

Dear David Eby

Hope this message finds you happy and healthy.

I am writing this to you on behalf of the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club, the oldest compassion club in Canada with over 8,600 members. While we appreciate that you have many important matters on your hands, there is a dire situation unfolding in Victoria that deserves some of your attention.

All we ask is for a chance to meet with you for 15 minutes to explain why the VCBC has decided to work outside of the legal medical cannabis program. Since this is a dilemma created by Health Canada long before you became Premier, we totally understand that you are not responsible for the problems in the medical cannabis program. There is no reason that you cannot simply sit down with us for a few minutes to hear our story, a story that affects thousands of citizens in Victoria.

Another parallel disaster that you have inherited is the opiate crisis. We want to explain why we feel we are a critical component of front-line harm reduction services in Victoria, which is why we know patients would suffer and die without our high-dosage products at prices they can afford.

We have tried to be patient, allowing bureaucratic procedures to play their course as we argue against the massive \$6.5 million dollars in fines issued last year. The City of Victoria has repeatedly written letters of support for us to Health Canada and the B.C. Cannabis Secretariat. However, recent actions by the Community Safety Unit have seriously threatened the club and its patients, giving us the incentive to reach out to you.

Our club is not a group of deviant law-breakers. Our compassion club is dedicated to helping people in pain, patients with incurable physical ailments and those suffering serious mental health problems. We are doing everything possible to work within the legal system without compromising the needs of our patients.

Please give us a chance to be heard.

Ted Smith

Founder, Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club