

Submitted via e-mail
28 September 2019

My name is Rob MacIsaac and I am the applicant at 432 Enterprise.

Now while I won't come out in opposition of the store in our City Centre Mall, as it is a conflict of interest, I do have some food for thought for the council.

Kitimat is on the verge of a boom and there is no denying that. For too long our local businesses have been owned by people who don't live here.

When this happens we spend our money at these businesses and yes we help to employ local people who make a pay cheque, but what happens to the majority of the money these businesses bring in? It leaves Kitimat, it goes to Vancouver, Victoria and quite a bit goes to Terrace. Tim Hortons is owned by someone who lives in Terrace, managed by someone from Terrace who lives here. Husky is owned by someone in Vancouver. Our DQ the last I checked is owned by someone in Terrace. Shell is owned by someone in Terrace. Trigons is owned by someone who keeps their family in Terrace though they do have a house here as well. The vape store in the mall is not owned by a local either, Heck isn't the mall itself owned by someone who lives in Vancouver? More and more our town is being bought up by people who do not live here and do not have our towns best interest at heart.

We have two local people who are trying to open up cannabis stores here in Kitimat Neither of us chose the mall as our location, why?

It's simple, we live here, we respect our neighbours and our community. Grant and I both knew even though our City Centre Mall was zoned for a Cannabis Retail store there would be a backlash from our friends, neighbours and families. We know because we live here, that our mall is a gathering place for our community. Liquor, vape products and cannabis?

What are we doing to OUR city centre. I am not writing this because Deviant Fibres is my competition. There are many, many reasons to not allow it in the mall.

I'm sure the people in town have given you all those reasons.

I'm writing this in support of my competition, not Deviant Fibres, owned by people out of Terrace and Prince Rupert, but Kitimat Cannabis.

The owner of the proposed Kitimat Cannabis store lives here in Kitimat, his family lives here and his children go to school here. I write this email to you asking you to support Grant and myself in opening our stores here in Kitimat.

Until such time that Grant's application has seen its way through the ICRB process, applications to the district from out of town people should not be entertained.

Yes if there were no locals willing to do it then by all means but here is a situation where you have two locals trying to open stores in a town they reside in. I'm sure that the town can support two stores, but those two stores should be locally owned and operated.

Here you have a chance to allow locals to prosper. You are our council elected to look after the people of Kitimat to the best of your ability. Here is your chance to

look after Grant Hamer, a father who has a family that lives here, children that go to school here and ties to THIS community. His application has not been denied, it is still sitting at the LCRB going through his final checks. If Kitimat is going to have two of these stores we should make it two locally owned, operated and staffed stores.

When our stores are locally owned and operated the profits from those stores are spent here, supporting other local businesses. When they are owned by people who don't live here, all that money earned leaves our town. You don't have to be an economist to know you want to keep as much of the money flowing around town as you can..

Cannabis is a mind altering substance. It is safe, you won't over dose but that does not mean that new smokers will all have the same experience their first time or subsequent times.

. With the legalization of cannabis you should be able to ask the person who is selling it to you what it could potentially do to you, what should you as a new smoker expect and get the correct information.

In the case of Deviant Fibres this is impossible. They have no experience or knowledge and do not smoke Cannabis. At their public meeting they admitted they knew nothing about Cannabis or the products. They said they wanted to expand their businesses to Kitimat, however a Cannabis Retail store is not at present one of their businesses.