

Engagement Feedback

Regulating Medical Marijuana in Victoria

August-September 2015



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In 2014 Health Canada introduced the 'Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations' legislation to control the production and sale of medical marijuana through licensed producers and a mail order delivery program. There are approximately 20 licensed producers across Canada. There are currently no licensed producers operating within Victoria, although several individuals have indicated to the City that they intend to apply for a production licence.

The constitutionality of the 'Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations' has been challenged under section 7 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. A series of court challenges are still underway.

The introduction of the 'Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations' and the injunction have triggered a significant increase in the number of marijuana-related businesses in Victoria in just over one year.

Existing medical marijuana-related businesses include those that sell marijuana paraphernalia, and/or provide medical advice or consulting relating to the use of medical marijuana. Although some businesses are currently dispensing medical marijuana in Victoria, they are doing so in contravention of federal regulations. Some are also operating without a business licence.

Engagement Overview

This first phase of engagement was largely targeted towards stakeholders that would be most directly affected by potential regulations and bylaws.

The purpose of the engagement with marijuana-related businesses was to learn about current business practices and how businesses might be impacted by City regulations. The purpose of engaging with other stakeholders was to better understand community impacts, concerns and benefits associated with the operation of medical marijuana-related businesses in Victoria. Participants understood that feedback received will inform proposed regulations designed to mitigate impacts and concerns and the City would then invite broad public input on the proposed amendments.

Information was available on www.victoria.ca and on www.haveyoursayvictoria.ca. An email or letter was sent to 41 identified stakeholders, including existing medical marijuana-related businesses operating in Victoria, advocacy groups, marijuana industry associations, local business associations, School District No. 61, Island Health, the BC Ministry of Health and neighbourhood associations. 15 in-person meetings with medical marijuana-related businesses and stakeholders were held. An online survey was used to help collect feedback, but was not promoted broadly.

Engagement Feedback

In-person Meetings

Fifteen in-person meetings with medical marijuana-related businesses and other stakeholders were held.

Feedback from 11 medical marijuana-related businesses included comments that they did not have any general opposition to City regulation, although regulations that would restrict current business practices were of some concern. Some businesses were concerned about the potential for business licensing fees in the range of the City of Vancouver's \$30,000 fee.

Nine of the 18 known storefront retailers were interviewed. They shared information about current practices regarding age limitations, membership requirements, proof of medical need, medical professionals, signage and visibility, security, odour treatments, payment options, edibles, onsite consumption, and codes of conduct.

A summary from the in-person meetings follows.

In Person Meetings

Medical Marijuana-related Businesses

Feedback was received from 11 medical marijuana-related businesses. They did not express any general opposition to City regulation, although regulations that would restrict current business practices were of some concern. Some businesses were concerned about the potential for business licensing fees in the range of the City of Vancouver's \$30,000 fee.

Medical marijuana-related businesses provide one or more of a range of services, including medical advice or referrals, paraphernalia sales, production or manufacturing of products, and sale of dried marijuana and derivative products. Although no Health Canada-authorized licensed producers are currently operating in Victoria, several individuals have expressed interest in opening this type of business within city limits. Two individuals have also expressed an interest in opening commercial, licensed medical marijuana bakeries in Victoria. Baked goods currently available in storefront medical marijuana retailers are sourced either from out of town bakeries, or from local "home" kitchens.

Nine of the 18 known retailers were interviewed. All medical marijuana-related businesses that provided preliminary feedback indicated that they screen customers to ensure that they are 19 and older. All indicated that they only sell to "members," with the application and approval process for membership varying across businesses. Businesses report that they range in membership from 300 to 3,000 active members. To obtain a membership, customers generally must provide photo identification and some medical information, such as proof of a diagnosis or a physician's recommendation. Some businesses have medical professionals, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists or naturopaths on site or available via Skype to consult with customers or provide a recommendation for medical marijuana use. Many businesses issue membership cards, which must be shown for each purchase. Some accept membership cards from other medical marijuana-related businesses.

A prohibition against minors is standard practice among many medical marijuana-related businesses operating in Victoria. Some businesses allow minors on the premises if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Many businesses currently operating in Victoria are not immediately identifiable as being marijuana-related. However, some businesses have prominent product displays, names, logos or other signage (e.g., marijuana leaves) that clearly identify the nature of the business to minors who may be passing by.

Most businesses indicated that they do not mail or deliver products. One business indicated that it does sell products via mail order to members that have moved from Victoria. Several businesses indicated that they do provide delivery service to members that are unable to attend at the business premises because of illness or mobility challenges.

Some businesses attempt to reduce impacts on neighbours through codes of conduct that are either posted at the business or provided to members as part of the membership application process. Common features of codes of conduct include:

- No loitering outside the premises
- No consumption of products inside or outside the premises
- No resale of products

Some businesses monitor activities outside of the premises through security camera systems and take action where behaviour that may negatively impact neighbours is observed. Most businesses indicated that they prohibit any consumption of marijuana on their premises. One business has an on-site smoking/vaping room.

Many businesses utilize charcoal filter systems to reduce outside odours.

None of the businesses that provided input during preliminary engagement indicated that they were open past 10:00 p.m.

Many businesses currently have opaque film on their windows.

Most businesses who provided input indicate that they have at least two staff members on site at any time. Smaller businesses may have only one staff person on duty.

Many storefront medical marijuana retailers operating in Victoria have video surveillance camera systems, security and fire alarm systems and procedures for securing valuables.

Many medical-marijuana related businesses operating in Victoria sell baked goods, candy and other food products containing marijuana. Many of these edible products appear to come from unregulated production facilities. Labelling and packaging varies significantly. Product labels may include the amount of active ingredients (i.e., THC and CBD), the number of doses in the product, a list of other ingredients, dosing instructions and/or health and safety warnings. Some come in child-proof or opaque packaging.

Advocacy Groups

Smart Approaches to Marijuana Canada (SAM Canada), a Canadian marijuana policy group, is opposed to both storefront sales of medical marijuana and the City's plans to regulate medical marijuana-related businesses. Primary concerns associated with marijuana-related businesses include:

- marijuana use by youth
- safety of products, and
- crime and impacts on other businesses.

Industry Associations

One meeting was held with representatives from the Canadian Association of Medical cannabis Dispensaries (CAMCD), an industry association for medical cannabis dispensaries. They do not support a ban on edible products. They estimate that edible products represent approximately 30% of sales value and 80% of sales volume for businesses.

CAMCD is currently in the process of developing a set of standards for preparation of derivative cannabis products that are designed to minimize concerns regarding overdosing, accidental ingestion and food safety. The standards cover such areas as product preparation, labeling and packaging. Once finalized, these standards will be incorporated into CAMCD's existing certification program for medical cannabis dispensaries.

In order to obtain trade membership in CAMCD, businesses must currently meet a list of 18 required organizational practices, which cover topics including patient intake and eligibility, product quality, privacy and security. Under the City of Vancouver's regulations, trade membership with CAMCD is a requirement for any business applying for a licence to operate as a compassion club. Full certification is a more rigorous process that requires compliance with 70 separate standards. CAMCD has received nine applications for trade membership from Victoria businesses. One Victoria business has full certification while another is currently going through the full certification process.

Island Health

The Chief Medical Health Officer with Island Health supports a ban on edible products that is consistent with the City of Vancouver's approach to the issue. The attractiveness of many edible products to children is a concern. Anecdotal information provided by the Chief Medical Health Officer indicates that hospitalizations due to accidental ingestion of marijuana-infused edible products have increased with the increase in medical marijuana-related businesses. Adult use of marijuana is not a significant concern. The Chief Medical Health Officer expressed support for youth educational programs, such as those being proposed in Vancouver.

Island Health's Environmental Health Officers currently have no involvement with storefront medical marijuana retailers, because the products sold are pre-packaged and would be considered to be low-risk from a food safety perspective. A bakery producing medical marijuana products would be inspected by Island Health for compliance with sanitation and safe food handling practices applicable to any bakery business. Island Health does not regulate marijuana content, packaging or labeling of baked products.

Written Submissions

Seven written submissions were received from Smart Approaches to Marijuana Canada, Greater Victoria School District No. 61, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, Trees Dispensary, Weeds Dispensary, Green Dragon Medicinal Society and the Downtown Victoria Business Association.

The written submissions follow here.

1) Smart Approaches to Marijuana Canada

Dear Shannon Craig.

Thank you for your email and I am submitting this letter to be included in your information package.

As an advisor to SAM Canada - Smart Approaches to Marijuana Canada, I have been actively involved in the issue of marijuana policy and I had the opportunity to attend the United Nations in March of 2015 to meet with international partners in the effort to curtail the use of illicit drugs and psychotropic substance.

It is our position that a municipal government was not elected to involve itself in any way in drug policy. Canada is a signatory to multiple international treaties on drug prevention including the most ratified piece of human rights legislation ever signed - The Rights of the Child. This particular treaty addresses the need to protect children from the use of drugs in the home. This is an area of public policy that a civic government should not be actively defying the Criminal Code of Canada.

Our research is showing that marijuana obtained from illegal dispensaries is predominately used for recreational purposes. We oppose these dispensaries as we see that they pose a risk to the public due to false claims made of benefit, unsubstantiated claims of benefit, and a lack of testing of the products for contaminants and the further normalization of marijuana use across the youth sector. Canada has the highest rate of use by youth in the industrialized world because of a serious reduction in the perception of risk associated with use, in large part to the very active pot lobby and the messaging on marijuana for medical purposes that has deeply confused youth on the risks and dangers.

The push back to marijuana has begun in Colorado with over 70% of towns and cities now having bans in place for both recreational and dispensaries, over 80% of California cities and towns have banned dispensaries, and in Washington they clued in quickly that the mad rush to dispensaries was to set up businesses that could beat the tax of recreational pot. Holland has turned back and now over 70% of their coffee shops have closed - and it is illegal to sell products with THC over 15% - in BC you can buy 99% THC shatter in a pot shop-dispensary or online.

In closing the pivotal question remains why any elected council would participate in normalizing and making pot available to a small minority of individuals who want a temporary inconsequential high when this act would expose the larger majority of non-users to more risks of accidents in the home, in the workplace and on the roadways, heightened exposure to second smoke, to an increase burden of social and health care costs, to an increase risk of the damage of addiction to individuals and their families. Why would anyone participate in advancing the demand for pot when all responsible public policy advocates advance prevention and less not more use across all sectors.

Advisory Council SAM Canada
Pamela McColl
Dr. Harold Kalant
Dr. Philip Seema
Dr. Andra Smith
Dr. Meldon Kahan
Dr. Charles Ratzlaff
Chuck Doucette
David Berner
Connor Fedenmaier
Duncan Fedenmaier
Candace Plattor

Dr. Elizabeth Osuch
Nancy Lee
Nancy Morrison
Jim Stimson

Selected key items for your consideration.

Instead of Weakening Mexican Cartels, Regulation Results in Their Moving to Colorado to Grow Pot on Public Land

" Under the authority of the US Justice Department's Cole Memo, federal and state law enforcement officials are closing down illegal marijuana grows on federal and private land in Colorado at the rate of one a week. While legalization proponents promised an end to the black market if Coloradans would legalize the drug, that hasn't exactly panned out." Marijuana Report.

Misinformation poses risk of harm.

<http://www.poppot.org/2015/07/09/american-epilepsy-association-statement-on-cdb-oils/>

Uncontrollable.

<http://www.theprogress.com/news/329708921.html>

Why the mad rush ?

http://www.denverpost.com/marijuana/ci_28390412/moment-truth-medical-marijuana

Pot Lobby and Pirate Capitalism - Big Pot.

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/cannabis-inc/>

2) *Greater Victoria School District No. 61*

Hi Shannon:

Thank you for checking back. The District would like to see a policy in place that is similar to that of zoning for liquor stores.

I hope that this information assists you.

Kind regards,
Nita

Nita McBurney
Superintendent's Department
The Greater Victoria School District No. 61
556 Boleskine Road
Victoria, BC
V8Z 1E8
Phone: 250-475-4162 Fax: 250-475-4112
nmcburney@sd61.bc.ca

3) *Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce*

Sept 17, 2015
Mayor and Council
#1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8V 1P6

RE: Regulating the Sale/Distribution of Medical Marijuana in Victoria.

Dear Mayor Helps,

Thank you for your August 27 letter requesting The Chamber's input on regulating the sale/distribution of medical marijuana in Victoria.

The Chamber supports a diverse and vibrant business community, one that will be attractive to outside investment, tourism, as well as to skilled workers and their families.

Illegal businesses- any illegal business- are not good business for Greater Victoria.

We appreciate there is work to be done on the legal mechanism for sale/distribution of medical marijuana via Canada Post as well as the prosecution of offenders. As B.C.'s second largest metropolitan area, the region has a voice to help meet the needs of those whose medical practitioners determine are in need of medical marijuana. We encourage the City of Victoria to support this issue as it unfolds across Canada and to contribute where and when appropriate to the formulation of sound public policy. We feel this is the only responsible and fiscally-prudent course of action.

To take any other action blurs the line between the issues of effective distribution of medical marijuana and the decriminalization of recreational marijuana, which may encourage illegal activities pertaining to recreational marijuana, increasing the burden on law enforcement, putting our youth at further risk, and amplifying the concerns of businesses articulated in your letter.

We commend the entrepreneurial spirit and passion of the legal marijuana-related businesses, such as those who provide advice on navigating the developing systems' complexities. We do not anticipate legal marijuana-related businesses to be contributors to the concerns of businesses as articulated in your letter. We sense the majority are related to both the sale, distribution and use of recreational marijuana as well as the illegal sale/distribution of medical marijuana.

Moving down the path of attempting to regulate an illegal business sets an inappropriate precedent and indeed may- through legal action or third-party actions- create a liability for the taxpayers of Victoria. The Chamber does not have the not have a mandate to promote illegal businesses, and we do not recommend the City of Victoria attempt to do so.

Yours truly,
Bruce Carter
Chief Executive Officer
Cc: Police Chief City of Victoria

4) Trees Dispensary

Dear Shannon,

My name is Alex Robb and I work for Trees Dispensary as Community Liaison, and as Assistant to the Managing Executive. Trees Dispensary has two locations in Victoria, one at 1056 North Park Avenue, and one at 2610 Rock Bay Avenue, which includes our Head Office. (We also have a third store in Nanaimo).

Shannon Topfer forwarded me your email and asked me to set up a time for meeting to provide input on the City's regulations for medical marijuana-related businesses. Shannon is no longer actively working with Trees Dispensary, and we thought it was best for me to reach out to you, and set a time where you could meet our General Manager, a store manager, and myself personally to provide input to the City on proposed regulations.

Trees Dispensary provides good jobs in the City, and employs over 30 people in full- and part-time work. This includes a dozen salaried employees, and several 'budtenders' that are professional, and highly knowledgeable on the uses of medical marijuana and the human endocannabinoid system.

We strive to be compliant with all applicable regulations and pay all applicable taxes and fees. Since we started in business in 2013, we have paid over \$200,000 in taxes to the Federal Government. We are a rapidly growing business, and last month was record sales month; our total revenues **Third party business information**

We want to be completely transparent to the City, and we want to do everything possible to assist the efforts to provide local regulation and licensing for medical marijuana-related businesses.

Let me first apologize for taking so long to respond to you. The days before we received your email, we underwent an informal audit conducted by the Canadian Association of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries (CAMCD), and our member in-take and record-keeping procedures were found to be insufficient according to their [required operating procedures](#).

The last two weeks we have been scrambling to put in place and train our staff on a whole new system for patient record-keeping, supply management, and point-of-sale. The same one used by the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Cooperative - [MJ Freeway](#). It has been a steep learning curve, but we as an organization have now completely revamped our admission protocols and membership tracking system, and put in place a procedure for maintaining a record of member's medical recommendations and diagnoses for use in an up-to-date member database. We have also begun a program of subsidizing users in dire medical and financial need, and a program for subsidized healthcare consultations with medical professionals in order to decide on the medical need of prospective members.

We would like to welcome you to come and tour our main office and learn about our protocols and procedures, and so we can provide input on the upcoming City regulations. I understand that the date the City is going to finish taking input is September 18th, but because we just revamped our system, and we would like to present to you what we think are best practices in the marijuana industry, we want to invite you to come check us out during our busiest time, as we are implementing this new system.

How is Friday, September 25 at 3pm for coming to see our facility and procedures? This is our busiest time of the week (Friday afternoon at the end of a month), and I thought it would be good for you to see our operation in full swing.

If you are unable to review our practices after the date the City is closing its period for collecting input, then perhaps we can arrange a time within this input window. In that case, how is this Thursday, September 17th? As a first shot at scheduling, how is 2pm?

We would invite you to come and check out our 2610 Rock Bay facility (which includes our dispensary and Head Office), any time that day that is convenient for you. Please suggest another time if 2pm does not work for you.

Or if you are very busy now, we would be pleased to come to the City Hall to meet with you. If this is a better option for you, please suggest a time in the next few days and we will be there!

