



Songhees Nation

July 15, 2020

Mayor and Council, City of Victoria
#1 Centennial Square

Dear Mayor and Council,
Regarding: Seed & Stone: Cannabis Retail at 901 Gordon Street

I am happy to inform Mayor and Council that Songhees Nation's cannabis retail enterprise is moving forward! Our On-Reserve location is under construction and our licensing approval is in the final stages. We are pleased to submit this cannabis rezoning application for our first location in Victoria.

Songhees has selected Vikram Sachdeva of Seed & Stone as a business partner. We met Vikram through an existing relationship and found alignment in our values and business goals. Vikram has a licensed store open in Chilliwack and several locations under development in the lower mainland. He is an entrepreneur with twenty years experience as a multi-store Subway franchisee and a strong record of good corporate citizenship and regulatory compliance. Together we will operate premier cannabis retail stores under a trusted brand.

The Seed & Stone brand speaks to the natural world and the life cycle of plants. Our stores will have a serene mood, with a backlight forest scene on one wall. Connie Watts, of Tseshaht First Nation, our interior designer for the Songhees Wellness Centre, will enhance the indigenous branding in our stores, featuring pieces by Songhees artists. We will carry ancillary products from indigenous suppliers.

Finding a location in the heart of Lekwungen territory has been difficult. We are hopeful you will agree that 901 Gordon Street is a good fit for cannabis retail. We have leased this location subject to zoning approval. City staff will report that 901 Gordon Street is within 150 meters from a school and 350 meters from another Cannabis store. However, looking at this little neighbourhood in our small and densely developed City, we feel this location is appropriate and should be given consideration.

We met with Jeff Hopkins, founder of the Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry located at 808 Douglas Street in the Nootka Court Mall. While Jeff is concerned about youth using cannabis in public spaces downtown, he agreed that regulated and licensed stores are part of the solution and wished us well with our endeavor.

901 Gordon Street has parking on the roof and an eclectic group of shops and services. Songhees' Seed & Stone stores will be a shopping experience attracting residents and tourists alike. Thank you for your consideration. We are available to answer questions, please contact Vikram Sachdeva vikrams@seedandstone.com or Christina Clarke Christina.clarke@songheesdevco.com.

Sincerely



Chief Ron Sam

cc Songhees Nation Chief and Council