



The Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

January 21, 2020

Dear Premier Horgan,

I am writing on behalf of Victoria City Council to advise the Province of the valuable service that the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club (VCBC) has provided to medicinal users of cannabis for the past two decades, and to request that the Provincial government consider authorizing an exemption to the VCBC under section 130 of the Cannabis Control and Licensing Act, to allow the Club to continue to provide responsible access and a safe, welcoming community space for medical cannabis users in the City of Victoria and Capital Region.

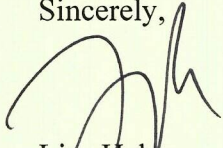
The VCBC has provided a compassionate, not-for-profit, safe, inclusive and welcoming space for medical users of cannabis in the City of Victoria for more than two decades. Over the past days, weeks and months Council has heard from concerned medical cannabis users that they might lose access to the type of services provided by the VCBC. This could negatively impact consumer's health, quality of life and their sense of connection and community.

Legislation adopted by the British Columbia Legislative Assembly, the Cannabis Control and Licensing Act, specifically section 130, allows for an exemption from the provincial regulatory provisions when an exemption is deemed advisable by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the provincial Cabinet. As such, it is our position that a temporary exemption while the business transitions into the legal system would be appropriate and to the benefit of the Club's patients.

The owners of the VCBC are seeking a fair hearing before the BC Cabinet so that a just decision can be made. The owners of the VCBC have also expressed interest in connecting with a senior representative in the B.C. Liquor and Cannabis Distribution Branch to begin drafting a framework for the logistics of this potential exemption so that the B.C. Cabinet has the information they need to make a decision. An ideal working group could include a panel made up of officials from the Province, Health Canada, Island Health, the City of Victoria and the VCBC to meet as required to discuss the club's progress towards full compliance with the law. During this process, the VCBC would maintain a medical only mandate and would expect to avoid enforcement until an exemption decision is made.

On behalf of Council, I look forward to working together to find a solution that for the sake of medical cannabis users in the City of Victoria. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

Cc Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
 MLA's representing constituencies in the Capital Region