Thank you very much for reaching out to us, and I look forward to meeting you in person soon,

Alex Robb
Community Liaison, Trees Dispensary
250 891 5971

5) Weeds Dispensary

Hi Shannon,

I am writing to address your letter dated August 27, 2015. Firstly, I commend the City of Victoria on taking a pro-active approach in exploring all options relating to medical marijuana businesses. As indicated in your letter, this shows Victoria has an interest in ensuring medicinal users have access to alternative medication to that of the pharmaceutical companies while mitigating community impacts. I would like to share my views and address points in your letter and hopefully this sheds some light on my outlook within the medical marijuana industry.

I believe the dangers of marijuana use have been greatly exaggerated for almost a century and most people in Canada do not believe in the reefer madness we were taught starting in the 1930's. We agree that marijuana or any other drug use such as alcohol or tobacco use is not for children. Adults have consumed BC Marijuana for decades with very little harmful impacts on the individual or society. I have a daughter whom I love, and is 22 years old and I would much rather her consume marijuana then to drink alcohol.

Weeds Social Club has a huge membership base in Victoria **Third party business** all of which are 19 years or older. All our members have provided us government picture ID and documentation to qualify them to use medical marijuana. We do not sell to anyone who does not provide us with a confirmation of a diagnosis which medical marijuana may be used as an alternative medicine or a membership card from a reputable dispensary. Every day we turn down people who try to sign up for recreational use.

Our club is in a perfect location where there is huge demand from people who have all kind of ailments and from all walks of life, including many senior citizens and people in wheelchairs. Thankfully gone are the days that people need to go to Centennial Park and buy pot from a guy who has weed in one pocket and crack in the other pocket.

I would like to address the list of community impacts as they relate to our business:

Increased foot traffic surrounding businesses

- We have a code of conduct that every member signs which states no consuming marijuana or loitering within a two block radius of our store.
- We also recommend medications be consumed in a private residence.
- We monitor this closely and will revoke a membership for breaking these rules.

- The majority of our customers have good jobs, patronize the local businesses, and our neighbors have expressed a increase in business as this increases their exposure in the community and is therefore a positive influence.

Nuisance to other nearby businesses, potentially impacting their customers

- This is a stereotype that indicates those who use medicinal marijuana are of a lower class and would impede one from conducting day to day operations. We have customers who are doctors, lawyers, teachers, retired police officers, members of government etc. Medical marijuana patients are no different than customers inside your local coffee shop.
- Bars and nightclubs have drunk rowdy people throwing up and fighting. Medical Marijuana dispensaries have calm, happy people leaving the store. :)

Odour, food safety and other health issues

- We take pride in our location and have implemented advanced technology to ensure there is limited to no odour.
- We treat our product under the same guidelines as food safe and employees wash there hands and wear gloves while packaging product.
- We ensure this is done in a clean and sterile environment. The backroom of our store is cleaned multiple times a day and we welcome a surprise visit at anytime.
- In regards to health issues, should an employee be sick, we provide them a day off ensuring our customers are not engaging with someone who can potentially pass on their ailment.

Exposure of young persons to the sale of marijuana

- We are a 19 + establishment and cite ID upon entry to our store. We have a sign on our front door citing age restrictions.
- If it is determined one is under age, we would request they leave the store and no sale would occur.
- Our policy is strict and we require Government issued picture ID and verification of medical ailment to become a member of our store.

- If any member were caught giving their medication to a minor they would be permanently banned and we would report them to law enforcement.

Infiltration of organized crime

- We do not have any affiliation with organized crime.
- I believe the vast majority of dispensaries in Victoria have no link to organized crime.
- We regularly communicate with the Victoria Police Department and they keep a close eye on the dispensaries in the city.

Sale to persons without medical need

- Until federal law is changed we only provide cannabis to those who have qualified for medicinal use.
- The system which the government has setup for medical cannabis does not work for majority of people who are in need.
- We understand that realistically some of our customers, as well as MMPR patients, who purchase from LP's, may use cannabis for recreational purposes. However we do not condone recreational use. Similar circumstances to those who are prescribed pharmaceuticals and may not precisely follow their doctors recommendations.

Addressing the concerns of the Victoria Police Department, we are in communication with Constable Healy and have taken measures to mitigate concerns as they relate to public, surrounding businesses and overall security. We have a minimum of three employees on at all times, twelve high definition cameras, a security alarm, panic buttons, two-way glass, safes, three phones, and a robbery prevention program in place. Our location is as secure as a bank. We have never had any type of aggression towards staff or robbery. In the event of an incident we would not hesitate to request the assistance of the Victoria Police Department.

We believe we are a positive business in the community. We are a equal rights employer and currently have ten local employees. We pay our employees a living wage and provide medical benefits. We are restoring the historic Sally's sign and have helped clean up the 1600 block of Douglas street. Our club also subsidizes phoenix tears to people who are suffering from cancer.

The support from the community has been amazing! We receive an immense amount of positive feedback from not only our members but the general public. I can honestly say that there is a massive amount of support for what we are doing and how city hall has dealt with dispensaries. We understand that unfortunately there is a small minority of people complaining about dispensaries but we wish these complaints would be direct rather than through the City of Victoria or the Victoria Police. This would allow us the opportunity to communicate directly, answer any questions of negativity and explain the dynamics as to not only how we operate, but why we operate! It also alleviates the workload of the City and Police as they can focus their efforts on more serious matters.

This small minority is always welcome to come to our store and have a discussion about the politics of medicinal cannabis. We believe doing so will take away from the “reefer madness” 1930's stereotype which has plagued the medicinal cannabis industry. A key point with this industry is to educate our customers and the naysayers as to the benefits an industry such as this offers it's community. It's about providing choice and giving consumers an option as to how they wish to medicate. We are proud to help people out in safe and fun environment while making the community a better place. I used to work at a nightclub, and I can tell you we had multiple incidents every week of people fighting, throwing up, aggression, vandalism etc. People leave a dispensary as they would leave a coffee shop. We have never seen this type of behavior in the two years I have been involved in this industry!

Weeds Social Club is a customer focused, reputable dispensary. Based on our internal metrics we believe we are the busiest location in Victoria. We have never had an incident nor do we allow smoking or vaping on premise.

I hope this provides some insight into our views and answers some of the key points referenced in your letter. Should you have further questions or wish to discuss anything, please don't hesitate to let us know! I would be happy to meet you in person.

Kind regards,

Shane Escher

6) *Green Dragon Medicinal Society*

Hi Shannon.

Just wanted to thank you and Kim Ferris for taking the time to meet with me yesterday respecting regulating medical marijuana related businesses.

Two things that I did forget to mention was firstly, the creation of a zone or zones where the sale of marijuana is prohibited, such as along Government Street from Belleville to Yates for example. I am certain there are areas within the City that Council would prefer to see as off-limits to the sale of medical marijuana and/or marijuana related products.

The second item is regulating the overall number of dispensaries either by per zonal areas such as Stadacona, Fernwood, Harris Green or what have you; or by capping the total number of dispensaries whereby new facilities can only open by either purchasing an existing facility license or after a facility closes. A cap on the overall number is one way to provide regulatory control.

I look forward to receiving further information from the City as they develop a regulatory framework for medical marijuana.

Regards,

Robert W Bradbury

7) Downtown Victoria Business Association

October 22, 2015
Mayor Lisa Helps & City Council
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

Re: Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in Downtown Victoria

The Downtown Victoria Business Association appreciates being consulted on the complex matter of licensing medical marijuana dispensaries in Victoria. While it seems that the federal government will legalize the sale of marijuana, we understand that it may be up to the municipalities to closely regulate the establishment of stores selling product.

At the end of last month, we carried out an online survey of our members. Six questions were posed, with the responses to the following two questions being of most interest and relevance to the question of dispensaries in Downtown Victoria. In reply to the question about whether businesses supported increased regulation of medical marijuana-related businesses in Victoria, 67.44% replied 'yes' and 32.56% replied 'no'. In response to a question if medical marijuana-related businesses were having an impact your business, 79% of business owners said 'no' and 18.60% said 'yes'.

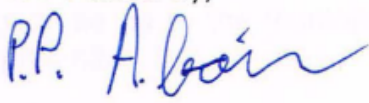
One theme that emerged overall was the need for clear regulation around these businesses. Some spoke of their concerns that the stores are being accessed by those who do not need the marijuana for medical purposes; others complained about the odour and felt these businesses bring down the image of our city. But many felt frustrated because these businesses do not presently pay business license fees they personally do, and felt that this was a particular injustice.

There were a significant number of respondents to our survey who felt these businesses have a positive impact and that less empty storefronts and more paying customers in the downtown core are of overall benefit. However, even some of these respondents, felt the lack of licensing and regulation was problematic. Many felt that while these shops take purchases out of the hands of street dealers and back alley transactions, they expressed frustration about businesses operating illegally.

Given the spirit of survey responses in the realm of rules and regulations, the DVBA requests that City Council establish licensing fees at a level which is in direct relation to the revenue streams anticipated from such businesses and that it create regulations which limit the negative impacts on downtown businesses and the residents of Victoria. These regulations should focus first and foremost on the concentration of businesses (liquor control standard may be a logical starting point), odours coming from such businesses (no external odours coming from businesses), the exterior appearance of these businesses (frosted glass frontages is not enough, there must be aesthetic standards as well), and that smoking marijuana in public places be included within the no-smoking regulations recently passed by Council. We believe it would be wise to confer with municipal and business representatives in Washington and Colorado about the effectiveness of their regulations. We have started to make enquiries through our

Business Improvement Area counterparts in the United States and will keep you apprised of this progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P.P. Albin", is written over a light pink rectangular background.

Kenneth Kelly
General Manager

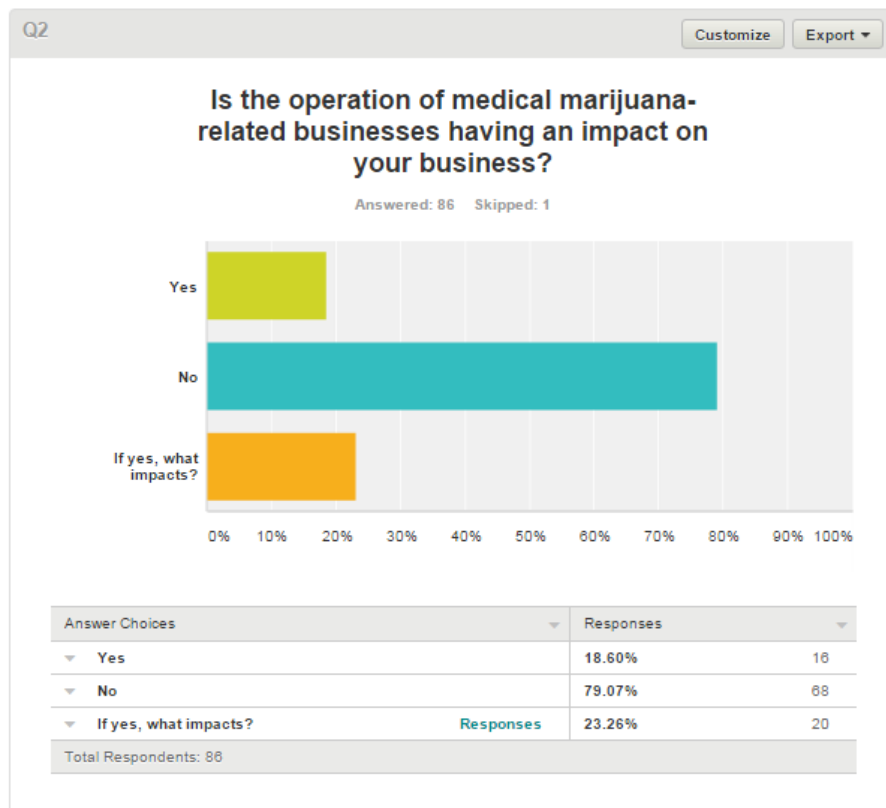
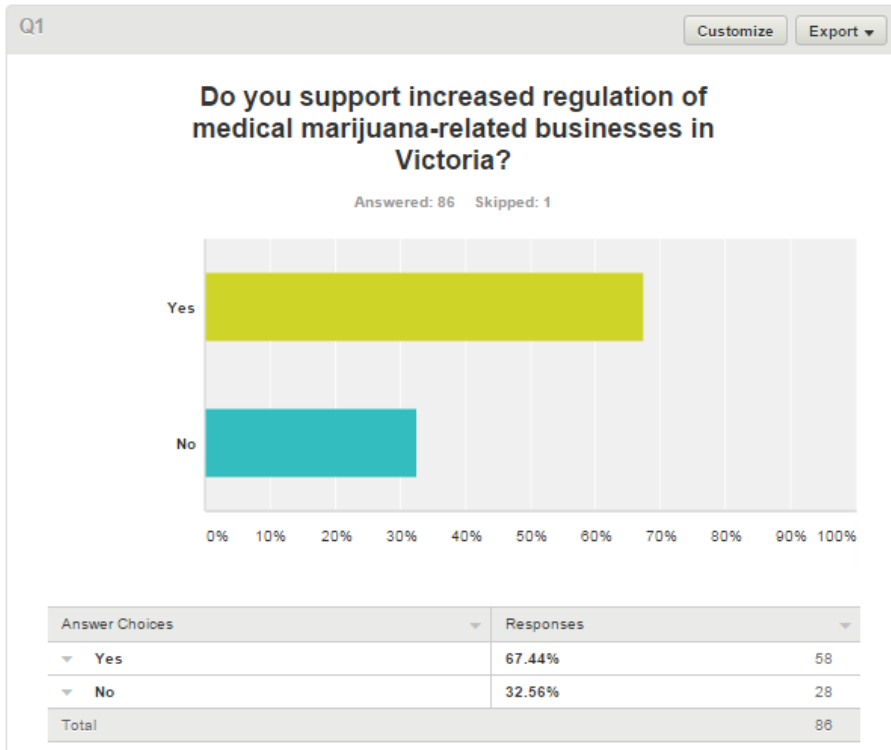
Downtown Victoria Business Association Survey

The Downtown Victoria Business Association surveyed for their members. The survey was sent to their over 1,000 members. Eight-seven responses were received.

67% of the responses support increased regulations of medical marijuana- related businesses in Victoria. 79% said the operation of medical marijuana-related businesses was not having an impact on their business. 52% said the operation of medical marijuana-related business is having an impact on Downtown.

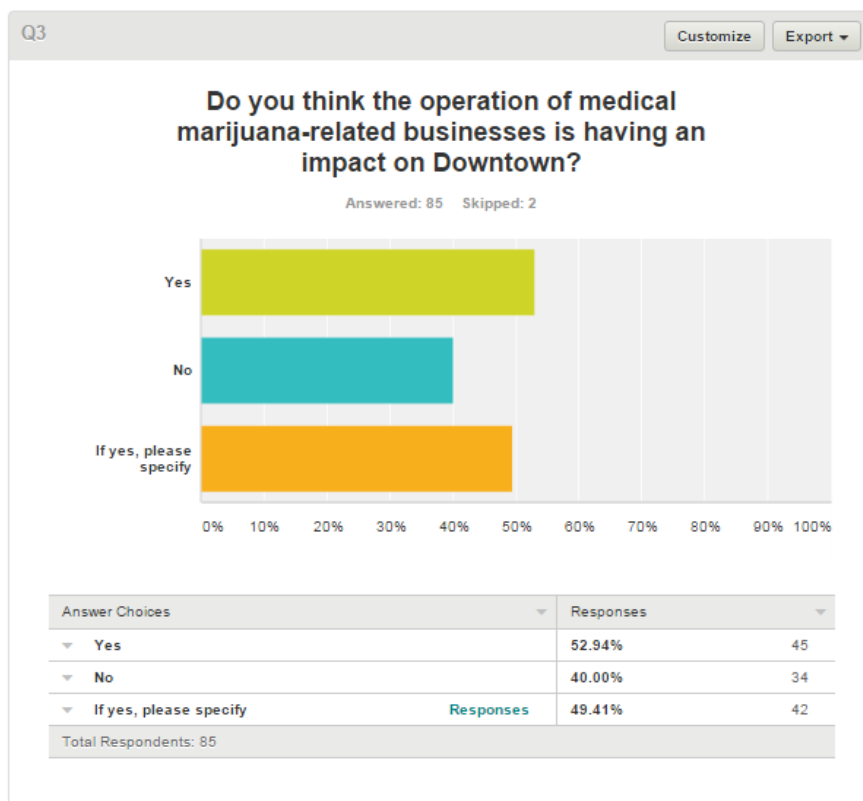
The concerns of greatest importance included: sale to person without a medical need, security concerns, concentration of dispensaries, exposure to young people, infiltration of organized crime and increased loitering.

The complete survey follows here.



- They fail to pay business, corporate, etc taxes AND they are illegal. Why should my business pay, when we are legal?
- These businesses are contributing to the demise of beautiful Victoria.
- Not yet but if it is to expand into my area many of my customers would not like it nor would I.

