

Alicia Ferguson

From: General Feedback
Sent: April-30-20 2:17 PM
To: Council
Subject: FW: Letter of Support
Attachments: Letter of support to elected officials.pdf; Letter for endorsment.pdf

General Feedback General Delivery Email

From: Dennis Schafer [mailto:dks@stickandstone.ca]
Sent: April-30-20 2:15 PM
To: info@cumberland.ca
Subject: Letter of Support

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>		
RECEIVED: MAY - 1 2020		
Referred: <i>Rachel</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

Dear Mayor and Council,

Stick & Stone Cannabis Co. is a wee Ma & Pa cannabis retail shop located in Fernie BC. Due to current stressors and frustrations, we have collaborated with ACCRES to outline two requests for change to the current regulations that will further the safety measures designed to protect our communities in BC during these trying times and we ask for your support presenting these recommendations to the province.

- 1) Online Sales
- 2) Direct Delivery

As owners of a licensed cannabis retail shop, we have been continuously evolving our operations to ensure the safety of the community as new information about COVID-19 becomes available. We have a wide range of customers many who are predominately middle-aged and elderly who purchase our products for both recreational and medical use.

With our recommended adjustments to the current regulations that were designed for a pre-pandemic world, we would be able to continue to safely provide much-needed products to our at-risk customers who are unable to leave the house, ensure a contactless experience for those who are able to visit the store for curbside pickup and keep our staff safe.

Here is an example of the challenges our current customers are facing because they are not able to pay for our products online during COVID-19:

We received a phone call asking if a curbside pick-up was available by a customer of ours who was elderly. They were in desperate need of a product and the delivery times to order from the BC Cannabis Store were too lengthy. We informed them that we carried the product and would do our best to provide a contactless interaction but they would have to tap our terminal and the wireless system may not register outside.

When the customer arrived their vulnerability was apparent. They were approximately 90 years old with a compromised immune system, so becoming infected would likely result in their death. In order to keep them safe while accepting their payment and providing their product we were forced through the following process:

1. We tried to use the tap feature by pressing the terminal against their car window. This did not work due to card issues.
2. We then bleached the terminal and passed it through a small gap in the window so that the customer could complete the transaction.
3. The product was then left on the hood of their car for them to collect when they felt safe to do so.

Even though the utmost precautions are being taken, it is extremely stressful to force customers to go through these processes that could easily be avoided if we were able to use available technology like online payment systems.

There are processes in place for the legal online purchase and delivery of alcohol in BC as well as cannabis in other provinces which have been effective at keeping their communities safe. We are asking for the same considerations.

I can not stress enough how vital allowing online payments and delivery to be available in BC is to our communities and retailers!! When you have someone's life in your hands, you want to have the safest measures in place.

PLEASE ENDORSE THIS LETTER OF SUPPORT

Thank you for your time,

--

Dennis Schafer

Stick & Stone Cannabis Co.

250.430.7848

stickandstone.ca

To Honorable Mayor and Council,

Attached is a letter from the Association of Canadian Cannabis Retailers (ACCRES) membership to the Solicitor-General, Hon. Mike Farnworth, calling on the government of British Columbia to further modify cannabis retail regulations in support of physical distancing during the COVID-19 health emergency. ACCRES is seeking your endorsement in support of these measures, which we believe are in line with what other jurisdictions across Canada are adopting.

ACCRES is specifically calling on BC to follow the recent move by Ontario, which in response to COVID-19 has moved to allow private cannabis retailers to take online payment and make door-to-door delivery of cannabis products. Both Saskatchewan and now Ontario have allowed online payment and direct delivery with no significant complications or negative consequences, and we believe these regulatory changes are appropriate for BC as well.

We believe that many municipal governments in BC could stand to benefit from these changes, as they will hopefully reduce in-store traffic and lineups caused by physical distancing requirements for essential retailers like cannabis stores. This should further reduce the chances of spreading COVID-19, something we believe should be the ultimate priority of any regulated system right now.

Finally, we believe this measure is important in allowing licensed, regulated, and tax-compliant retailers a means of competing with unregulated retailers, who are currently quite openly selling cannabis on-line or offering in-person delivery options. With municipal resources currently very constrained and bylaw officers unable to enforce against these proliferating operators, we believe offering these options to regulated retailers could help compliant businesses to compete them out of the market instead.

ACCRES ask that you endorse these initiatives in support of regulated cannabis retailers' efforts to continue serving their customers in a way that protects public health to the greatest extent possible.

Sincerely,

Jaclynn Pehota
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On Behalf of:

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