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## BC Micro License Association

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### BCMLA's Recent Media

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<https://www.cp24.com/news/small-pot-growers-find-roadblocks-on-path-to-microcultivation-licences-1.4210782>

### What's Our Agenda?

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We get asked this question a lot. The short answer is we don't have an "agenda". The BCMLA was started because our president saw the zoning issues as being problematic and figured there'd be strength in numbers, especially when it comes to lobbying municipal, provincial or federal governments. What better way to gather like-minded individuals together than by forming an organization with the sole purpose of fighting for a strong craft industry?

Our first goal is to have well informed members who understand the new regulatory framework and who have a place to obtain credible, fact-based information. Our second goal is to have the collective voice of the micro-hopefuls heard at all three levels of government.

That's all we do - education and advocacy. The BCMLA is not a front; we don't sell anything, nor do we produce "deliverables" for anyone. This is a duly registered non-profit society, *not* a business. We must be audited once a year to ensure we are complying with the law - all donations are used in furtherance our our purposes (see our first newsletter for our constitution) and for our staff salary. Any industry relationships we cultivate are done so with the aforementioned goals in mind and not for any self-serving or shady purposes. The bench strength in BC is incredible and we will seek out the opinions, advice and guidance of industry leaders who believe in our goals.

Everyone at the BCMLA has significant industry experience and, importantly, the agenda-free desire to see BC retain its position as the cannabis capital of the universe (which is by no means guaranteed, and yes, Alberta, we are watching and wondering, worriedly...).



### Wut?

Health Canada confirmed it has received five micro-licence applications from British Columbia. During the WebEx seminar on Thursday, they confirmed there have only been 30 micro-applications across Canada.

These numbers strike us as low, unexpectedly so. Likely, a combination of factors explain the situation and while we cannot comment on what is happening in other provinces, the municipal zoning / ALR issues in BC are probably the major factor standing in the way of those who want to apply.

We know we sound like we're repeating ourselves with the 'municipal zoning' thing, but it is the single most important issue facing prospective micro-applicants in BC right now, along with ALR issues. While we feel like we have made progress in Mission, Maple Ridge and the FVRD, we fully understand these are not the only places people want to start their micro-operations. We would like to tackle every single municipality in BC, but we simply do not have the staff or financial resources to do so.

So, we have to be creative in our approach. Recently, an unbelievably awesome opportunity came our way; we are able to submit some of our ideas to the province about how their tools and resources can be used to assist *all* of the municipalities in obtaining the information required to make thoughtful and well considered zoning decisions. If any of our members want to send us ideas about how they think the province can help the craft industry, we wouldn't hate that. And, if anyone is thinking about moving their operations to Alberta, we definitely need to hear from you. For real. Let us know.

### Health Canada WebEx Seminar

On Thursday, December 13, 2018, HC put on a micro-licensing seminar. We listened in, but if any of our members did not have the chance to sign up, here's



### A Setback for Medical Users

<https://vancouver.sun.com/cannabis/cannabis-culture/vancouver-illegal-pot-shops-must-close-b-c-supreme-court-judge>

Unfortunately, Rob Laurie, John Conroy, Kirk Tousaw and others were not successful in their action - all "illegal" dispensaries in Vancouver have to close. Hopefully, the lawyers will appeal - good luck, sirs, and keep fighting the good fight.

### If You'd Like to Help Us

Your support is important to us and it means that we will be able to continue to do what we have been doing. If you'd like to help us out, you can e-mail us an Interac transfer or hit up our gofundme page:

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



the link to access the audio and the deck HC used in their presentation:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8jzwm46l3mkzopl/AADBv3YBG-UI6LOs4gxUrKQGa?dl=0>

Most of the material covered was stuff that can be found in their published documents. Our previous newsletter, "Applications", contains all of the links that were referred to during HC's presentation.

Here are some interesting points that caught our attention:

- Security clearance applications are no joke. Not only will the RCMP do the finger print and criminal record check, they will also examine "intelligence" from local law enforcement. Anyone with "serious criminal history", association with organized crime or involvement in "financial crimes" will likely be denied, although each application is reviewed on a "case-by-case" basis. Also, lying on the forms is strongly discouraged, obviously, and providing false information will be another factor "considered" in the decision;
- Once granted, security clearances travel with the holder. If a person changes jobs and moves to a different licensee, their security clearance goes with them;
- The micro-processing limit is in fact 600kgs. HC representatives, who shall remain nameless, advised participants in the September, 2018 round-table in Vancouver that a micro-processor with a co-located micro-cultivation licence could process their own harvest *plu* 600kgs. It looks like the information previously provided by HC was incorrect;
- HC has a team of application reviewers dedicated to micro-applications. This is good news and makes sense. As of Thursday, the line up was 30 deep. HC would not commit to a target processing time, but stressed the importance of having a complete application, with high quality information, especially on the big stuff like the Organizational Security Plan (including physical security measures) and the SOPs. There is no "expedited" application process, so if someone tells you there is, it is *not* true;
- If a micro-applicant submits their application and then decides they want to upgrade to a standard licence, an entirely new application will be required, in an entirely different queue, starting from the back of the line;
- HC will be publishing "guide documents" to assist applicants with the GPP requirements (we made this suggestion to them way back, so we are pleased the "guide documents" are coming);
- Starting genetics are covered in s.10 of the regulations. Interestingly, HC stated they consciously chose not to restrict the starting genetics to legal sources specifically to make it easier for "illegal" production to get into the regulated system. So *no*, you don't have to buy your starting seeds or plants from LPs, unless you want to. Just call your nephew, or whomever, to see if they have some genetics they are willing to part with (Pro Tip: get as diverse an array of genetics as possible to start with, because after the licence is granted, all genetics will have to come from inside the system);
- An individual / company can have multiple micro-licences, as long as they are on different sites. Nationally, HC will not cap the number of licences granted;
- A micro-licensed operation can be co-located with an ACMPR-licensed medical grow. HC will want the applicant to ensure the cannabis from the two differently licensed sources doesn't get mixed up.

If anyone still has questions, let us know and maybe we can point you in the right direction. Also, representatives of HC will be present at the LIFT convention in Vancouver, in January, 2019, if you want to get your information straight from the source.