

## Richard Elliott

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**From:** Ian Sutherland [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** October 19, 2020 6:17 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor)  
**Cc:** Michael Angrove  
**Subject:** Rezoning Application No. 00748 for 1150 Douglas Street  
**Attachments:** 1150 Douglas St - Cannabis Retail .pdf

To Mayor and Council,

Please find attached the DRA LUC letter in response to the rezoning application to permit the use of a Storefront Cannabis Retailer at 1150 Douglas Street.

Regards,

Ian Sutherland



Mayor Helps and Council  
City of Victoria  
No.1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC, V8W 1P6

October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Re: Rezoning Application No. 00748 for 1150 Douglas Street**

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

The DRA LUC would like to offer support for the Staff recommendation to decline the application to permit the use of a Storefront Cannabis Retailer. As observed by Staff, “the proposal is inconsistent with the *Storefront Cannabis Retailer Rezoning Policy*”.

There are four properties within 400m of the subject property that have storefront cannabis retailer as a permitted use:

- 778 Fort Street is 177m away, is provincially licensed and has been operating at that location since 2014;
- 1402 Douglas Street is 216m away, is provincially licensed and has been operating at that location since 2015;
- 546 Yates Street is 160m away, non-operational and not provincially licensed; and,
- 826 Johnson Street is 370m away, has been operating as the Cannabis Compassion Club for 19 years at that location but is not provincially licensed.

Additionally, Staff point out that there is one independent high school, the Pacific Institute for Innovation and Inquiry that, at 170m away from the subject property, is within the 200m proximity.

Proximity rules were established by Council to limit the number of Cannabis retailers to the point that the public is adequately served and operators do not need to sell to minors to make ends meet. There is a strong case that indicates a direct correlation between the viability of these businesses and compliance regarding sale to minors.

There is no shortage of ground floor retail properties for lease within the City and therefore no apparent impediment for the applicant to seek a location that complies with the current proximity rules. It is important that precedence is not set in relaxing these proximity rules without a compelling rationale. We strongly encourage Council to uphold its wise decision to adopt the 400m proximity rule for Cannabis retailers and the 200m proximity rule for schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian Sutherland', with a large loop at the start and a trailing flourish.

Ian Sutherland  
Chair Land Use Committee, Downtown Residents Association

cc COV Planning