

SO FAR, SO GOOD...

BC Micro License Association

Recent BCMLA Media:

<https://thetyee.ca/News/2018/07/27/BC-Missing-Cannabis-Opportunity/>

Micro-License Application Guide:

Please check out Health Canada's application guide. There is so much useful information in it for those planning on submitting an application in October, 2018:

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

Health Canada Public Consultation

In a section near the end of the application guide is an invitation to provide feedback to Health Canada:

cannabis@canada.ca

Don't be shy - send them an e-mail (they actually respond) and tell them what you think of the process thus far.



...in Maple Ridge and Mission

For those of you who follow us on insta, or who have been reading our previous newsletters, you will know that representatives from the BCMLA appeared as a delegation before the city councils. In both cities, we explained our purpose and requested meetings in which we could provide more information about what we do as an organization, the details of the new regulatory system and a rationale for the amendment and expansion of current zoning bylaws to accommodate micro-licensed cannabis operations.

In neither city did the council exhibit the warm and fuzzies we had hoped for during our short presentations. However, after many e-mails and phone calls we were able to meet with each city's municipal staff over the last two weeks. We were blown away by the welcoming reception we received in both cities. One meeting was over an hour and the other one was over two hours. Happily, the staff members were interested, engaged and prepared to listen carefully to what we had to say.

We were also very interested in what *they* had to say about their city's concerns related to cannabis businesses and the mechanics of implementing zoning changes - lots of talk about lot size, coverage, setbacks, exclusions, temporary use permits, conforming and non-conforming structures, marginal agricultural lands, utility consumption, odour control, drainage and organic waste. We also heard from both city's staff that some trepidation existed with respect to cannabis operations, due to various "issues" caused by MMAR grows. Our



ALR - What the Province Really Said:

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

We provided this link in our last newsletter - a little bomb dropped by the Province on the municipalities.

Our hot take on the Province's news release is that it is up to the municipality or local government to decide whether or not to ban concrete bunkers on ALR land; they may choose to ban the bunkers, or they may choose to allow them. Remember, though, that cannabis-on-ALR is *not* a settled issue at this point because the Union of British Columbia Municipalities will vote on a recommendation to the Province in September, 2018 - some municipalities are strongly pushing for an outright ban of any cannabis on any ALR land - hello, Richmond! Stay tuned for more info.

We Need Your Support:

<https://www.gofundme.com/b.c-micro-license-association>

(77 days until legalization...)

response was that the federally-licensed micro operations will be more heavily regulated than current medical grows and fewer "issues" are likely to arise under the new system.

While we are not ready to pop the corks yet, we interpreted the message coming from Maple Ridge to be along the lines of "how do we get this done", not "we're not doing this". The lines of communication remain open and we hope there will be a follow-up meeting.

In Mission, the response was slightly more measured, perhaps due to a different "political" climate. However, the staff agreed to propose to the council members an information workshop, or "cannabis college", that we would conduct so they are able to have access to all of the relevant information about small scale micro licensed cannabis businesses prior to passing, or not passing, a new zoning bylaw.

While we wait to see what the next steps are in Maple Ridge and Mission, we have started communicating with the City of Pitt Meadows. And, we will try the same thing with Abbotsford (whose representatives have expressed to us the City's *strong* opinions related to cannabis businesses in the city - Abby, bring it! We're up for the challenge!)

In all of our meetings, we are using the magnificent RDOS bylaw as an example of what will best serve the micro-licensees:

http://www.rdosmaps.bc.ca/min_bylaws/planning/CURRENT_APPLICATIONS_AND_DECISIONS/ElectoralArea_Multiple/X2017_129_ZONE_Industrial_Zone/ReportPD20180315.pdf

We need to give a special shout out to our friends Ian and Jaclynn at Cannabis Commerce Association of Canada for their extraordinary help as we navigate our way through the complexities of municipal lobbying. [Thank you. Your assistance has been invaluable.](#)

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