- It is hard to say but we are seeing a lot more security issues in our building that usual for time of year.
- People buying up the street and smoking by our offices
- Customers seem to disappear between 4:15 and 4:25pm
- Increased loitering around our store, especially in the shared area behind the stores (adjacent to View St Parkade back entrance)
- it brings more people to the neighbourhood who spend money
- Unfavourable image of drugs / users, etc in the downtown core
- Customers have voiced to me that they fear coming downtown to shop because of the amount of drug abuse going on, on the streets and in public places 24/7.
- There have been no impacts. People are not passed out on the front step like they were when the needle exchange was open.
- Positive impact
- Brings down overall image of the city, our street our youth. Drug use and related crime is huge issue not being attacked only maintained.
- While empty storefronts are not good, sudden absorption by these unregulated businesses forces rents higher for all businesses and retailers. Vacancy is a good thing in a market.
- the areas around these shops attracts "unsavory" persons who loiter near these shops
- Bringing new customers to the downtown core
- Interested in leasing space from me
- It does not seem to be a crime to wande around high, but drunk no
- Positive! The more thriving business in Downtown Victoria the better.
- It's a positive thing. Most of our patrons have used marijuana at some point. They are happy to be able to purchase without dealing with criminals in dark corners.



- more taxes paid. less drug dealers. safer for the pot heads. lets figure ojt hoe dondonthis before the feds shut them down
- The number of marijuana-related businesses MAY be an influence on how people perceive downtown safety. I think the businesses should be spread out over the city
- Seriously?
- I think it will if it there are too many. I think parents who are teaching their kids to make good choices will avoid downtown. I happened to go into one of these stores last weekend and 3 teenagers were in there looking at the marijuana and a couple in their 20's. I believe that marijuana oil etc has benefits for people who are ill but I don't agree with smoking it just too get high especially in our young generation whose still growing and developing.
- Again - hard to say but if we are trying to be a metropolitan city we are not driving the appropriate customer to our destination.
- As with any new business, it will bring more people downtown.
- having some negative impact and that may ncrease if too many of these pop up. Needs some regulation and control.
- I think the sales of snacks has greatly increased at all the corner stores in the downtown core.
- They are ugly, they still represent a grey area of the law and much like Liqour stores are not a desireable type of business to have in the forefront of people's eyes.
- it brings more people to do business, you don't survey about bars, late hours, people drinking
- positive. leasing previously vacant spaces. increasing foot traffic. tive.
- as above
- Increased retail occupancy is a great thing for downtown
- A positive impact if any. I bet the bakeries and snack shops would see an increase in business nearby
- don't know. and for question #4, do you mean Victoria or CRD? I have no idea if this is too many, enough, too few.
- I beleive that providing access to a commonly used medicinal treatment clears the need for interaction with illegal dealers on the street. These interactions often lead to unnecessary trouble and further stress upon a patient who may truly be in great need of access to appropriate medication. Further regulation is supported in order to ensure that these dispensaries are not operating in a an inappropriately illegal manner.
- Too many of such shops sets a particular tone in the downtown. Let's face it, that is out of whack, surely, to the number of people in our population that actually need medical marijuana.
- Frankly it make me not want to pay my licence fee. We have now created a new class of business that is in fact illegal.
- POSSIBLE TYPE OF INDIVIDUALS IT BRINGS, HOW DOWNTOWN WILL BE PERCIEVED BY VISITORS
- Less street, blackmarket sales, maybe? Where is the marijuana coming from to supply dispensaries? I bet it is black market!
- It is turning our downtown into a place to get high anywhere, everywhere, anytime. Parks, on streets walking around, on benches in front of City Hall. Very embarrassing.
- More traffic and customers to downtown core. Helping fill countless empty retail spaces.
- Less for lease signs
- It's like a dark shadow taking over our beautiful city

- As noted above. As well, from my adult kids I know that any drug is ready available for anyone. Both are in shock at what they experience at parties. Anything!!! maintaining and supporting this sick drug and crime culture is cruel. A customer told me: No they won't react against drugs because they all like it too much. So true.
- Shaded windows, bars, limited access businesses are unsightly and do not better the atmosphere on a block.
- Positive: Storefronts being used; higher vibrancy to downtown, more foot traffic. Negative: smells, taxes not being paid, business licenses not being obtained, illegal operations often included
- Several empty storefronts now have medical marijuana related business tenants with tenant improvements, etc.
- Businesses that were located next to these locations are now vacating those locations
- Giant neon weed leaf signs look bad to tourists, and people are hanging nearby/loitering, smoking (like in Centennial Square, across from the one on Douglas/Cormorant)
- not yet
- Whether it is simply more general use of it or sales through marijuana related businesses, there is an odour virtually everywhere once walks in downtown from users.
- positive
- Helping to bring new customers downtown
- If anything I feel it is a positive. It allows people to buy marijuana for medical purpose vs buying illegally, which decreases street sales.
- Shows the progress into the contemporary world. That we don't discriminate.
- Yes, but I do not think it is a negative impact.
- It is bringing the wrong types of people downtown, we have enough homeless and drug addicts and it is getting really bad
- Taking cannabis sales off the streets
- Duh!
- Positive! Less empty storefronts. More business downtown is good for everyone
- Again it's a positive thing. It has removed a number of criminal elements who were not doing anything good for the City.

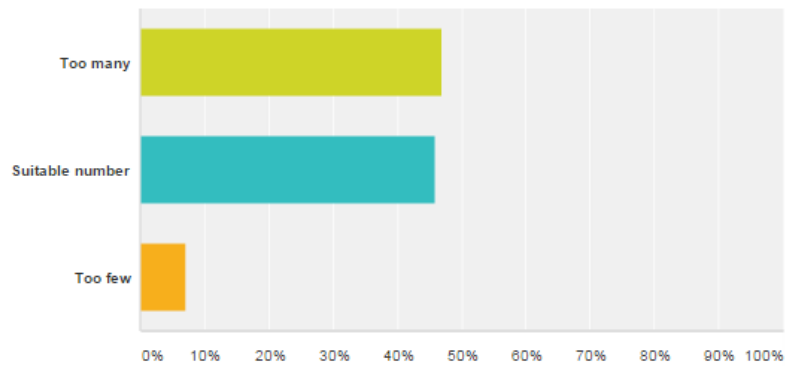
Q4

Customize

Export ▾

Currently, there are 18 medical marijuana-related businesses in Victoria. Do you think this is too many, suitable number, or too few?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices ▾	Responses ▾
▾ Too many	47.06% 40
▾ Suitable number	45.88% 39
▾ Too few	7.06% 6
Total	85

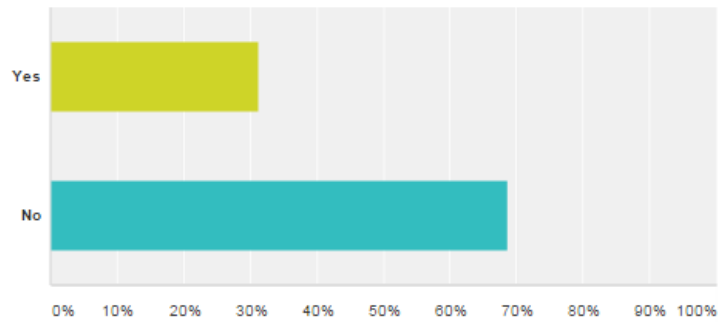
Q5

Customize

Export ▾

A recent *Globe and Mail* article indicates Health Canada has sent out 13 cease-and-desist letters to marijuana dispensaries across Canada. The article goes on to say the RCMP could raid the dispensaries if they do not cease operations. Do you agree with the recent actions of the Federal Government to crack down on marijuana dispensaries?

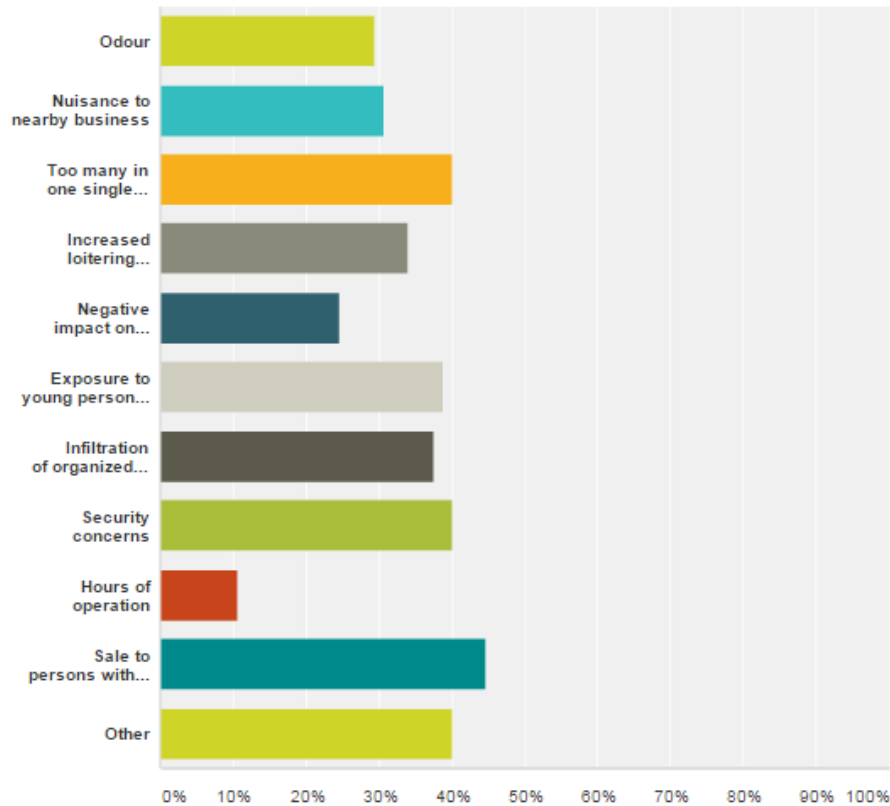
Answered: 86 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices ▾	Responses ▾
▾ Yes	31.40% 27
▾ No	68.60% 59
Total	86

**What are the impacts or concerns of greatest importance to you in relation to medical marijuana-related businesses?
(Please check all that apply)**

Answered: 85 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
Odour	29.41%	25
Nuisance to nearby business	30.59%	26
Too many in one single concentration (block or street)	40.00%	34
Increased loitering surrounding business	34.12%	29
Negative impact on business sales	24.71%	21
Exposure to young persons to the sale of marijuana	38.82%	33
Infiltration of organized crime	37.65%	32
Security concerns	40.00%	34
Hours of operation	10.59%	9
Sale to persons without medical need	44.71%	38
Other	40.00%	34
Total Respondents: 85		

- Tons of people already smoke the stuff. Let's make it like alcohol. Make a strain that does not stink. Treat second hand smoke more seriously than tobacco second hand smoke. Location of the business is very important
- If someone requires a medication because of a doctor diagnosed health condition and if the prescription is for medical marijuana then it should only be prescribed by a doctor and dispensed through a normal pharmacy like any other medication. How complicated is that?
- These businesses should be in discrete locations where you have a prescription to acquire.
- I believe this is illegal so yes to all.
- seems a pretty bad barometer if this is the only viable biz for downtown. look at all the empty store fronts.
- I have none. These people pay rent, draw people in to shop and sell to average members of the community. I think anyone filling vacant spaces Downtown is valuable. I'm more concerned about the open usage and sale of Meth and Crack on our streets. I live and work downtown, I see it every day. Let's not waste energy on negligible issues, when the large ones escape any sort of solution.
- Our business minds it's own and others should too.
- I see this as a step towards legalisation which I consider a good thing.
- People really need to stop asking me if I sell pipes. No ... no I do not.
- I have no objections to the sale of marijuana, medically supervised or otherwise. My only concern is that an increased proliferation of dispensaries creates a poor impression of our downtown area, and makes the downtown less appealing to shoppers and tourists.
- I think it is still early for a complete free for all on this type of business. There is no regulation on the way these businesses can operate, how they operate and where. They don't pay taxes, they don't pay for business licenses and there is no standard in appearance in which they have to abide. Because they operate in the grey and their books don't have to balance they have no real motivation to report crimes against them. This leaves them open for crime to be committed against them .
- you listed no positive impacts like more people doing business and shopping - you've already decided it seems
- None of those ... No different then a brewery, coffee roaster, etc ...
- The city could be benefiting from this through increased cost of business licenses and other tax incentives but they are not. I am concerned about the lack of profits.
- change in ambiance of the neighborhood. Unattractive to general public
- No concerns really. And on a personal level I walk by at least 2 or 3 each day on my way to work with little to no awareness that it is even there. Not really a big deal from my perspective. Bars on the other hand can often prove to be more challenging and dodgy. Just my two cents.
- This question is leading. There is no option to say I have no concerns.
- We are entering the 21st century, time to get over this issue and leave adults to their own devices!
- I know for a fact that "ma and pa marijuana" operations supply marijuana to downtown Victoria and Saanich (yes they exist too, cops need to look in residences). Why do I pay taxes again?
- Your info is not up to date. There are over 30 operations selling. The Federal Government only sent out 13 letters because that was the info they had at that

time. They are behind in gathering info. Over 100 in Vancouver and 30 in Victoria. They probably don't have up to date lists because many of these shops are, most likely, operating without proper registered business licences. Also, how are they able to obtain LEGAL leases in storefronts when they are selling ILLEGAL DRUGS???

- I don't have any concerns. I have seen them increase (I live downtown), and am not noting that there is an increase in anything. Dispensaries are not a problem. I walk all times of the day and into late evening early morning. Alcohol is more of a problem than marijuana. The sidewalks reek in summer from people peeing everywhere.
- Helping the downtown core by bringing revenue and less vacancies. Who cares! Stop thinking in the past.
- I have not observed these problems and I work downtown.
- None of the above. I do not have any problem with these people doing business in the city of Victoria. I personally have smoked marijuana since I was fifteen. I am now fiftyseven. Time for some changes.
- Too much federal meddling. Make it legal and then deal with the business end of it.
- Reflects city's values to tourists
- To me, most are covered up dealers, for 'health' use. In the meantime, they are in the circle of drug users of all kind which creates higher sales and bad business opportunities. Medical M is just a coverup. I never touched drugs and never will not even if I will ever be in pain. Just lame excuses. Look at the young people in town, losing proud and dignity, no or low fitness. The "I don't give a damn" attitude is all over, not only in Victoria. Clean it up! is what I say. Being offered drugs for a coffee, our tip jar got snatched this weekend, I get offered drugs on the street...very very sad!!!
- This is business....what problem?
- I find this question very assuming. I have no concerns. If they are following whatever rules/regulations there are, then who are they harming? Let them do their business.
- I personally feel that medical marijuana stores are no different then a pharmacy, if not better because marijuana doesn't have the terrible side affects that so many prescription drugs have and if grown naturally it is organic.
- I have no problem or concern with medical marijuana-related businesses.
- These are illegal operations and should be shut down completely.
- I'm not concerned about any of these. More business downtown is good. More business downtown to tax is good. Less street corner drug dealer is good and they are truly the only people that this is having a negative impact on. Totally legalization would be great for tourism too!
- All of the above concerns exist whether the marijuana is sold legally or illegally. The important difference I am aware of is the removal of a criminal element, and the introduction of taxable retail.

Survey

586 online surveys were completed. It is important to understand that this survey was not broadly promoted and is not representative of broader community feedback.

The survey asked one main broad question: "Please share your comments regarding new potential regulations for medical marijuana-related businesses operating in Victoria. What concerns do you have? What should be considered as draft regulations are developed?"

Over 80% of survey respondents seemed generally supportive of moving towards the regulation of medical marijuana-related businesses. Approximately 10-15% of the respondents were quite concerned with the City's idea of regulating medical marijuana-related businesses.

