

Please accept this letter in response to community feedback regarding the Seed & Stone application for cannabis retail at 1150 Douglas Street, Victoria

Over 1000 letters were mailed out with only 4 responses. Although most were against our application, I feel they were honest and fair concerns, all of which we will address below.

We appreciate the feedback and will continue to reach out to the Victoria businesses and community members to provide the best service possible with the community's health and safety at the forefront.

As the fathers of teen and pre-teen children, we at Seed & Stone understand the importance of keeping cannabis out of the hands of youth. Our proposed state-of-the-art storefront design with the inability for pedestrians to see inside the store and by limiting the use of the term "cannabis" we can shelter youth from cannabis sales. All staff do rigorous training including a section on requesting 2 pieces of ID from anybody looking under 25. Each budtender must take and pass a selling it right course which also helps to identify fake id.

We believe legal, government licensed and regulated cannabis retail storefronts aide in limiting black market sales. With cannabis retail in your community, you are less likely to find street dealers selling unhealthy products to underage community members

Our security plan will also assist in limiting cannabis use in public spaces surrounding the store

We fully understand the concerns brought forth by Respondents 2 & 3. The security of the residents and businesses in the area are always on top of our mind. Therefore, Seed & Stone will implement a security plan incorporating the RCMP's CPTED program. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design not only helps reduce crime but also the risk of crime. On top of that Seed & Stone will provide non-intrusive lighting and no less than 12 security cameras that are monitored and enforced 24 hours a day which will be positioned strategically both inside and outside of our proposed unit

There is absolutely no connection between cannabis retail and crime, in fact, in Colorado, where cannabis has been legal since 2014, a study in the journal Regional Science and Urban Economics showed that crime rates dropped "substantially" in the areas around Denver dispensaries.

The legalization of cannabis has resulted in a 54% yoy decline in cannabis-related offences in Canada in 2019. The opening of legal cannabis retail stores has potentially prevented youth from entering into any type of illegal trade related to cannabis. Also, White Rock RCMP has not received any complaints regarding customers consuming cannabis in the immediate area associated with the current cannabis shop on Johnston Rd.

On June 19, 2018, the Senate passed Bill C45 and the Prime Minister announced the effective legalization of Cannabis date as October 17, 2018.

The Canadian Government emphasized three key goals of regulation:

- the protection of public health;
- the protection of young people;
- the reduction in criminality associated with the illegal market.

The reform was built on years of evidence demonstrating that the illegal status of cannabis did not prevent rising consumption and was associated with a range of other risks, from increased potency to the empowerment of criminal gangs. The provincial government stated “Economic development is a guiding principle of B.C.’s regulated approach to cannabis. In addition to protecting public health and safety,”

Seed & Stone also has a recycling, garbage, and graffiti removal program to keep the community safe and clean.

Click and collect service, multiple POS stations and separate lines for pick up will eliminate unnecessary traffic on the city sidewalk.

We look forward to working with City and its departments to resolve any concerns on an ongoing and continuous basis.

Vikram Sachdeva
Founder & CEO
Seed & Stone

References

- 1) Bill C46 - [Bill C-46 - Legislative Background: reforms to the Transportation Provisions of the Criminal Code \(Bill C-46\) \(justice.gc.ca\)](https://www.justice.gc.ca/bill-c46)
- 2) RCMP CPTED - [Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design \(CPTED\) \(rcmp-grc.gc.ca\)](https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cpted)
- 3) Cannabis & Crime [Are Cannabis Dispensaries and Crime Linked? | cannabisMD](https://cannabisMD.com/are-cannabis-dispensaries-and-crime-linked/)
- 4) Cannabis Crime Data – [Statistics Canada](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/25-011-x/2019001/article/00001-eng.htm)
- 5) Government of Canada - [A Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada - Canada.ca](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/25-011-x/2019001/article/00001-eng.htm)
- 6) Province of BC - [Learn about B.C.'s Cannabis Sector - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/soc/cannabis/)