



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 9, 2020**

Date: December 13, 2019
From: Councillor Ben Isitt, Councillor Jeremy Loveday and Councillor Sarah Potts
Subject: Advocacy for Exemption for Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club

Background:

The Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club has provided a compassionate, not-for-profit, safe, inclusive and welcoming space for medical users of cannabis in the City of Victoria for more than two decades.

In November 2019, the Province of British Columbia raided the premises of the Club, disrupting the provision of medical cannabis to club members.

Legislation adopted by the British Columbia Legislative Assembly, the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*, specifically section 130, allows for an exemption from the provincial regulatory provisions when an exemption is deemed advisable by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the provincial Cabinet (see Attachment 1).

In light of the unique service and community space provided by the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club, it is recommended that Council advocate to the Province of British Columbia to provide an exemption to the Club, to allow the Club to continue its important work in the community.

Recommendation:

That Council request that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Premier of British Columbia, copying the Solicitor General and Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies in the Capital Region, advising the Province of the valuable service that the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club has provided to medicinal users of cannabis for the past two decades, and requesting that the Provincial government consider authorizing an exemption to the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club under s. 130 of the Cannabis Control and Licensing Act, to allow the Club to continue to provide responsible access and a safe, welcoming community space for medical cannabis users in the City of Victoria and Capital Region.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Councillor Ben Isitt in blue ink.

Councillor Isitt

Handwritten signature of Councillor Jeremy Loveday in blue ink.

Councillor Loveday

Handwritten signature of Councillor Sarah Potts in blue ink.

Councillor Potts

Attachments:

1. Cannabis Control and Licensing Act, s. 130