



MAYOR'S OFFICE

SEP 25 2017

VICTORIA, B.C.

September 21, 2017

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps:

Your letter dated August 21, 2017 addressed to the Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, has been referred to me for reply. As you may be aware, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is responsible for leading the provincial government's planning for the safe implementation of legalized cannabis.

I appreciate the City of Victoria's interest in working with the provincial government on the legalization and regulation of non-medical cannabis within British Columbia. The legalization and regulation of cannabis is a complex issue that affects all levels of government, including areas that overlap both provincial and municipal jurisdiction, such as illegal cannabis dispensaries.

The Province of British Columbia is conducting the policy work for the development of a provincial regulatory framework, and our goals of prioritizing the health and safety of British Columbians, reducing crime and the illegal market, protecting children and youth, and addressing cannabis impaired driving are guiding this work. Consideration of the impacts with respect to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and assessing how it will affect local governments is of high priority as this work advances. To support the development of the provincial regulatory framework, the provincial government will be engaging with local governments, stakeholders and the public. We intend to initiate our stakeholder and public engagement process in the coming weeks.

Additionally, the provincial government will be conducting a workshop specific to the legalization and regulation of cannabis, which will include discussion of key policy topics at the UBCM Convention on September 26, 2017. This workshop will provide an opportunity for workshop participants to provide their views on matters of importance to local governments.

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We look forward to your participation at the workshop and value your input for the development of British Columbia's regulatory framework.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark Sieben', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mark Sieben
Deputy Solicitor General