council  
270 City Centre  
Kitimat, BC  
V8C2H7

Respected Mayor Germuth & Council Members,

It is legal to sell cannabis in Canada, and it should not have any stigma attached to it. It is a licensed product and businesses should be given a chance to operate within the guidelines provided by the province.

We submitted our application based on the understanding that the mall is in the approved zoning area for retail cannabis business. However, we were not informed that we still need to get approval from the council regarding the suitability of the location. We have rented the retail location in the mall for the past ten months and have paid rent in expectations of opening a business. The cost for the application process was \$7,500, and with rent and other operational charges, we have spent \$35,000.

We are very frustrated that there is a possibility that the council might not agree on the approval of our application in spite of us compiling with all the requirements. We are small, local business owners and have spent our life savings in hopes of opening a new business.

The storefront will be very discreet, unlike the existing vape shop and liquor store, which are very visible to the general public. The window panes for our business will be tinted, providing no visibility to the general public. We will not be promoting the use of cannabis.

We understand how important it is not to promote intoxicants like alcohol, vapes and cannabis to children. We are more than willing to work with the city to ensure our business is not discomforting the general public.

A government-approved cannabis retail store ensures that citizens have access to clean, unadulterated cannabis, and the profits contribute toward our communities. A regulated store would ensure that consumers will have access to licensed, safer and clean products and do not suffer at the hands of the black market and dangerous, laced cannabis. In comparison to other government-approved intoxicants, such as; nicotine, alcohol, and tobacco, cannabis is the least toxic.

Cigarettes are commonly sold in corner stores without objection, so the stigma surrounding cannabis is unreasonable and illogical.

The government has carefully researched cannabis before it's legalization, and as a result, it has been deemed safe to sell in this country.

It is not fair to deny a business opportunity to operate because citizens may not obey the law. These issues are pre-existing, and the stoppage of a single retail store will not stop people from public smoking. However, the majority of people who smoke cannabis prefer to consume it in privacy.

We have worked tirelessly to obtain provincial approval of our application. The province is processing applications on a first-come, first-serve basis, so it has been increasingly frustrating to hear that the city might consider other applications before ours.

The prospect of a new business provides employment opportunities for local citizens. We have been operating our other companies with an impeccable record form over 20 years, selling age-restricted products in Terrace. The province has investigated the records of every venture we are involved in, to determine we had a clean record. We ran a convenience store where we never once had any negative incidents with minors. We have successfully handled numerous government mystery shoppers and checks in the course of years. We have rigorous business policies regarding age-sensitive products. We have both passed government-mandated, criminal and financial tests.

It is no longer possible for us to select a different location under this application, as we received approval for the location in the mall. The process of changing the location would require a new application. This would be very time consuming, around ten months, and very costly, another \$7, 500.

We request our statement be considered before a decision is made regarding our application.

Thank you very much for your attention,

Yours Sincerely,

Iqbal Bath & Inder Dhillon

Deviant Fibres