For those in support of regulating this business sector the most often cited benefits included:

- Many residents in Victoria have a real medical need and access for those with and without prescriptions, greatly increases their quality of life
- Purchasing medical marijuana through a dispensary is much safer than getting it on the streets
- New tax revenue could be used to build a better community
- Some dispensaries already have very good systems in place

People in support of regulations said that these topics should be considered as regulations. In order of what was shared most frequently:

- Regulations are needed, could be similar to liquor or tobacco stores, all need a business license and need to follow rules
- Age restrictions: 19+ or 21+, ID needed for all transactions, large fines for selling to minors
- Security measures needed: could include criminal record checks, cameras, lighting, minimum two staff at a time, bullet proof glass
- Limit the number of dispensaries in Victoria
- Location of dispensaries: keep them away from schools, community centres, day cares and playgrounds
- Product quality control and labeling: testing and content information
- Should focus on access for people with a medical need
- Discreet signage/ limitations on advertising
- Allow for a variety of products: edibles for example are an important product for people with medical needs
- Many people are price sensitive in what they can pay: be aware of fees
- Control odours with ventilation requirements

For people with concerns about the City regulating medical marijuana-related businesses the most often cited concerns included:

- If marijuana is illegal in Canada, why is Victoria developing regulations for the sale of it?
- Don't encourage recreational drug use- what other drugs will be next?
- Odour
- Negative health impacts from the use of marijuana, benefits not medically proven
- Quality of products sold in dispensaries is not always monitored

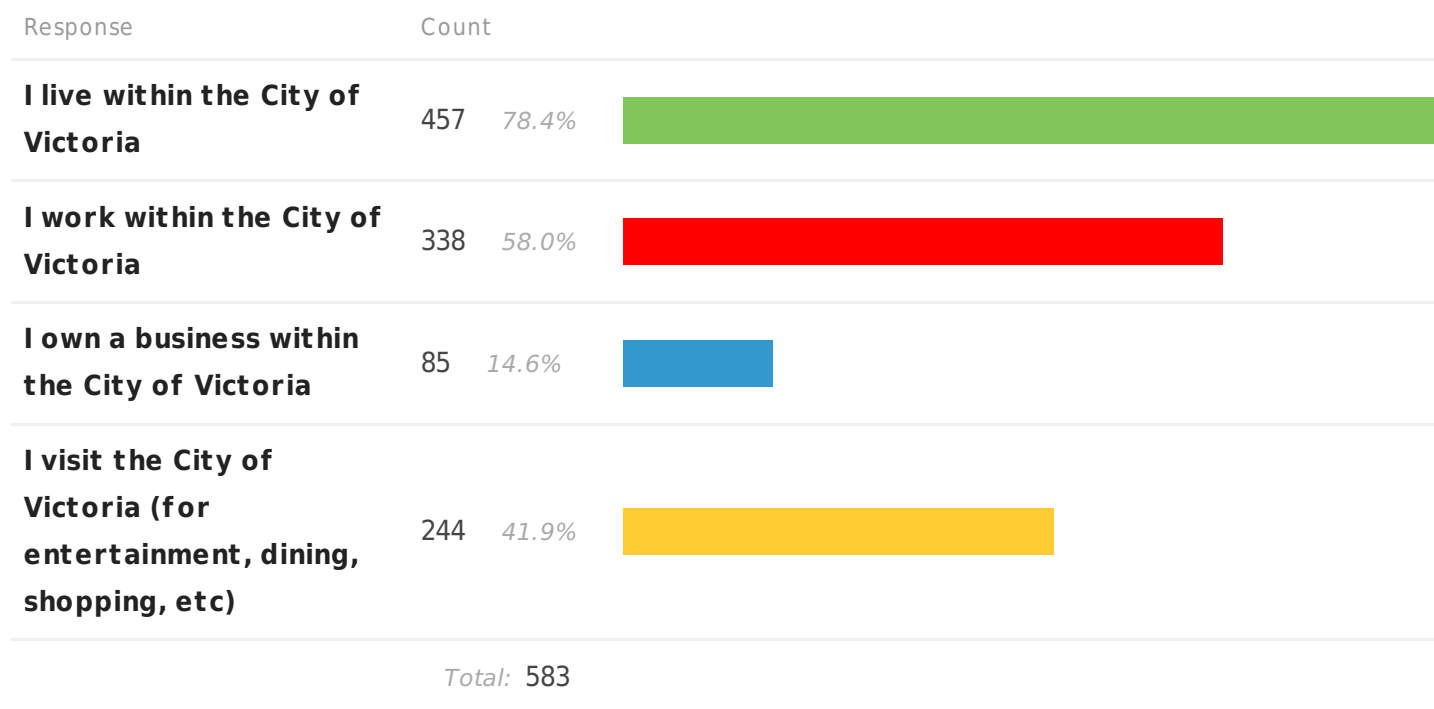
People with concerns about these regulations said that if regulations are developed these topics should be considered. These are listed in order of what was shared most frequently:

- Medical marijuana should only be sold by licensed pharmacists
- Medical marijuana should only be available for people with proven medical need
- Only support current access system under Health Canada- find a way to encourage one Health Canada approved office per neighbourhood















The complete survey follows here.

Medical Marijuana September 2015

1) Please select all that apply:



2) I am a resident of:

Response	Count		
Victoria West	42	7.2%	
Burnside Gorge	25	4.3%	
Downtown	33	5.6%	
North Park	42	7.2%	
Harris Green	13	2.2%	
Hillside/Quadra	57	9.7%	
Oaklands	18	3.1%	
Fernwood	58	9.9%	
North Jubilee/South Jubilee	17	2.9%	
Rockland	18	3.1%	
Gonzales	6	1.0%	
Fairfield	55	9.4%	
James Bay	48	8.2%	
<u>I live in another municipality. Please indicate where:</u>	154	26.3%	
<i>Total: 586</i>			

Saanich

Oak Bay

north saanich

Gulf Island

Sooke

Saanich

Sooke

00000

Langford

Oak Bay

Qualicum Beach

Saanich

Esquimalt

view royal

Saanich

Dawson Creek

Saanich

Saanich/Camosun, on the border of Victoria (i.e. I cross the street and it's Victoria)

Oakbay

langford

Duncan

Langford

Esquimalt

Saanich

Shawnigan Lake

Saanichton

esquimalt

Calgary

Langford

Shawnigan Lake

East Central Alberta

Nanaimo

Nanaimo

Westshore

Saanich

Langford

Esquimalt

Saanichton

Langford

Saanich

Nanaimo

Saanich

Saanich

Saanich

Colwood

Sidney

Colwood

Esquimalt

Oak Bay

The Saanich panhandle - one side of our street is North Jubilee, the other is Saanich.

Saanich

saanich East

North Cowichan

Saanich - Glanford

Saanich

Sidney

Portage Inlet (Saanich)

Esquimalt

Saanich

Westshore
Esquimalt
Saanich
Oak Bay
Highlands
Colwood
Shawnigan
Sooke
saanich
Saanich
oak bay
Saanich
Nanaimo
Oak bay
Oak Bay
saanich
Saanich
Saanich
Oak bay
colwood
saanich
Saanich-Gordon Head
Southern Gulf Islands
oak bay
Saanich
Saanich

Saanich

Gordon Head

Langford

Colwood

Nanaimo

Saanich

Winnipeg Manitoba

Langford

Saanich

saanich

Saanich

Gordon head

Saanich west

Oak Bay

Oak Bay

Oak Bay

Westshore

Saanich west

Saanich/carey

Saanich

Shawnigan Lake

North Cowichan

Toronto

Langford

Esquimalt

Isartup

Duncan, but I visit Victoria at least once a week.

Duncan

Saanich/Victoria border

municipality of saanich

Saanich (Gorge Tillicum)

Langford

Colwood

Esquimalt

Nanaimo

shawnigan lk

Landford

Langford

Saanich

Saanich

Saanich

colwood

Nanaimo

Duncan

Saanich - just 1 block north of Hillside Mall

Saanich

near uptown

Saanich

Highlands

colwood

Sidney

Sidney
Gordon Head
Saanich
nanaimo
Gordon Head
Saanich
Duncan
Metchosin
saanich
Colwood
Saanich
Saanich
Saanich (Royal Oak)
Langford
Colwood
Colwood
Langford
Esquimalt
nanaimo

3) Please share your comments regarding new potential regulations for medical marijuana-related businesses operating in Victoria. What concerns do you have? What should be considered as draft regulations are developed?

Response	Count
	547 responses

I support the current system under Health Canada. Residents should have the option to have local

I support the current system under Health Canada. Residents should have the option to have local

consultants write prescriptions in healthy, safe offices. I don't support the retail of medical marijuana from store fronts in Victoria.

get some tax money from it and use it to help get property taxes down for commercial tax payers.

I am concerned about apparent conflicts between federal regulations and potential municipal regulations creating confusion. Absence of effective federal regulations creates risks of unreliable (unsafe) product as well criminal activity.

At present it is up to the individual marijuana dispensary to determine if a customer has a "medical need." As these businesses are illegal there are no standards or regulations that specify what a customer must provide to prove a "medical need." It is up to the individual dispensary to decide what they will accept from clients which can range from a medical document filled out by a medical doctor to a simple "declaration" signed by the client stating they have a medical need (with no proof provided). It is arguable that the majority of marijuana dispensaries sales are to "recreational users" without a demonstrable medical need. Dispensaries are lucrative businessss and it is clear that their proliferation has more to do with profit than compassion for patients. Patients with a true medical need can access medical marijuana through a licensed commerical producer who is licensed and inspected by Health Canada. My concern is that municipal regulation is not able to address the recreational sales from dispensaries. I think the general public is unaware that dispensaries are illegal businesses and in violation of federal drug laws.

The impact on the oldest dispensaries, and any restrictions on edibles/derivative products

Smart Approaches to Marijuana Canada opposes any move that would see the City of Victoria issuing business licenses to illicit operations, including marijuana dispensaries on the basis that a civic government should focused on upholding federal laws and directing law enforcement to maintain a safe and healthy city. Legal challenge: It remains an open question as to whether or not the actions as outlined in this proposal if acted upon would amount to civic employees being deemed to be aiding and abetting criminal activity or conspiring to violate federal laws including the criminal code of Canada. It remains open whether charges could be brought now or in the future against civic employees or others in relation to this course of action. Why would the city administration take this risk and a direction that the Federal Minister of Health Hon Rona Ambrose has very clearly said : DO NOT DO THIS. Politics and an Inappropriate Partisan Move: This country is in the middle of a federal election and the country is also awaiting a Supreme Court decision on the issue of whether or not individuals will be able to grow their own marijuana for medicinal purposes. Bringing forward this plan at this time displays poor judgement and leaves the city open to being criticized for involving itself in federal partisan politics unnecessarily and for using the serious issue of public health as a political football. Consumer Safety: Our organization further opposes any plan that would see Victoria's Mayor and Council taking steps that would "legitimate" illegal entities or create a false sense of security in the minds of citizens/taxpayers in regards to the ability or willingness of these illegal operations to comply with basic standards of consumer product safety measures or obey any law or regulations that go against their basic agenda - which is to make money by promoting the use of marijuana. These illegal organizations have shown themselves to be willing to flaunt the laws of Canada, and to disregard the medical establishment and the fields of pharmacy as well as rehabilitation and addiction recovery. They have also shown a disregard for law

fields of pharmacy as well as rehabilitation and addiction recovery. They have also shown a disregard for law enforcement and consider themselves to be a separate "culture". They support, encourage, promote and profit off untested and experimental drug use with the full knowledge that this is an addictive drug and is not without other serious risks of harm upon use by any person at any age and of any condition. They have also been willing to contravene the criminal code of Canada and advertise their products and have published claims of medical benefit of their products that cannot be substantiated by evidence based science. This blatant disregard for the interests of the public should see them charged under provisions under the Criminal Code of Canada as has happened in other Canadian jurisdictions - Parksville, Nova Scotia, Winnipeg, Edmonton most recently. Those who assist them in their pursuit - such as landlords should and have been warned of the penalties under the Criminal Code of profiting from crime and the civil forfeiture laws. These operations are beacon for crime, with evidence of muggings by individuals going to and from, smash and grabs and other criminal activity within their proximity. Abuse of Marijuana for Medical Purposes - the key challenge against the dispensaries. Most users of marijuana for medical purposes started using before the age of 19. The risk is that youth will be supplied with marijuana from these outlets, as evidenced by other locations. One study by researchers at the University of Colorado found that about 74% of teens reporting using marijuana they had obtained from a medical-marijuana license holder. In Colorado, 48.8% of adolescents admitted to substance abuse treatment obtained their marijuana from someone registered to use medically and had used it on average 50 times. Diversion of medical marijuana is common among adolescents in substance treatment. The data support a relationship between medical marijuana exposure and marijuana availability, social norms and frequency of use, substance-related problems and general problems among teens in substance treatment. 2011 study in the Journal of Drug Policy Analysis after examining 1,655 medical marijuana applicants in California, few of them had a diagnosis of cancer, glaucoma, MS, or any other serious illness for which marijuana might provide some relief. Colorado 1% of purchased marijuana for medical purposes is reportedly obtained by individuals with MS. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Oregon Public Health Authority reported only a small proportion of medical marijuana users report use for cancer or HIV/AIDS or glaucoma. A study of California medical marijuana patients found that the average user was a 32 year old white male with a history of alcohol and substance abuse and no history of life-threatening illnesses. Reasons given for use were relaxation, arousal, happiness and stress. Only 5% of people in medical marijuana programs have cancer, HIV or glaucoma. What I determined through closer examination is the cry for medical marijuana is simply a Trojan horse to create a new Tobacco industry. Patrick Kennedy Former Congressman. Risk of Contamination: We further oppose the licensing of "drug" dispensary operations that expose consumers to significant harm including an increased risk or threat of E-coli and salmonella - with special concern for the most vulnerable of users - those with immune suppression including those individuals suffering with HIV/AIDS. Not providing the risks of harm These illegal operations are not consistently providing the list of contraindications to their customers, posing risks to those planning to start a family or who are at risk for cardiovascular issues. (French studies have shown: heart/risk youth) or other conditions identified by Health Canada and the medical community that people should be alerted to. The dispensaries are not providing this information to their patrons. Shatter and High Potency In 2004 the average level of THC in home grown Dutch marijuana was 20.4% it became such a mental health issue that in the Netherlands cannabis with more than 15% THC was reclassified. This potent marijuana is not allowed to be sold in weed-selling coffee shops. 70% of all Dutch towns have adopted zero tolerance policies toward cannabis cafes. The Drug Society of BC is calling Shatter on their facebook page.

tolerance policies toward cannabis sales. The Pain Society of BC is selling shatter on their facebook page - a very potent concentrates marijuana that other law enforcement in other parts of the country are warning people about. Tax Aversion The abuse rate has led California to back track on the number of dispensaries available in an attempt to curtail the access of marijuana for recreational purposes. In Colorado the same thing is happening. The state governments are also making efforts to stop the diversion of recreational users from accessing much cheaper marijuana for medical purposes - tax differentials significant incentives. Experience closes dispensaries. In California as of August 2012 there were bans against marijuana dispensaries in 26 counties and 247 cities, with moratoriums on dispensaries in 9 counties and 80 additional cities. Only 98 counties and 53 cities allow for dispensaries. Percentage bans or moratoriums 79.1% counties and 86.1% of cities. Colorado bans - as of 2015 321 total jurisdictions 228 or 71% prohibit any medical or recreational marijuana business, 67 or 21% allow any medical and recreational business, 8% allow either medical or recreational but not both. Evidence that dispensaries harm business. Presentation to Mayor and Council San Jose - complaints from businesses and citizens.

[http://sanjose.granicus.com/DocumentViewer.php?](http://sanjose.granicus.com/DocumentViewer.php?file=sanjose_44a0bd3bd438a66b94b371228a35d690.pdf&view=1)

