



**Council Member Motion**  
**For the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting of November 5, 2015**

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**To:** Governance and Priorities Committee      **Date:** November 5, 2015  
**From:** Councillors Alto and Coleman  
**Subject:** Regulating Cannabis in Victoria

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**Background:**

The new federal government has specific policies to legalize, regulate and restrict access to cannabis. In particular the Liberal campaign platform states:

*We will legalize, regulate, and restrict access to marijuana.*

*Canada's current system of marijuana prohibition does not work. It does not prevent young people from using marijuana and too many Canadians end up with criminal records for possessing small amounts of the drug.*

*Arresting and prosecuting these offenses is expensive for our criminal justice system. It traps too many Canadians in the criminal justice system for minor, non-violent offenses. At the same time, the proceeds from the illegal drug trade support organized crime and greater threats to public safety, like human trafficking and hard drugs.*

*To ensure that we keep marijuana out of the hands of children, and the profits out of the hands of criminals, we will legalize, regulate, and restrict access to marijuana.*

*We will remove marijuana consumption and incidental possession from the Criminal Code, and create new, stronger laws to punish more severely those who provide it to minors, those who operate a motor vehicle while under its influence, and those who sell it outside of the new regulatory framework.*

*We will create a federal/provincial/territorial task force, and with input from experts in public health, substance abuse, and law enforcement, will design a new system of strict marijuana sales and distribution, with appropriate federal and provincial excise taxes applied.*

Given this policy, and the public assertions of the Prime Minister-designate that it is his intention not to manage down expectations but to determine how to deliver on the stated components of Liberal Party policies, it is possible that cannabis may soon become a legally obtainable product sold within strict federal guidelines.

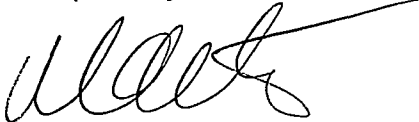
In such a case it would be imprudent to establish a local regulatory regime requiring the expenditure of municipal resources for its design, implementation and enforcement.

**Motion:**

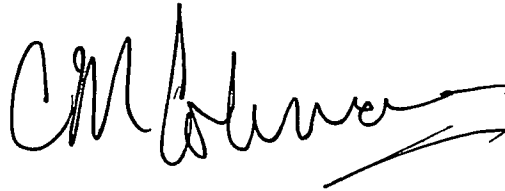
That Victoria City Council write to the new Prime Minister asking for clarification on whether and when the new federal government intends to implement the legalization and regulation of cannabis in Canada, and proposing that the federal/provincial/territorial task force described in federal Liberal policy include a representative of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to reflect the concerns and interests of municipalities.

Further, that Victoria City Council postpone consideration of any local regulatory regime until a response to that letter to the Prime Minister is received, or at February 19, 2016, whichever comes first.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Alto



Councillor Coleman