



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Paul Manly

Member of Parliament
Nanaimo-Ladysmith

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

October 16, 2020

Dear Minister Hajdu,

I am writing to you today to encourage Health Canada to grant the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club (VCBC) a temporary exemption from the Cannabis Act.

The VCBC is one of the oldest compassion clubs in Canada. It operates as a not for profit organization, with the sole purpose of providing affordable, high quality medical cannabis to patients who need it.

Many of the patients who have used their services over the years belong to poor and marginalized communities who have extra challenges in accessing medical or recreational cannabis through the existing channels.

Until legal medical and/or recreational distribution systems are able to offer comparable products at comparable prices with the same level of accessibility, VCBC should be allowed to continue to provide high quality medicines to patients.

My office has been contacted by constituents of Nanaimo-Ladysmith who have not been well served by the medical cannabis system or the for-profit cannabis stores in Nanaimo. These constituents make the trip from Nanaimo to Victoria once every few weeks, in order to purchase

the affordable high quality medical cannabis offered by the VCBC. They are deeply concerned that the VCBC may be forced to shut down.

The Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club is one of the oldest compassion clubs in Canada. VCBC provided Canadian patients with affordable high quality medical cannabis long before Canadian policies caught up and legalized the growing, sale and use of cannabis. VCBC provided relief to patients who had nowhere else to go to fulfill their constitutional rights to have access to the medicine they need.

Over the past 25 years the VCBC has been raided seven times by law enforcement, each time losing tens of thousands of dollars worth of medical cannabis products as well as money.

The current model for access to medical cannabis does not work for everyone. I believe there is a good case to be made for the VCBC to be given an exemption from the regulations, in order for it to continue serving patients in need with a not-for-profit model based on service and compassion.

Throughout its history, the VCBC has been instrumental in the fight against prohibition and for patients rights. It would be a great loss to have it shut down due to legalization.

I would be happy to discuss this with you or someone from your staff.

Regards,



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