[file=sanjose_44a0bd3bd438a66b94b371228a35d690.pdf&view=1](http://sanjose.granicus.com/DocumentViewer.php?file=sanjose_44a0bd3bd438a66b94b371228a35d690.pdf&view=1) Transcript from San Jose in California - wherein citizens brought to Major and Council strong evidence against the ongoing operating of dispensaries. In the statements you hear doctors, dentists and other business owners complaining about a loss of business and their damages due to the proximity of dispensaries. In Gilroy California a dance studio was forced to move after parents refused to bring their children to classes as a dispensary had opened within close proximity. Disregard for evidence based science and the practice of Quakery - medical advise without evidence based science. These dispensaries have also shown a blatant disregard for the evidence provided by reputable science - science that establishes the potential dangers of the use of marijuana to the body and the mind. There is indisputable evidence that marijuana is not safe for human consumption, especially if smoked. Denying the existence of such science is a very serious offense to the health and safety of the general public, - most importantly to the young. The public should be protected from false and unsubstantiated claims made in regards to the benefits of marijuana products that could delay individuals seeking and obtaining appropriate medical attention for legitimate health concerns. The Federal Government provides access. The Federal Government of Canada has provided under the MMPR - Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations - conditions for a secure and efficient system that provides access to marijuana - there is no need to put the taxpayers of this city at risk of participating in a program that see the truly sick exposed to inferior, or riskier products and that due to their Seattle Bans Medical Marijuana Operations Seattle Times Editorial: The world is watching Washington's historic experiment with marijuana legalization and we are screwing it up. December 6, 2014 : The city already has a law but that bans major medical marijuana operations from opening after November 2013. (Recreational marijuana is taxed at a much higher rate than medical marijuana - and the state is loosing monies by the diversion to medical) But there is no excuse to ignore existing authority, including criminal charges against black market dealers masquerading as dispensaries. The Canadian Governments Position: March 31, 2014 Ottawa, ON - Marijuana is not an approved drug or medicine in Canada and has not gone through the necessary rigorous scientific trials for efficacy or safety. Health Canada does not endorse the use of marijuana, but the courts have required reasonable access to a legal source of marijuana for medical purposes. As a result, the Government of Canada believes that this must be done in a controlled fashion to protect public health and safety. Over the last several

months, Minister Ambrose has been reaching out to the medical community to work together to address common concerns around the use of marijuana as a treatment, including the lack of dosage guidelines and appropriate health cautions. Health Canada is working with provincial and territorial medical and nursing licensing bodies to increase the information provided to them on how doctors and nurse practitioners are authorizing marijuana and in what quantities. In addition, Minister Ambrose has directed Health Canada to work with secure commercial operators licensed to produce marijuana to enhance information-sharing with regulatory oversight bodies on how doctors and nurse practitioners are authorizing the use of marijuana. We expect these new measures, including information on dosage guidelines, educational material and increased oversight, will decrease the potential for over prescribing and negative health impacts. Quick Facts Marijuana is not an approved drug or medicine in Canada. The Marijuana Medical Access Program, introduced in 2001, went from a few hundred people to almost 40,000 which created consequences for public health, safety and security, as a result of allowing individuals to produce marijuana in their homes. We heard from local mayors, fire chiefs, police officers and community members that there were serious health and safety concerns about the old program. The medical community has asked the Government to work with them and share information. There are potentially serious harmful effects from using marijuana beginning at a young age and it should not be promoted. Youth are especially susceptible to the negative effects of marijuana use, including harmful effects on mental functioning and mental health including psychosis and schizophrenia. "Medical regulatory authorities have serious concerns about prescribing a product like marijuana that is not an approved drug. Since marijuana can nevertheless be prescribed, it should be done in a way that allows us to exercise our duty to act in the public interest. We are encouraged by the direction given to Health Canada that licensed producers will share information about physician prescribers with us so it can be reviewed for quality assurance and complaint processes." Rocco Gerace, MD President, Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada "As public health advocates, we stress the importance of making clear to the public and to policy makers that marijuana is not a harmless drug, but an increasingly potent and addictive one that can harm school and work performance, brain maturation in the fetus and the adolescent, mental health, driving skills, and can cause physical harm to the respiratory system and various other organs." Dr. Harold Kalant Smart Approaches to Marijuana Canada Risks of Use "Those treated for addiction to cannabis (marijuana) had a higher mortality rate (3.85 times higher than controls), higher if compared to death rate risk of cocaine use disorder (2.96), alcohol use disorder (3.83).... Callaghan et al. Manuscript Safety D 13 00224R1 Rosebelle Macdonald There were 38 traumatic fatalities among forestry workers Employed by small businesses. (BC). Toxicology screen data were available for 23 of them, 22% were positive to cannabis, 9% were positive for cocaine and cannabis. There were no instances of alcohol intoxication. "A definitive 20-year study into the effects of long-term cannabis use has demolished the argument that the drug is safe." Author of the study - Professor Wayne Hall a drug advisor to the World Health Organization. Dr. Bertha Madras Harvard Medical Schools Department of Psychiatry: Marijuana disorder is associated with higher mortality. It has lasting adverse effects on the future of young adults through increases of anxiety, panic, depression, psychotic symptoms, cognitive losses, and neuropsychological decline and causes various adverse health effects, such as psychosis (Madras 2013). In my twenty years of research on human cells, I have never found any other drug including Heroin, which comes close to the DNA damage caused by marijuana. Dr. Akira Miroshima, authority on cytogenetics and formerly of Columbia University of College of Physicians and Surgeons. Marijuana, especially high potency marijuana, may cause

anxiety attacks and psychosis. (Hall and Degenhardt, 2009) “Marijuana is not an approved medication, does not come in specific dosages or concentrations, and cannot be prescribed. However, there is antidotal evidence which suggests that some component or components of marijuana may be useful for patients with chronic pain, side effects of chemo-therapy, and with varying symptoms secondary to HIV infections. In no case have any double-blind placebo-controlled trials demonstrated objectively measurable benefits from the whole plant, either for these purposes or for any medical application. “ Stuart Gitlow, MD MPH MBA President American Society of Addiction Medicine. Court Cases ongoing in Colorado The owner of the Holiday Inn in Frisco claims its business is already suffering because of a recreational marijuana shop they say is planning on opening 75 yards from the hotels front door. Many of its guests are youth ski teams and families with children, the lawsuit says. Many parents and coaches will avoid booking with a hotel that is within a short walking distance and direct sight of a recreational marijuana store and grow facility. The Governor, politicians, public servants and businesses. <http://m.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/world/colorado-is-facing-a-barrage-of-lawsuits-over-its-legalisation-of-marijuana/story-fni0xs63-1227260897065>
<https://www.scribd.com/doc/256277197/Colorado-marijuana-legalization-lawsuit-Civil-Action-No-15-349-Safe-Streets-Alliance-lawsuit-1> <https://www.scribd.com/doc/256279229/Colorado-marijuana-legalization-lawsuit-Civil-Action-No-15-350-Safe-Streets-Alliance-lawsuit-2> Damage to businesses. Olson’s racketeering activities (medical marijuana store) directly and proximately injured New Vision’s business and property. Those activities have discouraged prospective guests from booking stays at New Vision’s hotel and forced New Vision to incur additional expense in attempting to mitigate the resulting decline in revenue. Furthermore, the prospect of lost revenue and increased security costs in the future has reduced the market value of New Vision’s business and property. Other jurisdictions in Canada have dealt with the problem of dispensaries. In other provinces here are the numbers as provided by the RCMP as of May 25th. 2015 Manitoba Alberta 1 Quebec 4 Ontario 13 Nova Scotia none Supply “Briere revealed he works with about 15 suppliers who all operate under the old MMAR licenses. Because they only allow for personal consumption, it’s still an illegal source, he conceded.” “ Karuna Health Foundation on Victoria Drive similarly relies on source that although not legal is a step in that direction. The company’s president, Sacha Canow, told the Straight they buy from three of Health Canada’s new MMPR-authorized producers (which are supposed to sell only to patients by mail order. He explained that a trusted go-between makes a weekly visit to those large-scale suppliers and then delivers to Karuna at a designated location off-site.” Brian Montague, the VPD spokesperson, told the Georgia Strait, that the VPD has found evidence that organized crime is taking an interest in the Vancouver dispensaries. Residents in neighborhoods where marijuana is being grown to supply these illegal dispensaries are enduring harsh conditions and in some cases intimidation and violence. Best Practices relied on in Vancouver proposal challenged On April 28th. Councillor Jang asks why daycares have not been included in the provisions for proximity regulations: Response from Dr. Ballem: everytime we add another criteria it makes it much more complex – in fairness to this sector – trying to make it transparent and fairly reasonable for them to decide what are the sensitive uses they have to adhere to. Stick to best practices. Washington Best Practice Appendix A Requires 1,000 ft (300 m) from school, playground, recreation center, child care, public park, public transit center, library, or game arcade. Colorado requires 1,000 (300 m) from school, preschool, child care establishment, medical marijuana center, or alcohol or drug treatment facilities. “Marijuana stores operating in proximity to schools, parks, and other areas where children are present send the wrong message to those in our society who are the most impressionable. In addition, the huge profits

generated by these stores, and the value of their inventory, present a danger that stores will become a magnet for crime, which jeopardizes the safety of nearby children.” Melinda Haag Best practices California San Jose – dance studio forced to move – dental offices, doctors complained about impact on their businesses and City Council ordered marijuana dispensaries to be limited to industrial areas. CBC reported 40% of the current dispensary locations do not meet the proposals criteria and will have to be closed - one of the key issues is the proximity to schools. The question remains why have they been allowed to continue for so many years by city officials who know they are beacons for crime for crime maps and that those most at risk of exposure to frequent messaging are young kids ? Pamela McColl Smart Approaches to Marijuana Canada

The sale of marijuana should be banned except for medical marijuana which should only be sold by licensed pharmacists

The sale of marijuana in a store front setting is illegal. The City of Victoria should not be condoning this use under any "regulations". Health Canada has only allowed mail order delivery. Store front businesses should remain prohibited. The police department and bylaw enforcement should shut these businesses down.

I am concerned about the number of newer dispensaries that are more recreational as opposed to medicinal. My understanding is that a dispensary exists to provide safe access to medical marijuana for clients with legitimate health issues - something that I whole heartedly support. But the inclusion of areas such as a smoking/vapor lounge, or social club (I'm looking at you Weeds), is purely recreational and is no more than a bar that serves a different substance. I would be very happy if the City of Victoria choose to support medical marijuana business owners who are actively working to improve the lives of those who suffer from health care issues and leave to social/recreational substance service to the liquor industry.

The MMPR has been set up by the Government and works. Medical marijuana shops are selling cannabis to recreational users in most cases. Selling of marijuana in any other way than the MMPR is contrary to the criminal code of Canada. The MMPR Licensed Producers are there for a reason. They provide quality cannabis that has oversight. The retail shops by cannabis from dubious sources including grow-ups funded by the Hells Angels and there is zero oversight and testing.

1. Proper testing of the product by Health Canada for quality and free from moulds, etc. 2. Should only be sold in proper pharmacies not marijuana dispensaries. Marijuana is a drug and should be sold in drug stores not like how alcohol or cigarettes are sold. 3. The marijuana dispensaries that are currently conducting business in the City of Victoria should be closed down and fined for operating without a proper business license. There are many people who open businesses in Victoria and do so the proper way by the law. Why are we giving the marijuana industry special treatment?

I am concerned with the availability of Mental Health services in relation to the increase of accessibility to cannabis and also the increase use due to destigmatization of this drug. By this I mean cannabis is being more widely accepted in our culture, and until very recently the conversation around cannabis has been very polarized: one camp saying it is a miracle plant with nearly no harms and so much benefit and the other taking a War on Drugs viewpoint that illegal drugs are BAD. My concern is around educating individuals and providing support around what responsible usage looks like. Engaging in honest conversations around the

providing support around what responsible usage looks like. Engaging in honest conversations around the benefits and side effects of cannabis usage. Educating and providing support where needed.

I believe safe access for those that need medical marijuana is really important. I also believe that everything should be done to ensure no offensive odors are bothering other businesses

I am very concerned about a municipal policy that is designed to regulate an activity made illegal under the Narcotics Control Regulations and the Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations, as enabled by the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. Businesses in possession of, or trafficking in, Schedule I or II narcotics, outside of permissions granted under federal licence by the MMPR (or those affected by the injunction on federal MMAR licences), should not be granted business licences by the city, and should be reported to the police. Storefronts are not permitted under the MMPR, nor under the repealed MMAR, regardless of whether the products are produced by licensed producers, or whether sale is restricted to those with "doctor's direction". If the City of Victoria believes that these federal regulations should be changed to permit dispensaries to operate, I urge you to work with federal policy makers to modify the existing federal regulations.

I feel like medical marijuana-related businesses should be operated with the same rules and regulations regarding a liquor store....Do people from surrounding businesses mind the fact that alcoholics are walking passed their shops at 10 am to get their perfectly legal fix?

If the public is concerned about youth being exposed to the sale of marijuana then perhaps an educational lesson can be added into the school curriculum to ensure the information they absorb is correct and not misleading. I personally have not noticed these problems from the dispensaries that I have walked past, they all seem to be clean, professional operations.

A warning needs to be issued about foods or oils made with butane, ethanol or isopropyl alcohol. BHO Winterized foods cause vomiting and severe diarrhea. 10mg is a safe dose to eat, theirs are 100-125mg. RSO, black salve, isopropyl alcohol derived oils are NOT medicine. They cause damage to the liver resulting in hot, painful, rashes, swollen glands, black spots, severe cramps, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting. Accurate testing must be done and labels that fully disclose all of the ingredients. Chemical solvents are not medicinal, they are only for cost reduction, and do not fit the medicinal model. The chemicals used create addiction; respiratory illness, mental health issues, and increase crime to pay for these expensive \$30-150 per gram chemical drugs. Nanaimo had over 100 BNE's near the pot shops, within a month. Many of these shops are operated by youth who volunteer, and have no medical training or accurate information. They misinform patients about the use of chemicals with Cannabis because they are given false information by the producers of these harmful drugs. There needs to be some type of "health and safety certification" to be a seller of Cannabis as a medicine. Problems are; Misinformation being given by sellers, misleading and inaccurate labels, chemical solvents causing long-term harm, inflated prices increase crime. Marijuana shops are NOT non-profit. If they were, the prices would be much, much lower and there would be fewer of them.

I have no concerns with marijuana-related businesses and from what I've seen and heard from residents and business owners a large percentage of the complaints are due to perceived issues/danger as opposed to real ones. Ultimately, until the government has a clear path in place for the operation of these businesses I

think that it's wasteful for the City to invest any resources in creating regulations that may or may not be supported in the long term. I understand the municipality's need to manage public perception in this situation.

My concern is that you've put forward a survey without any context as to existing city regulation on a basic business regulation front

Employee and property security should be the main concerns of any sort of City of Victoria regulations. Other concerns should be addressed as per the established regulations regarding zoning/permitting for the businesses selling liquor, beer, and/or wine.

I support legalization & taxation thatnk -you for your forward thinking in allowing dispensaries to run as legitimate co. where they will pay taxes & the money does not go to organized crime.

I do not believe that these businesses are legal. As far as I recall, selling marijuana to general public is still illegal. If the process of using "doctors" scripts is acceptable to the city, can we at least tax on it? These businesses put surrounding stores at risk (I do not shop my previous favourite store because I do not care to be near a "dispensary") and of course concerns over criminal element involved.

I do not have any concerns. I would like to see the decriminalization of marijuana. I feel these businesses are a step in the right direction.

how many are there?? locate in business areas not residential. can city regulate as they do other businesses like liquor stores??

It's so insane to me that we don't allow wine stores within 1km of each other but we'll allow pot shops ever 1/2 block. They should be in non street front locations and spread FAR apart from each other. IT's not good for our city.

You should contact The Cannabis Rights Coaliton for input.. Formerly known as the MMAR Coalition Against Repeal. Their you can contact all the Medically Approved Patients and get THEIR input... This is for Medicinal Patients right ??? Then go to the Patients for the best information... without having Patients have a say in which way you engage this process you may in fact encourage Organized Crime and the Black Market... So I would advise you talk with the people that this is SUPPOSED to be put in place for... Thanks.

Patients have received excellent care through compassion clubs here in Victoria. We would be on the streets searching for cannabis otherwise. Make the models based on those establishments now established. Thank you so very much for protecting those Canada has failed. Bless you!

I am grateful that the City of Victoria has agreed to regulate dispensaries. I believe that the current dispensaries are operating in a responsible manner, and have no special concerns. dispensaries

isn't "regulating" illegal businesses actually racketeering?

Certain neurological disorders (Schizophrenia, for example) can be exacerbated by THC. The medicinal benefits of CBD and other cannabinoids can still be of great benefit to people suffering from such neurological disorders, but it is very important that dispensaries be responsible in ensuring those with said

disorders receive the beneficial cannabinoids and not THC-centric medicines (high-Sativa content herb, concentrated extracts, etc).

I personally have seen line ups of elderly, people in wheelchairs, canes. I see nurses and cancer survivors or living with some form of debilitating conditions that effects one day to day routines. The traffic I have witnessed in Victoria is people who wish to live in as much wellness as possible considering their suffering and chooses for the safest most effective relief.

liquor store type regulations, with exemptions for non-profit organizations

Strict minimum age guidelines, and possible contributions to educate middle/high school teens about cannabis/narcotic use

My concerns are that any regulation may punish both the original dispensaries and patients. The original 2 for years have been quiet and most people had no idea where they were. Now big flashy signs that are just fronts for Licensed Producers are uncalled for and should be removed. Patients would suffer if regulations increased the prices. Despite attempts by the Feds, patients should be able to continue to grow at home under certain circumstances. I have a Federal License to grow - which soon will be extended by the Supreme Court despite illegal moves by Health Canada. Be careful - don't hurt true medical users by increasing prices - and don't do anything to support the sleazy Federal Licensed Producers who are crooks. I have withheld my email as being identified as a user is still very risky because of Harper. I also don't trust Victoria Police as some of the officers are clearly prejudice against users and anyone they can label as mentally ill. Shameful treatment I have received.

they should have a normal business license (not paying \$30k/yr) and should also be regulated under health Canada

Civil liberties

I feel that it is important not to treat this different from any other business as far as licensing goes. They should pay the same as other businesses NOT MORE. They also should have to follow any other regs already in place: foodsafe, first aid, as would be required from any comparable business. I see a dispensary as being no different than a liquor store or better yet a pharmacy. My biggest concern is allowing minors with no medical need to purchase.

I believe that medical marijuana is needed by many people for valid health concerns. I welcome the dispensaries and the services/education they provide.

It's medicine, you need a prescription, dispense it from an educated pharmacist at a pharmacy.

I believe marijuana related business should be regulated to a much higher level than regular retail, ie. clothing, books, etc.. Number, location, security levels, potential impact on neighbours, retail and business, should all be part of the considerations of licensing.

I have no concerns and support the use of cannabis for all medical conditions it will help

Stricter controls but keep it open

That there are unlicensed businesses selling an illegal product.

If the true purpose of the facilities is to provide those with medical needs (and prescription) to access marijuana products, then the items should be treated as medical - and made available ONLY through pharmacies and medical centres such as VIHA facilities eg hospitals.

many businesses opening in a similar neighbourhood/street; streetfront stores could increase the popularity of marijuana, only allowing them on upper floors could prevent this

I think as long as they only sell to those who have medical needs they are a necessary service in this city.

