

## Madison Heiser

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**From:** Greg Candy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:03 PM  
**To:** Public Hearings  
**Subject:** Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 7) No. 20-117

To Whom it May Concern,

We are the owners of #603 , 608 Broughton Street (The Sovereign).

**We would like to register our objection to the above proposal.**

This proposed zoning bylaw amendment is almost opposite the entrance to our building. We have a number of concerns with this application:

1. We believe too many cannabis stores will attract the wrong type of people to this area and change the tone/ambience of the area negatively.
2. Evidence has shown that a concentration of these types of businesses lead to increased crime in the area. Living next door, we do not want to increase the crime rate in the area.
3. We understand there are two other proposals for cannabis stores within 1 block of this location.
4. The size of this application takes up half a city block. This would overwhelm/discourage other small business owners and diminish the business diversity in the area. This diversity is essential for a vibrant downtown area.
5. This is a high tourist zone and we are concerned about the message/tone this will send. Tourists are very sensitive to the ambience of an area especially if it affects their security and increases harassment.
6. As Covid has shown, Victoria desperately needs tourism and we shouldn't be doing anything that might discourage tourists.

Sincerely,

Greg and Sue Candy

# DOWNTOWN Victoria

Downtown Victoria Business Association  
20 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 1P7

January 13, 2021

Victoria Mayor & Council  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 1P6

Re: Support for Songhees Nation

Dear Mayor & Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Downtown Victoria Business Association to support the Songhees Nation's rezoning requests regarding 901 Gordon Street and the unit they plan to rent within 1150 Douglas Street (The Bay Centre). We welcome this significant investment in downtown, particularly as the nation plans to sign stable, long-term leases.

Despite a system that has, historically, made it difficult for First Nations to experience economic growth, Songhees Nation has worked hard to establish both a commercial and a cultural presence in their traditional territory. They are valuable contributors to the economy and valuable partners to many different groups both within the downtown and throughout the broader region.

Their existing business initiatives (such as the Songhees Centre and the Songhees Food Truck) have already added a richness to downtown Victoria. This is partially through their economic contribution, but even more significantly through their cultural presence. The field of experiential Indigenous tourism is growing rapidly, and the Songhees Nation has plans to further expand their programs once it is safe to do so. They intend to offer cultural canoe tours in the Inner Harbour, walking tours which will encompass key points of interest downtown and the Signs of Lekwungen public art installations, and other cultural programming. These two cannabis businesses will play a role in that cultural presence as well as contributing to the local economy.

The DVBA is very pleased by the increased cultural and economic presence of Songhees Nation within its traditional territory, and urges the council to please allow the rezoning requests to be completed.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bray  
DVBA Executive Director

## Madison Heiser

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**From:** Vafa Javanmardi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:09 PM  
**To:** Public Hearings  
**Cc:** Vafa Javanmardi  
**Subject:** Opposing Amendment Bylaw (No.7) No. 20-117

**To: Mayor & Council**

**Subject: Opposing Amendment Bylaw (No.7) No. 20-117 Storefront Cannabis Retailer on land 901-919 Gordon St, 617-635 Boughton St, 620-628 Courtney St**

Dear Mayor & Council,

I am writing to **oppose** this amendment in the strongest way possible. I am a taxpayer living in Victoria for almost 20 years and working a block from the proposed cannabis store. Legalizing Recreational Cannabis was a BIG mistake by the Federal & Provincial governments. It was even a bigger mistake by City of Victoria to encourage and establish dozens of pot shops across this tiny town to the detriment of the younger generation and its citizens. This drug is a poison to the health of our youth and able-bodied citizens. STOP making Victoria the Pot Capital of Canada. I see every day what carnage it brings to areas where these pot shops thrive, and am sure that they sell illegal drugs from their back doors & "members only" rooms. Adding another 2 pot shops in the downtown core will further destroy our beautiful city and will attract more drug dealers, crime, theft, and make the downtown more dangerous to the local families and tourists that visit our town. This will also drive away businesses and make entire blocks of the city as "No go" areas. The surrounding businesses will also suffer dramatically. There is absolutely no justification to increase the number of pot shops in town. Improve the downtown core by bringing in family oriented businesses; health & recreation, cafes, daycares, educational institutions, and museums & galleries. A Cannabis store only destroys society and our younger generations. Medicinal Cannabis should be purchased from local Pharmacies like every other medicine.

I expect that you will make the right decision to reject this project and look after the welfare of all the citizens of Victoria, and not increase its crime rate.

Respectfully,

Vafa Javanmardi



Vafa Javanmardi (Mech. Eng)  
General Manager / Managing Broker  
Harbour Centre  
36 – 910 Government St.  
Victoria, BC, V8W 1X3

[REDACTED]

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## Madison Heiser

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:12 AM  
**To:** Public Hearings  
**Subject:** Fw: Cannabis stores

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**From:** Kenneth Mintz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** January 13, 2021 7:49 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** Cannabis stores

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am disappointed that, once again, Council is about to approve rezoning another two locations for cannabis sales. one of them being the Bay Centre.

Downtown Victoria is already saturated with cannabis stores - we do not need another. Allowing cannabis to be sold in our main mall is utter foolishness. I frequently smell cannabis on our downtown streets, what happened to our Clean Air Bylaw?

After the pandemic is over, the tourist industry needs to be re-established. Victoria needs to be seen as a clean, safe city, as it used to be, which would make tourists want to spend more time here. Unfortunately, Council seems to be pursuing the opposite course. With the present situation in the USA, Victoria has a golden opportunity to be an attractive destination for Americans.

You should keep in mind that many scientific studies have determined that cannabis smoke (as well as vaping) is harmful. Do you want to be known 20 years from now, when the long-term effects of cannabis become obvious to everyone, that your Council was one that essentially promoted the sale of cannabis?

Kenneth Mintz

703-399 Tyee Rd., Victoria