

WILL THERE BE A MICRO-LICENSE INDUSTRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA?

BC Micro License Association

Read This:

<https://vancouversun.com/cannabis/cannabis-business/ian-mulgrew-government-needs-to-promote-cannabis-opportunity>

Now Read This:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/west-vancouver-cannabis-ban-1.4749554>

ALR News:

This was a shocking development that seemed to come out of nowhere:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018AGRI0050-001390>

As if the municipalities didn't already have enough to think about with respect to cannabis production and processing issues, they have to deal with this bomb that was dropped on them by the Province.

We are not sure what the overall impact of this new policy will be, but we are confident it will make planning *more* difficult for micro-license applicants.

Stay tuned.



Cannabis is Not Weapons-Grade Uranium

But, you'd be forgiven if you think the Province and many municipal leaders believe this to be true (see the Vancouver Sun and CBC articles, the links are on the side bar, to the left).

TBH, our concern is at the "orange" level and we think it may be elevated to "red" in the next few weeks. Legalization is happening. In 91 days. However, based on our observations, we believe some municipalities do not understand the urgency of the situation - there is a significant amount of information they need to absorb in order to address the cannabis production and processing zoning bylaw issues in a thoughtful and knowledgeable manner. Yet, the belief that these issues can be put off until some undetermined time in the future seems to exist, seemingly with the complete absence of an understanding of the *big picture*.

What's the big picture? The development of a legal and legitimate sector of the economy that will benefit all British Columbians; a sector in which BC craft cannabis producers have the talent and skill to excel and *dominate* on the national level.

Perhaps the municipal leaders have failed to grasp the fact that cannabis legalization has significant public support, with

Micro-License Applications

We have had the chance to go through the Cannabis Act regulations, and our impression is that the requirements for micro-license operations will be about 95% the same as what is required for the standard-license operations. The application process will be substantially similar, too, for micros and standards.

We are disappointed, to say the least, that the federal government does not appreciate these application and operational requirements represent a high barrier to individuals seeking micro-licenses.

The Application Guide:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/drugs-health-products/cannabis-licensing-guide.html>

We spent 30 minutes on the phone with Health Canada this morning to find out when the application queue will open for the micro-licenses. The nice lady advised us that as of now, the application process will probably not open until October 17, 2018. Apparently, they are "still building" the process. Expressions of frustration may be sent to the Minister of Health:

HCMinister.MinistreSC@canada.ca

Our sponsor:



support in BC exceeding the national levels. Perhaps they have also failed to grasp the importance of their supporting role in achieving the goals of the federal government with respect to the inclusion of micro-licenses: spreading the economic benefits of the cannabis economy, limiting large corporate monopolies and bringing existing unregulated producers into the legal system. Perhaps they have failed to grasp that the time to act is *now*.

Sound the Alarm!

The stakes are high - we know that the existence of a robust and thriving legally regulated, small scale craft cannabis industry is *not* guaranteed. So, rather than be passive and complain about the government, let's do something about it.

We *strongly* urge our members and supporters to contact their local municipalities to let them know that craft cannabis businesses are beneficial for local economies and that non-restrictive, or non-prohibitive, zoning bylaws will allow small businesses to open, creating jobs and spin-off benefits for other local businesses. (The advice we have received is that the issue is best approached from the economic angle - cannabis is good for the economy).

Calls and e-mails should go to the mayors, council members, chief administrative officers, economic development officers, and planning officials. Look at the municipalities' websites for contact information. Tell the person(s) you speak with or e-mail that you are a small business owner who wants to do business in the municipality, hire local employees and support other local small businesses.

If our members and supporters wish to advise their municipal leaders that the BCMLA is willing to do a one hour "cannabis college" to educate them on small scale cannabis production issues, please do so. We will provide as much support as we are able, in whatever way we can.

We don't want to be bossy drama queens, but we would like to remind our members and supporters that what is done, or not done, now by the Province and the municipalities will shape the industry that we will all have to live with in the future. If we want a robust and thriving craft cannabis industry in British Columbia, we will have to fight for it.

Let's get to work!