My concern is that these are not operating as medical dispensaries, very few doctors are prescribing marijuana and the city is condoning illegal drug sales . Worse of all if this is a similar situation to the City of Vancouver there are no business licences issued or taxes collected.

Dispensaries like Farmacy has addressed security issues well. Some common rules regarding security and entrance or acceptance to purchase need to be universal to all dispensaries. I think a stronger, more thorough, universal screening process should be looked at.

I have no concerns at all. People who use marijuana are typically non-violent, calm and pretty darn normal. Organized crime only increases when things are made harder to access. Everything is quite simple and doesn't need much over existing infrastructures - alcohol is already only for 19+ - do the same. You're not allowed to drive under the influence already. To sell food, you need food safe. Retail locations go through an inspection already to make sure it is safe for people to enter and a retail space would not have been built if the area could not handle the traffic. The only potential concern I can see even remotely worth addressing would be odour, but I would counter with; restaurants and bakeries give off a LOT of smell, too. Can I then put in a formal complaint about the meat business that cooks large quantities twice a day, making it so that I can't have my office window open without feeling sick?

I believe that medical cannabis dispensaries provide an important service to the community, and should be part of the community. Restrictions and regulations are good, if reasonable. While the Vancouver model is a step in the right direction, i don't believe that Victoria needs to have such strict rules especially regarding lounges, edibles and distances. Also please don't kill a business that has the potential to employee hundreds at a living wage with overly onerous licence fees. Those should be proportional to similar businesses.

Some dirt if certification program based on input from all stakeholders particularly police and health / good inspection

Recreational cannabis legalization has had a positive impact in the US, where states have seen a significant reduction in both crime and opiate overdoses. Cannabis is NOT a dangerous substance. It is virtually impossible to overdose on it. All of the fear mongering and prohibitionist propaganda can't take away from the fact that cannabis has been safely used for both medical and recreational purposes for thousands of

the fact that cannabis has been safely used for both medical and recreational purposes for thousands of years. It requires about the same amount of 'regulation' as coffee or echinacea.

My concerns are that they are being driven by fear and bias, not objectivity. I don't see these types of businesses as requiring any different or further regulations than those that are imposed on pharmacies or liquor stores.

No minors, no product to be consumed on premise. Basically the rules they already imposed on themselves.

No concerns. Welcome them as long as they're clean and don't sell to kids.

Besides unwanted elements coming into the neighbourhood, security concerns and definitely the smell surrounding the area is getting worse. Personally I am very sensitive to smells and this is one that just makes me nauseated and wanting to vomit. And being right in the middle of the Quadra neighbourhood makes it very difficult to safely walk in the area. It is still illegal to have/use marijuana so why are these stores still being allowed to operate with or without a store or Health Canada license?

No sales to minors, extra consideration for non-profit organisations, interaction with city hall to ensure safe clean environs.

Medical marijuana should be available for those that need it in-store and on the premises. The social stigma/perception surrounding this natural plant that it is harmful and promotes organized crime is perpetuated by archaic laws and shortsightedness on behalf of those in positions of power.

There should be no businesses selling illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia allowed in Victoria. If the only legal way to purchase medical marijuana is by mail why are these businesses even allowed? Please do not allow these businesses to expose our children to what is essentially a gateway drug. I do not like to have to explain to my 8 year old what a bong is. These businesses are disgusting.

the non for profit clubs should be left alone. they provide a quality control products that have been provided for years and are trusted to provide our medicine in a safe and controlled products

make sure it they are all regulated. All dispensary should need a note from the dr stating there long term problem.

I have no concerns. These businesses should be permitted to operate freely. The increase in foot traffic to downtown benefits local businesses, and that kind of convenience is crucial for many users of medical marijuana. As marijuana consumption immediately outside of these businesses is already prohibited, both by the businesses themselves and by law, I do not believe any further regulations are necessary, and indeed may cause active harm to our beloved community.

I have no concerns please legalize this substance as it is very beneficial for my sleep insomnia

I would like the city to allow Vapour Lounges for safe consumption site, similar to how bars are set up and regulated. I do not drink but would like to be able to be social with my peers. Please allow edibles as most sick people are not able to make these products for themselves. Edibles can be made in VIHA proved

kitchen and there are labs on the island that will test edibles, and most edible companies on the island are testing and labeling and using proper packaging already.

I believe that the whole marijuana scene needs to be regulated in some way. In the sense of storefronts like the ones now for both medical and recreational (for 18+) , and as such labeled properly not to mislead .

must be medical no a 19+ dope store i have been involved in medical cannabis for years and these businesses are a nuisance and don't help anyone.

Study the effects and regulations, of cities in Colorado, Washington and Oregon states. Look at some history regarding this issue . Queen Victoria used "hash " to relieve pain . You cannot please everyone !!

I have many concerns, all related to the safety and well-being of all of us who live in Victoria, particularly children and elderly. Victoria is getting too tolerant of drugs and is encouraging the open use of marijuana, and other drugs. Not only is the City enabling, it has promoted it at Council meetings. Any distribution should be through drugstores or medical facilities which are NOT frequented by children (families) or near family housing.

None they are doing a fine job , ID EVERYONE is all, but kids will get it if they want anyhow...let the experiment continue

the number of dispensaries in one given area should be limited.

Medical marijuana should be supplied by licensed medical authorities, and not by private sector stores which are difficult to police and/or regulate. Laws are being flouted, and the courts rarely uphold the law, leaving the police in an awkward situation. Problems will only escalate if Trudeau becomes PM. PLEASE CONSIDER REGULATIONS THAT ACTUALLY SHUT THESE PRIVATE STORES DOWN.

I don't think a banning vape rooms inside clubs should be banned. I think it is important for poor sick people to have access to a safe place and equipment that they couldn't afford at home. Some people are not allowed to use cannabis where they live, and will be forced to use cannabis outside in public if vape lounges or smoking rooms are banned. I also don't want to see edibles banned as the most vulnerable people will be affected and do not have the ability to bake their own. I own my house and have a kitchen so these rules would not affect me, but I see the people who make use of the VCBC lounge and rely on the edibles for longer lasting, affordable medicine , and do not want to see them lose this.

I am a 60 year old tax paying property owner - I own a house in South Jubilee. I am also a customer of one of the dispensaries that has opened in Victoria this year. I have a neuro-genetic disorder. After many years and numerous specialists, none of which were able to offer me any treatment, I turned to marijuana. Marijuana provides me with the energy and appetite I need to continue to be a productive member of the community. I visit one of the dispensaries about every 7 to 10 days, purchase 5 grams of marijuana. which I take home and consume a small amount in my kitchen each night before dinner. I would never, never consume marijuana in public or expose anyone else, including children to it. If there are complaints by the public about issues such as odour, then it is the duty of the store owners to act responsibly. This is an issue of my health. I believe these stores have provided me with much needed relief - both physically and peace of mind. I no longer

have to use the black marker./the underground. I hope and believe that this issue can be dealt with in a mature, common sense manner. This is an issue that personally affects me. Yours truly

Personal
information

Security is a must .. However I fully support these Dispensaries. As they will provide a huge local economic kick as well as many jobs . And people who choose alternative medicine will be able to procure it in a safe and professional setting. I wish the all best in this endeavor I really see beneficial opprotunity here . ☺ I support MMJ and Dispensaries !!!!

1 The survey has omitted retired residents, #2 Food saftey - Have you been to OurPlace (on Pandora Ave?) That food is not safe... start there! #3 have a safe place to purchase, and not from the streets, #4 there are more illicet drugs in High Schools, than any reported sales to minors from compassionate stores.

I have no concerns over potential regulations. It should be! From talking with friends and family, everyone is thrilled to finally have such valuable medicinal products available. The only downside is not every dispensary is correct on their strains and product, thus potentially giving people the wrong product for their disability or ailment. Cannabis should be more accessible for people that are marginalized from the medical system. It should also more accessible for people that are going through addictions or withdrawals issues and require cannabis as a harm reduction tool.

I have no issues with all the stores opening up

Business viability - the City needs to allow the business to succeed. The City needs to set specific location guideliens based upon zoning criteria.

My concerns would be related to 1) establishing quality control measures for the marijuana that is sold in these businesses. 2) ensuring sales are not available to minors. 3) ensuring the establishments adhere to food safety regulations in their sales of edibles. 4) establishing some manner of membership tracking to avoid persons obtaining more than 2 'memberships' to medical marijuana establishments to avoid misuse of medical marijuana

I don't believe these businesses are any more a nuisance than liquor or convenience stores. Nor are they at risk of being robbed any more than those stores. I do want to see very strict regulations on the sale of marijuana based products to people under age 19. As well a roadside test should be developed equivalent to an alcohol breathalyzer test, with steep fines for driving while intoxicated. The medical need issue is a tricky one. I don't sleep well most nights. Is that a qualifying medical need? My doctor doesn't think it is. My wife does. The risk of infiltration by organized crime is nonsense. Legalize it, regulate it and lets use the tax proceeds to build homes for the homeless.

I have no issues with marijuana related businesses. There should be some regulations put into place similar to Vancouver. Proximity to schools, other related businesses etc.

I feel very strongly that firm, clear regulations be put in place. I am appalled to learn that this is not currently the case. The Federal Govt is being unbelievably irresponsible in this situation - putting the burden onto municipalities and by extension residents in neighbourhoods. I like the direction Vancouver took and want Victoria to follow suit

Limited to a 2 mile radius of each other, and not within 1000 ft of residential

I am concerned about the number of marijuana related businesses at are operating in the Greater Victoria Area. It appears that they are not limited to marijuana as a prescription drug. I am particularly opposed to such a business in the James Bay Area whose residents already carry a greater load than other areas with regards to tourist bus transportation and pollution from air traffic and now the possibility of a sewer outlet at Ogden Point. The police already have more than their share of policing the bars and easy access to marijuana would likely increase drug related problems in the downtown area.

Limit the zoning to be specific to certain areas only. where appropriate.

I can't see how increased foot traffic is a concern. Isn't that what a bustling commercial sector hopes for? Not sure what the nuisances are. I believe there are several in my neighbourhood, but I have not experienced anything untoward. That said, if they draw organized crime or sell to underaged folks, that is a big problem, but its not visible to the naked eye. I heard that they don't pay for a business licence and that is distressing. I would like them to become legitimate. however, I would not want these places to be charged huge fees such that only, monied, corporate opportunists are the only ones who can set up shop. regarding matters of canibus use, its safe consumption etc, I would trust the small, locally owned proprietor, rather than the conglomerate. Any regulations the City imposes therefore, should consider implications on small business ventures.

keep away from schools etc. require proof of medical problem.

Too many of these "dispensaries". Surely there are not that many people needing medical marjuana. None of these businesses should be existing until proper federal and provincial legislation is in place.

3 of 4 federal parties are purposing to minimally decriminalize or maximally legalize,regulate and tax marijuan. Consider the impact of this before going to far down the road.

To begin with, I am opposed to legalizing the sale of marijuana in the first place. As a matter of policy, the government ought not to be involved in activities that harm or have potential to harm the people. I have seen the harmful effects it has on people's health (especially mental health), work, and lives. But once the government is engaged in the sale of drugs to the people it is supposed to protect, what regulations make sense? It is only sticking a finger in a leaking dike. Nonetheless, I obviously would desire stringent regulations, to minimize the ill effects on our children, our youth, and our neighbourhoods. What's next, the sale of LSD by our government? If adequate measures had been taken to crack down on illegal sales, our government would not now be involved in this dubious venture.

This is a public policy problem that trades off public safety for business income. The City of Victoria should consider necessary law enforcement capacity against business income. It is a tough decision whether the City should strictly regulate (like what Vancouver has done) or not, because the City's economic landscape is different from Vancouver. Vancouver does not rely heavily on seasonal traffic to sustain its businesses, whereas Victoria clearly does. Would driving medical marijuana businesses out of Victoria be beneficial in

the long run? Perhaps the monetary benefits of medical marijuana businesses can be redirected to fund additional law enforcement capacity. This way Victoria realizes the benefits from business income, while simultaneously ensuring all negative externalities of medical marijuana are addressed.

It should be taken into account that many areas have young children that will be opened up to this and that we need to ensure that a security procedure should be put in place for each of the stores and only people with an official medical marijuana license should be allowed in. They should be restricted to non-residential areas and preferably outside of the downtown area. I personally am against these type of stores opening up anywhere, anyone that needs medical marijuana should be able to get from a reliable legal source.

I hope to see reasonable regulations implemented that work to support both the community and the marijuana dispensaries.

if the The purpose of the regulations will be to mitigate any community impacts, while maintaining access to medical marijuana for residents, what mechanisms does the City have available to them to regulate these businesses - business licensing, zoning? can City restrict the total number in town, the total number in a particular area, where they can operate in terms of distance from school, park, etc. how would City ensure equitable distribution across the City, and equitable access and affordability for those having a legitimate need? finally, if realistically there is increased police presence or security required at these establishments, can the city require they provide security, can the City charge a cost recovery fee for the enhanced police response resulting from their business and activities around their business.? is there a precedent of the City charging a fee whether fixed through business licensing or actual cost recovery from night clubs and strip joints, etc. that also result in higher police presence and calls to police?

I do not have any concerns about the increase in the growing businesses in the area. Space is being leased and the increased traffic by paying consumers is better than empty locations with room for homeless to occupy. I would assume they will eventually all have to have medical authorization and not sell to those without documentation or prescription. I am not a customer of the facilities but support the growing industry. Marijuana is the least of the drug problems in our city.

My biggest concern is around sales to persons without medical needs and without an actual "physician's recommendation". Having worked at one of Victoria's oldest dispensaries for six years, that has always been "physician recommended", I saw many people benefit from cannabis as a medicine. They should have unlimited access, they need it for so many reasons (medical). However, until the federal government changes its policies around cannabis and actually legalizes it, I believe Victoria needs to be very careful about handing out licenses to dispensaries. Those that can prove they are firm about medical recommendations (that can be directly confirmed) should indeed be licensed. Those that do not require a physician to sign, should be shut down. It is a benefit to the patient for their physician to be involved and a benefit to the doctor, as much can be learned throughout. Regarding security in these dispensaries ... in the years I worked at the VICS, we had no incidents or threats. The staff is well trained and able to deal with anyone walking in the door. Because it is known to be the "hardest dispensaries to get into" and is "purely medical", those looking for recreational will generally go elsewhere. There are no exceptions made and rules are adhered to 100%. Being located in "the red zone" guarantees that some "interesting folks" will drop

in from time to time but have not proven to be a problem. If there was a real threat, the staff would have no problem calling the police. In regard to "exposure to young people", there are many doctors that are now willing and wanting to recommend cannabis for youth that suffer from ADHD, epilepsy, etc ... parental/guardian consent must be given ... these individuals should also have clear access to their medicine. Children of parents who use cannabis as a medicine are told that it is indeed a medicine and why it's being used and that it is doctor recommended....education is key. If parents choose to bring their child with them (due to lack of alternate care), in the right dispensary - it should not be seen as a problem. Infiltration of organized crime can become an issue for those dispensaries that are all about the money they can make. The non profits are usually very careful about their business connections and as a result, organized crime is not a factor or a problem. In regard to businesses and the public in general, the dispensary I worked for. we got nothing but compliments on how things were run. People would stop in just to ask what it was we did because from the outside, they couldn't tell. In general, I would like to see all dispensaries be able to work together with Health Canada's Licensed Commercial Producers but until we have a new federal government in place, that will not happen. If the two could come together, I believe it would be the best scenario/situation for all concerned.

My neighbourhood currently has 5 marijuana outlets as well as another shop that sells paraphernalia. It is a small neighbourhood and each of these outlets is less than 2 blocks from another. I do not object to people who need it being able to purchase medically prescribed marijuana at a street-front facility, but one Health Canada licensed business/neighbourhood should be enough. Such a business could have a medical advice component as part of its service.

Be guided by whatever regulations apply to BC liquor outlets: limited numbers, well spaced, no sales to minors, etc. etc. Also tax marijuana sales like alcohol sales.

I believe regulation to ensure proper advice, product quality, adherence to security and compliance with respecting the neighborhood like any other business that operates in the core should be adhered to. I don't see this any different than the sale of alcohol and it should be done in a fashion that respects all those who use the product, whether for recreational use or medicinal. Proper security and ensure there are not organized crime elements associated with these "outlets" is certainly something that needs to be addressed, not different than any other business that is money laundering funds through businesses of other types in the city. controls and regulations will increase the tax base and help to reduce the criminal element in the distribution of regulated business, rather than under ground.

These businesses are operating contrary to Federal Regulations and should be shut down. Why the City of Victoria is Aiding and abetting this illegal activity is beyond comprehension.

