

Submitted via e-mail
29 September 2019

I would first like to say I am not against having a cannabis store in Kitimat but I am writing this to you in opposition of a cannabis retail store in our mall.

I'm sure many people did not hear the town was zoning for a cannabis retail store in our mall at all until there was an article in the paper.

Council and staff should have done a better job getting the word out about the zoning so that our council could actually hear what the people wanted.

I had a chance to attend the APC meeting and was surprised about a couple of things. First of all that the people involved knew very little about cannabis regulations. There was a comment that with the doctor's office upstairs people could just go downstairs and get the prescription filled. That is not the case, this store does not sell medical grade cannabis.

Another comment that surprised me was that the committee in that room were in agreement that they don't bring their families down to the mall and they don't shop there, so what's the big deal. Well that is the big deal. The gentleman, I believe his last name is Chimko, who first stated this, shouldn't be worried about bringing his family to the mall and yet he is and so are many others. Why would we make a bad situation worse?

We are on the verge of having 10,000 people come into our small town. Some will come directly to the camp but some will uproot their entire families and move here to get one of those jobs. More people to scare away from our mall and force them to shop in Terrace. Families who have lived here for generations don't want to bring the next generation to the mall.

We need to enforce current laws and bylaws there and do what we can to keep undesirable people from hanging out, panhandling, smoking and drinking. It is horrible for seniors like myself who have lung problems to have to walk through that garbage every time we want to go into the mall.

Our mall has a penny candy store in it that is around 50 paces from the proposed cannabis store. We already have a liquor store and a vape store in there, are we trying to create an adult only mall? If so we are well on our way.

Our mall is our City Hall. It should be a gathering place for us as a community like it used to be. A place you want to go to. A place to spend your money and support Kitimat instead of supporting Terrace and sending all of our hard earned money down the road.

The selection of stores in our mall is pitiful but with at least one LNG project going and I've heard Shell is not far behind, chain stores might be looking to Kitimat to open up and they would be coming into a market with no competition and a customer base that is starved for products. Of course in order to do that there has to be available retail space for them.

Please keep the cannabis retail store out of the mall.

Regards

Noel Walker, 104 Babine Street