I have no concerns at all! Liquor sales and cigarette sales are no different than marijuana sales. We put up with way more problems stemming from alcohol (drunk driving and addictions, public drunkenness and noise) and from cigarettes (butts as litter, causing house fires, polluting our air). Marijuana should be taxed and sold to adults in the same ways as alcohol and cigarettes. Personally, I think there will be fewer problems with that compared to alcohol and cigarettes. By the way, it is extremely irritating that this typing is on one line and it is difficult to look back at a paragraph, not a good way.

I live within a block of several marijuana dispensaries that have filled long empty spaces in the neighbourhood, they are quiet and discreet, I see no downside to them at the moment and think minimum regulation is required.

I think they should be treated the same as any other business of a similar type. ie. a pharmacy

I do not share the concerns as listed above. To me, these are businesses like any other. They do not bother me or make me fearful in anyway. In fact, I welcome them. I see people with disabilities using these stores. I know of care providers that use these stores to purchase medications for someone they are taking care of at home. I think many people benefit from the relief associated with medical marijuana. I realize many people use marijuana for recreational purposes but would rather they buy this way than from an illegal source. Also, I thought increased foot traffic was a good thing for retail shops and restaurants. My only question is that these businesses follow a basic business license and operate within the confines of the law just as any other business has to in our society.

Odour, safety near restaurants, people driving under the influence, selling to people with fake medical cards

I think the regulations should include a substantial fee for operating such a business, there should be no sales without prescriptions, and there should be absolutely no consumption of products on site. My understanding is that most medical users would not smoke the product but that it would come in capsule or tablet or edible form. I think licensing and hefty fees should be sufficient to safely dispense medical marijuana. I don't think increased foot traffic and nuisance to other businesses is a terribly important consideration. If it were any other type of business that produced this effect, adjacent and nearby businesses would be thrilled. Odour is a concern and could be handled as previously suggested. I think the concern about exposure of young persons to the sale of marijuana is a false concern - this is the 21 century; practically every young person on the planet has access to the internet and probably knows more and has seen more than any of us can imagine. Infiltration of organized crime is a legitimate concern and will remain so as long as these substances are illegal. Remove the illegality and much of the problem with organized crime will leave this arena for another profitable illegal enterprise. The sale to persons without medical need is similar to the sale of tobacco products to minors. Handle it in the same way, with hefty fines for lack of compliance with the regulations and potential loss of the license to sell.

highly suspicious "businesses"--i have seen toddlers in one near me. Fellow tenants tell me customers come out of store and come into our garden and make a nuisance of themselves. I haven;t seen this myself. Thereeems to be one on every block!

My concerns with medical marijuana is the sale to minors and those who are not in medical need.

the number of dispensaries and their location

I'm concerned Victoria's city council will, as Vancouver has, create reactionary rather than effective policy. If policies aren't based on reality, people will ignore any regulatory attempt and render the policy useless, wasting time and money and leaving citizens and staff at risk. If anything else should be considered in this process it's Victorias potential to be a center of cannatourism in the verv near future akin to cowichan or

Napa Valley for wine. BC is famous world wide for our cannabis, and we're very proud of it. Let's share it with the world!

I would like to see a selection of edibles which are very important to patients/clients. For the most part I fully support them and would like to see regulation. Like not in school zones, or near another.

I think the business are completely harmless. If a liquor store is allowed to operate then why would the sale of marijuana be any different. I don't think these types of business cause any harm as long as they are selling to people of age.

people go in and out of these businesses in town and other businesses in the area just like they would groceries and beer for instance.

No concerns

More protection for those operating medical cannabis dispensaries

Cant you state the same thing about businesses that sell alcohol? Bottom line is Marijuana has medical value, and should in my opinion be legalized completley. Any further regulations could prevent somebody from treatment.

none

I am concerned that the regulations will be implemented in a way that will make it difficult for currently operating businesses to provide a full range of products. Even with federal guidelines, it seems that cannabis concentrates in particular remain a point of contention as far as the safety of their production, and the safety of their consumption goes. If properly regulated, businesses would be able to create safe spaces for production of such products instead of having to rely on outside, unregulated sources. This would create a stable flow of the healthiest available forms of medicinal cannabis, which will be crucial in a market that focuses on health. It will be important to have publicly available walk-in options for people who are incapable of acquiring a doctors prescription. It isnt easy for everyone to make that happen, but many people still require the medicine to a greater extent than just being able to vaporize dry herb.

Infiltration to organized crime

Medical Marijuana is a wonderful thing to have access to, IF, and only IF you need it for medicinal reasons - Cancer, chronic pain, anxiety/depression disorders, and other health issues that lead to pain. The policy these companies have put in are amazing, they check all ID's, they do not allow minors to come into the store, they tell you the rules the second you come into the store. They stress the main rule - you do not sell to anyone, this is yours to buy, for your own medical needs. I would hate to see the Medicinal stores die out. I would rather people go to these places, which are clean, under control and supplied straight from the grower. If the community takes away this option, people are back to looking on the streets, getting mixed bags of garbage which could be possibly laced with anything. This is the safest option out there at the moment. If Heroine, Meth, and Crack addicts can have safe areas to get supplies, and cause a huge problem for the community then Medicinal users should be able to have a clean place to buy. Someone who is high

...the community, then... someone who is high on Marijuana is far, far, FAR, less of a threat than someone who is high on Heroine.

I think that there should not be advertising, similar to alcohol and tobacco, but I do not see any other concerns. I feel more foot traffic is a good thing.

I believe it should be available to those in need in a well supervised clinic.

I believe that regulation of cannabis products is a good step forward in the war on the substance. It's has been proven to have so many beneficial properties. The regulation and taxation for the substance is what I believe should happen it would benefit the city of Victoria and the persons whom need the medicine. When it comes to over crowded shopping areas and the smell I think a well ventilated area notifying padestrians that their is a cannabis smoking are indoor/outdoor Thus if so should be monitored for seurity purposes. ie video survalence and security guards if needed after a trial run. If so regulation occurs multiple notifications of mail news/ media should let the citizens of Victoria know of any changes in the state of this problem. I have been a cannabis user on and off my whole life in the beginning it was not something I needed over the years I stopped not needing it. But when events happen and a person needs a medicine like cannabis to help them, I agree it should be regulated for the public. In the past I've gone to un known places meeting unknown people to get this medicine. I've had back problems being a very tall male. Along with insomnia some nights and all I could rely on is natural cannabis to help me. The list goes on for users. It is a medicine and should be regulated. Let out capital put the wave in motion to a new era of regulation and understanding. I hope this gets through to someone because the fact that if I wanted I could kill my liver with the poison alchohol, destroy my lungs and riddle my body with cancer from ciggarettes which neither have any positive attributes. But this natural plant that has been legalised in our southern country America. That has helped so many people even children who suffer from worse ailments then mine can not get this medicine that they rely on with out the struggle. Thank you

Same legislation that governs the sale of liquor should be applied in keeping with black market prices. If taxed to high that will just encourage the illegal trade.

I am full supporter of these businesses. If you live in the downtown region, you should expect that there will be high foot traffic regardless of what business it is. It is no different compared to a liquor store and should be treated equally.

other than selling to minors none

Please consider that shutting places like this down will only drive people to use other methods to obtain marijuana. Much less safe alternatives for both users and the neighborhood they will be sold in. Street level trafficking is way way worse that anythig Trees or anyone else could ever do if they are not inside someone will be outside on the street selling weed to our youth, right beside the coke and meth dealers! THAT is how weed leads to ther drugs, not its use but its proximaty to other temptations!!

i feel much safer buying marijuana with these businesses now operating in Victoria. Trees operating in fernwood seems to be very professional, knowledgable and they are diligent in ID'ing customers.

'Increased foot traffic' is a hilarious complaint for somebody to make. Does exercise offend you? Are you a car salesperson? The medical marijuana facilities that I have visited have all been very professional, quiet, contained, spaces. When I was first introduced to one by a friend, it was made very clear to me by even them, a customer, that I was not to smoke near the building or be disruptive to surrounding businesses. I do think that it is important for these places to have a security guard on site incase the shop is robbed. That's the only thing that I think could be improved! And on a side note, if McDonald's is allowed to sell garbage food to children and pour the incredible amount of garbage that they produce all over this world, it is absolutely proposterous for somebody to say that a nearby cannabis store is a 'nuisance'.

I don't have any concerns. I would like to see a fair business environment for all of these businesses. I enjoy how they are bringing new life to previously empty buildings and creating jobs.

No concerns

While I fully agree that some greater security measures should be implemented to prevent profit loss or violence at dispensaries, I have concerns about increased legislation. It is my opinion that the primary goal of any new proposed legislation should be aimed at increasing safety while simultaneously maintaining the level of accessibility to cannabis for medicinal patients. Many medicinal marijuana patients were prescribed marijuana for anxiety, or social anxiety. As such, a great increase in screening measures and security may make accessing medicinal cannabis difficult for anxiety patients; as they characteristically experience irrational fear and difficulty interacting with others. This leads to difficulty meeting their basic needs. Greatly increased screening measures may make accessing cannabis nearly insurmountable for anxiety sufferers, who in turn may resort to taking their business to drug dealers. Obviously this is not ideal for anyone. Thus I submit that any future legislation should seek first and foremost to not impede patients from obtaining cannabis for which they have a prescription. It is also worth noting that many cannabis patients have limited mobility, are unable to drive, require a wheelchair or may even require a helper in order to access medical care. As such, increasing the number of places a patient must visit in order to obtain a prescription could have disastrous implications for those who have transportation limitations. I am also concerned with the potential for people with, quote, 'No medical need' for cannabis being denied access- This is not a decision that can be made lightly. I would like to see the current level of objectivity maintained or even further broadened. Many anxiety patients rely on having a natural alternative to chemical anxiety medications, which all have a long list of undesirable side effects. These typically include appetite loss, sexual disfunction, suicidal ideation, gynecomastia (development of breasts in males, or 'man boobs'.) headaches, and physical and psychological dependency. (This is taken directly from 'Drug Guide for Psychiatric Nursing, Second Edition by Mary C. Townsend.) Infinging upon a Canadian's right to selecting and obtaining medical care according to their needs and wishes is not something to be taken lightly, and I sincerely hope that any future legislation on this matter does not impede accessibility for patients. Especially when depression, anxiety and PTSD sufferers are often readily prescribed any of a great number of pharmaceutical drugs with little consideration being given to potential side effects. If an anxiety sufferer can be 'experimented on' by general practitioners with several different medications in the space of less than a year, why should anyone be seeking to limit accessibility to cannabis? Thank you for your time and consideration of my opinion.

As a Business owner we are very concerned that there is no regulation on these Business having to comply with having a Business Licence or Food Inspection. Many are baking on site selling food products. We have had numerous customer complaints of the clientel that these Businesses attract as they erratically run in and out and often drive unsafely. As our Business is located near a parking lot we also feel that the people leaving these types of Business tend to linger in the covered areas smoking marijuna all hours of the day. We hope to see some changes very soon as the potential problem is going to get worse.

I am concerned that the regulations will be too strict and made without consideration of harm-reduction policies. I do not want to see business owners gouged and their customers have to pay the costs. Although Cannabis is even less harmful than cigarettes and alcohol, it should be regulated like alcohol so that children under the age of 18/19 can't inhibit their brain development and so adults can enjoy it to enhance their life and cope with their health. I don't see the need for dispensaries to be 2 km away from schools as long as ID is checked.

Regulation is fine as long as it isn't used as a tool to shut places down. As long as everyone is being honest with their business and being transparent there should be no problems.

My only concern is that if the cost of a business licence for these places is too high, they will close, taking with them the jobs they create and support.

I welcome these businesses. I think it's archaic to view this as a nuisance. I have no more issues with children being exposed to the sale of marijuana than I do with the existence of pubs, which have currently changed bylaws to allow children during the day in establishments serving food. I have yet to see drunken children staggering the streets because of these changes. Vic needs to evolve with reality.

Marijuana is much less harmful than alcohol, and causes less problems. The dispensaries should have regulations to reduce harm, but not in a draconian way.

Distance from a school should be discussed. Higher security at dispenserries than 7-11. There should also be a business license available for a business that can sell both medicine in one area, and a seperate area for eating and smoking outside. Proper ventilation and a separation from thrtail environment. Doctors should be allowed to use the facilities on a part time basis to assess and provide prescriptions.

I'm concerned the city will impose new regulations when there are zero problems as it stands. Increased foot traffic is an issue with the city? Seriously? Is odour, food safety and other health issues not covered by existing bylaws?

regarding concerns raised: "Increased foot traffic surrounding businesses" - I would only assume that increased foot traffic to businesses is generally a positive. "Nuisance to other nearby businesses, potentially impacting their customers" this is rather vague. What is the nusance? What is the difference between nusance caused by pot consumers over, say, pepsi consumers? "Odour, food safety and other health issues" If I lived next to a coffee shop or bakery, would I complain about thier odours? "Exposure of young persons to the sale of marijuana" what is the definition of young person here? If there is concern with the

sale to minors, perhaps age regulations should be put in place. As it stands, the weird guy who sells weed on the corner also does not check for ID. "Infiltration of organized crime" this is grounds for legalization and regulation, however we all know that governments are also organized crime syndicates... "Sale to persons without medical need" Who is to say that an individual does not have medical need. Is this question raised concerning other drugs like ibuprophen or coffee?

I'm concerned that edible marijuana will remain difficult to obtain while alcohol and tobacco continue to flourish.

My main concern is losing my ability to get medical marijuana from a SAFE and RELIABLE source. Since visiting the dispensary I have noticed a HUGE difference in quality and the medicinal effects. The stuff I bought on the street was never the same nor did I know where it came from and the effects varied. I think safety is vastly important for the well being of staff and customers but since I have been visiting the dispensary I have had zero concerns regarding this.

I do not have a high level of concern. The businesses have been very discrete and hasn't been a nuisance. I've barely noticed them. I think people who need access to marijuana should have it. If there should be regulations on this, have the same regulations as a pharmacy. Or if you consider marijuana to be more like alcohol, have regulations similar to that.

I deeply appreciate the freedom of access that comes with these businesses. they are well managed and equitable grey market businesses and employers that offer an excellent alternative to criminal enterprises in our community

I think the marijuana businesses are mostly good. There are 2 within two blocks of my business and I have no negative experiences to report. I would like some assurances that they will not be robbed or targets for violence.

I fully support the existence of dispensaries in Victoria. My father-in-law switched from using pain meds to medicinal marijuana and now he's the happiest and healthiest I've ever seen him. I don't use marijuana personally, but its use should not be limited just because it makes some people uncomfortable. I live near a dispensary and all the customers and staff are friendly people who don't disrupt the community. My only concern is the safety of customers and staff regarding theft and other forms of crime.

Ensure that the business are regulated the same as other businesses and not within a grey area. If food is being served ensure that they are compliant the same as a coffee shop or convenience store. If simply serving pre-packaged merchandise similar to a hardware store, etc then ensure the same regulations apply

My concerns are very minor. The staff are amazing and so helpful

none

I don't see how dispensaries can be a nuisance to other businesses- as dispensaries are businesses themselves, just trying to help people access medication. I really don't think odor should be considered an issue either. A bakery isn't held accountable for the aromas spilling into the surrounding air, why should

dispensaries? People keep looking at them like they are eyesores or harmful. I feel very grateful to live in a city with multiple dispensaries. I have chronic health issues and having access to marijuana has been a godsend. I had to get a doctor to confirm my diagnosis to be able to get a dispensary membership card. I understand that not all dispensaries do that, though I think it's a good way to weed out who really needs it. It's unfair to criminalize people for use of this medicine. And quick access is important-especially during a flare up with my conditions. Some places are open later, some places have better prices, or better selection. It's important for me to talk to the dispensary workers to help me make the best decision on what strain I should use for what symptoms I'm experiencing. It would be a shame to see this business get shut down, and it would become a great struggle for many people in Victoria with medical conditions.

I think the dispensaries we deal with are very responsible. I understand, and agree with, concerns regarding sales to minors. Food needs to be held to the same standard as other foodstuffs sold commercially. I understand the odour can be a problem, however there are other businesses that also deal with a scent problem--what do they do? I admit I am not knowledgeable about

My concern is that the Federal Government is run by religious zealots that do not want to permit the use of pot based on their beliefs.

I believe as long as the business is only serving people over 19, and are not around schools or children that they should be allowed to operate as is. The ones that I have witnessed seem clean, and legitimate so I have no concerns about safety of myself or those using the services.

You can't stop people using marijuana but you can take the money out of the hands of organized crime.

I am for these businesses being regulated. I would expect food and health safety to be checked, the products should be fully labelled with information, all customers should have ID checked like any smoke or liquor store.

Don't change a thing, everything is already fine the way it is. No minors are getting it any easier, because weed's already easier to get on the street than alcohol as a minor.

edibles need to be allowed for the dispensaries as a lot of patients can't smoke marijuana but still need the medicine

Just treat the medical marijuana dispensaries like any other business. Most of the concerns noted in this survey aren't concerns of mine nor of most of my fellow Victorians whom I've known. However I would prefer that only nonprofit or co-operative organization be licenced to distribute and not any corporations.

There are no concerns and no issues with these types of businesses for me.

I fully support the operation of marijuana dispensaries in Victoria. Since the opening of two such operations within a few kilometers of my residence, I have not observed any of the adverse effects mentioned as concerns above. I find it absolutely outrageous that the federal government continues to lobby for marijuana prohibition, and I am extremely proud of the city of Victoria for acting as a trail blazer in redressing these senseless laws.

As long as the dispensaries are doing their due diligence in not selling to minors, my feeling is that they are a business like any other and should be treated with the same respect.

Anyone over the age of 19 should be give the right to chose if they need marijuana. Prohibition is not working at all, it might as well be fully legal. Medical or not Canadians deserve the freedom to chose to use marijuana without fear of prosecution and without having to engage in or support criminal activity.

I live off Harold Street. There are two new pot dispensaries the green dragon and a newer one in the 500 block when the Green Dragon arrived it was quiet and there was no change to the neighborhood when the second one arrived it became apparent that there was a new clientele arriving on our streets and that thing is not quite right. I suspect the second shop is selling more than just marijuana . If this is so obvious to the neighborhood must be obvious to the police and swift action for illegal activity still has to be observed

I would like to see these business only being allowed to operate in commercial based areas, away from any schools. Any advertising on the outside of the business should also not dipict any sale of medical Marijuana. I've been into many of these stores, they work and 99% of the clients are extremely polite and curious. Very safe.

I don't see how it's different than liquor. Except less health risks.

i have no issues. pawn shops and liquor stores are something to worry about not these medicinal shops

I'm not clear on the perimeters these businesses operate with now but I am for the decriminalization and legalization of marijuana and want to see these aces operated safely and fairly for everyone in our community.

It should be treated just the same as a liquor store.

All dispensaries should be legal in Victoria BC and Canada. Not 500ft from a school. Tax and regulate the product to pay for the city's homelessness and other projects to help the city. Allowing access to fully legal erb dispensaries will automatically curb any criminal issues the same as all liquor stores. Natural pharmacy business licence. There will always be the one's who seek it for purely medicinal reasons but the majority use it to not buy pharmaceutical drugs. This is an essential services business that must be allowed, regulated and one that will benefit the whole city.

We live 2 blocks from the Farmacy on Scott & Hillside. **Personal information** due to all the concerns listed above, and also the terrible stench wafting into her property.

Keep licensing fees reasonable, so regular folks can access safe medicine.

Dispensaries should be allowed and regulated, cannabis buds, derivatives and edibles should all be sold. Keep them away 200m from children's areas, tax them fairly.

Minors should not have access. Stiff penalties for selling to minors.

I see no problem with it. It's not much different then a liquor store the same problems exist there.

These facilities provide a much needed source of affordable medicine as is our charter right. With the federal government making a mess of the medical regime, dispensaries, though technically illegal are a filling a void for those unwilling to buy off the street or unable to grow our own. In addition, dispensaries provide numerous options not available from federally regulated sources under the MMPR, despite the supreme Court proving that medical cannabis is more than just dried flowers. Regulating and licensing these businesses will provide a much needed structure to this new industry and help to combat the problems noted in your intro. (PS in Colorado theyade so much tax \$ they might have to give some back through some obscure loophole... We're not so rich to not consider the fiscal implications are we?

I work at one of the dispensaries, and my primary concern is the possibility of losig my job. Dispensaries seem to pay better than comparable work in other industries, and provide a number of jobs that pay a living wage. I hope that people realize that this plant can really help people medically, and boost the local economy.

No concerns pertaining to dispensaries. Our neighbours are a dispensary and they are courteous, compassionate, professional and very supportive of our respective business. I have more concerns about police brutality, targeting of marginalized individuals in our neighbourhood by police and the lack of social services for said marginalized individuals. I'd rather provide the community the choice to use alternative forms of medications to decrease their reliance on toxic, capitalist pharmaceuticals. I find the increasing number of developments building unaffordable condo units far more of a concern than local businesses providing legitimate services and products to our community. Stop clutching your pearls and get with the 21st century. People smoke weed for far more than recreational reasons.

Cards should be easy and sale should be recreational. Regulate like alcohol, 19+ with valid gov. ID. Let them have their business licenses so they can pay their taxes and get banks to sign them. Having cash laying around or sitting in bank acct. waiting to be accepted as legit is causing more danger than not allowing. These businesses have their own mandate for informing their customers about safe keeping of their medical purchases and informing their families. Also suppliers have strict rules regarding non-child like packaging, safety labels, and dosage regulation. Let people have their food safety certs. and work with edible products just like other businesses. The vicPD don't want to be charging a middle aged woman with \$200 fines for possessing \$30 worth of dried cannabis flowers. Let BC be the Amsterdam of the north, we already have tourism as our main financial driving force in this city. Let's make it safe for those who come here to experience it.

I personally have no issue with marijuana dispensaries, for medical marijuana or recreational. In terms of regulations, of course customers should be of 19 years of age, as per alcohol.

they need to collect and pay taxes like real business, pay employee unemployment cpp and incometax. other wise its just drug dealing.

Be a non for profit under the society act. Have photo ID club card. No Doctor should be asking money for acceptance. No consumption at the club.

These businesses are providing an essential service for a lot of medical marijuana users. The fear of exposure of young people to marijuana is unfounded as no minors are allowed in those establishments. I live within a 2 km radius from many dispensaries, and I've never noticed odours emanating from the premises. My concern is that other businesses may be lying about the nuisance to other businesses, is there a way to quantify those claims? The Vic Pd concerns are legitimate and they should provide help with the safety aspect, whether in the form of training, or business practices.

I live a block away from Nation Access Cannabis and have never noticed any adverse effects on the neighbourhood stemming from it. I would simply ask that the city consider successful models elsewhere, such as Seattle or Boulder.

The only concern I can see is the last one: the lack of effective security measures. I shopped at "Farmacy" on Scott St. and they had a security guard. Seems like a good idea. Doesn't bother the customers/ business, but adds security.

I think that all the concerns are minimal compared to the impact dispensaries provide for people like myself, cancer patients who can't afford the 275.00 to get a card and whose doctor will not sign off on it due to her own fears of repercussions. Liquor stores are all over, with great foot traffic and people throng through their doors each day, and we don't care about the security, the exposure to young people, the increased traffic or that alcoholics are buying alcohol. I have never seen improper conduct around the dispensaries that I've seen myself. It saddens that just south of us in Washington, they manage to be intelligent enough to manage all of this with grace. It frustrates me that those of us with cancer have to beg, sneak etc to get the help we need.

I am glad it has become more accessible to the citizens of Victoria. I'm not sure what more should be done, but I think an efficient licensing practice will be beneficial. These businesses are helpful to many citizens in our community and make medical marijuana an accessible, safe, regulated option for citizens who have otherwise been barred in the past.

I 100% support sensible regulations that are not overly burdensome on the dispensaries. Frankly I don't believe they, in and of themselves, pose any inherent risk or problem to nearby businesses or the public. The more the dispensaries exist, the fewer problems with the more underground black market dealers. Sensible guidelines should be surrounding making sure adequate means of dealing with smells are addressed (such as charcoal filters) if neighbours have a problem with it.

I think trees seems to be a fantastic company that takes pride in following the rules.

zero concerns....Just legalize it.

Zero concerns.

Cannabis should be more accessible for people that are marginalized from the medical system, or who need it for harm reduction purposes

People who complain are overreacting. 1-2) "Foot traffic" and "nuisance" are non-issues. Anyone that lives

near *any* store could say the same thing. 3) Dispensaries are places you purchase marijuana, not smoke it, so "odour" is also a non-issue. 4) Young people cannot purchase marijuana at dispensaries because they sell only to those 19 and older 5) Organized crime is only an issue because marijuana is illegal in the first place. Dispensaries can be the key to changing that. 6) "Without medical need" how does this affect those who are complaining? Reminds me of the person in Kelowna saying they will take the rainbow-coloured cross walks to the Supreme Court. The dispensaries in this city should remain open with little regulation. They provide an important service to the community.

I believe its the best way to control the sale of it.

100% Legalization for non-medicinal use by all residents and visitors; Businesses to be licensed and regulated in line with Cold Beer & Wine stores; A promise that the city will go to bat for their local, hardworking, taxpaying business owners including service and protection from VicPD;

Same or similar regulations and laws governing alcohol should apply.

This is probably not a particularly helpful comment, because it would require action from the provincial government, but I favour selling marihuana through the BC Liquor Stores. That protects children and deals with security, nuisance, and foot traffic issues,

Nothing. They are working fine as is.

I don't care if people use it medically, I do care that the smell makes me sick and people like me are completely ignored when it comes to laws about it.

Post 'no admission under 19'

All illegal activity should be stopped and the criminals arrested.

No concerns what so ever.

I dont smoke pot, but i do think it should be legalized and regulated. Make strict ID policy like the BC liquor stores. Im 28 and still get asked for ID.

People I know with no medical issues simply fill out the questionnaire and are able to purchase marijuana from these dispensaries. This is selling to people without need and highly questionable.

My main concern is for the people who use Marijuana as medicine will not be able to acess it if more shops must close due to higher regulations. As far as young people being exposed go the sale of Marijuana, having so many dispensaries arround can open the dialogue from adults to young people about how this substance effects their bodies so much that people use it for medicine, but that does not mean that they should be taking it. Opening the doors for education about the substance and breaking down stereotypes about people who use weed, can only help in the long term. I do not consume marijuana at all but I hope the people who use it for a multitude of health reasons can still acess their medicine and live life not feeling like a criminal and being ostracised for taking their medicine. I also pass by several medical marijuana shops daily and don't even think about their presence, I just hope more people feel the same way.

Legalize it! It's an amazing plant and helps many people. I'm happy to see vacant building being used for business.

There should definitely be a STRICT age limit of 19 for entry to any facility. Taxes should also be higher for these businesses.

Greater taxation, limitations to exposure much like cigarettes, zero odour should be permitted, greater security required for staff and public

I think the City should take the advice of the Cannabis Buyers Club, since they have operated in Victoria successfully for so many years. I have no issues with clubs being around the city.

I think realistically, we need to be treating dispensaries like all these "natural supplement" stores. Tax them, do whatever, but don't take away people's access to a medicinal product.

tax it.

I'm a medical marijuana patient with severe chronic hip pain. Medical Marijuana has let me cut down on opiod painkillers by 50-100% on a daily basis. Medical Marijuana is not federally approved for joint pain but I can take it thanks to Victorias lenient system. Please don't push further regulation, it would cause me more pain than the few people abusing the system. Instead, push for greater discretion and stop the dispensaries from acting like businesses with flashy signs and open doors.

I have no concerns at all. Marijuana is relatively harmless, lots of the above concerns could be applied to say, a Tobacconist. It doesn't seem likely that organized crime would come about from registered dispensaries, in fact, it seems like the opposite would happen, as you take away business from drug dealers in the community. Also, why do these shops need more security measures? there's probably less value in a dispensary than a jewellery shop, yet we're not overly concerned for those.

I think the most important things here are regulating the amount that it is taxed and controlling for organized crime. As far as taxing, many people will use marijuana in the same sense that they would liquor. Therefor I think it needs to be taxed in the same drastic way. As for controlling organized crimes involvement it would seem the government needs to be more involved with the production and sale but I'm not knowledgable enough on the specifics for that.

Police should be prevented from hassling marijuana-related businesses.

Look at Colorado does it and get us a tax surplus. What are you waiting for? When it's legal it won't be worth anything and the market will collapse from home growers (how it should be). Plus: would you rather fight with 4 drunks or 10 stoners? All of the above questions you have in this survey could be applied to the liquor store and the same precautions should be taken. Smarten up and light up.

They should be regulated to the same extent as businesses that serve alcohol..

They should be allowed but they should have to have a security officer posted at all times to clear away the

freeloaders and crazy people who stand around outside waiting to buy weed from people who have bought it. Also they can kick young kids out who have prescriptions because of 'anxiety'

Regulations regarding security seem important.

I believe dispensaries should be able to operate provided they prove they are being responsible and proactive to ensure their customers well being. Having worked in a liquor store down town for several years has given me an insight into the distribution of a controlled substance. At the liquor store I was threatened and had to deal with aggressive situations almost daily. This would not happen at dispensaries. The difference between alcohol and cannabis are huge. Its amazing to see the stink people make about cannabis and think nothing of alcohol. People have a skewed perception of what "marijuana users" are like. I thought foot traffic for business was a good thing? But not if its a smelly weed junkie right? Most people accessing dispensaries are people that really do need cannabis to treat a medical issue, be that physical pain, anxiety disorders or depression. In regards to safety of product, Dispensaries could be held responsible for the quality of product they sell. Odour should not be a problem if all products are packaged properly as they should be. Possibly child proof and with strength labelled so you know what you are getting. Just like other medication. No consumption of cannabis should be done at a dispensary. So who/ what is causing this odour? Minors should not be served and the staff should take proper measures to ensure due diligence. I doubt they would have much minors in anyways as its probably easy enough to find some weed without having to go into that professional looking establishment and pay twice as much. Dispensaries should probably have some security measures in place for all the "dolla dolla bills y'all" that they will be bringing in. Best Wishes

No concerns pertaining to dispensaries. Our neighbours are a dispensary and they are courteous, compassionate, professional and very supportive of our respective business. I have more concerns about police brutality, targeting of marginalized individuals in our neighbourhood by police and the lack of social services for said marginalized individuals. I'd rather provide the community the choice to use alternative forms of medications to decrease their reliance on toxic, capitalist pharmaceuticals. I find the increasing number of developments building unaffordable condo units far more of a concern than local businesses providing legitimate services and products to our community. Stop clutching your pearls and get with the 21st century. People smoke weed for far more than recreational reasons.

All those so called concerns are really that concerning complaining about the smell ?? Well I can't stand the smell of curry or patchouli but it's unrealistic to petition for them to shut down Indian restaurants and the traffic you would think would be welcomed to increase business for other retailers I honestly think that people are taking their so called minor concerns too far it is better to have it in a controlled environment rather than being felt on the streets being laced with whatever marihuana heals and helps take the mind off pain it's better to take it rather than being hopped up on pills ect ... I believe that what is I place now works and people need to stop trying to over control this industry.

I believe that we should regulate all stores within Victoria. While setting up a framework to prevent too many dispensaries from opening in a single area

no concerns

no concerns.

The businesses should be properly ventilated so that marijuana cannot be smelled from the street. A prescription from a medical doctor should be required to purchase marijuana.

I'm concerned with not being able to access my chosen dispensary with my current convenience for my disabilities.

These stores are in violation of the CDSA and should be shut down. Their claim of medical legitimacy is a sham and most customers were previously and continue to be recreational users. I support legal recreational use, but not this faux medical use, it promotes people to make up and exaggerate their health problems leading to decreased well being in the rest of their life.

keep them restricted to areas away from schools, regulate them the same as porn and liquor stores.

Do not get rid of dispensaries. They are valuable to many

Victoria's reputation should be better than "overflowing with pot houses." Stinking up our beautiful city for the sake of a few loses wanting temporary "happy feelings" is absolutely disgusting.

No concerns, regulate them like liquor stores.

As long as they are respectful to their neighbours & don't sell to minors I have no major concerns.

strict rules against bringing kids in the store (You can't buy pot when you're taking care of a kid, one-week store ban consequence, one month?); criminal background checks for employees, owners (is this done for BC liquor store employees? Is sale to underage people a big problem with alcohol?); reasonable prescription limits (minimize resale potential, a pharmacist cannot provide 1000 vicodin to one person)

These dispensaries are a step in the right direction. The most important thing is to tax, regulate, and keep it out of the hands of children. By making it government controlled and facilitated, you take money and power away from gangs.

I don't have many concerns, I just became a patient due to a severe knee injury and before I got my card, I barely even noticed their existence in the city. It isn't easy to get a card and they're very strict about their sales. It kills black market sales as well. I do not see any concerns regarding it, as long as they stay strict on selling.

I don't have concerns.

i don't have concerns. I'm much more concerned about liquor stores then I am about dispensaries. I work next to a liquor store and constantly have to deal with drunk people stumbling into my grocery store. I never worry about someone who I can smell marijuana on. I know they're just there to grab a bag of chips and some candy.

I suffer from Crohn's disease. The symptoms I typically face are severe pain, internal bleeding, nausea, and many more unpleasant things. I am very greatfull of the dispensaries which have opened up (particularly the

onesame with longer operating records like the VCBC) as they've given me the ability to make it through flare ups of my disease without needing to use massive amounts of corticosteroids for inflammation and opiates for pain; obviously it is beneficial to not use opiates with a severe intestinal issue. I am worried that new regulations could potentially limit access to patients like myself who suffer from debilitating illnesses. I believe that taxes similar to those applied to alcohol would be a bad idea as it is already fairly expensive to access this medicine as it is not covered by any form of health plan. Although I would be in favour of taxes provided medical users with confirmed conditions are exempt from paying them.

Consider Seniors with pain and limited income. PLEASE

19+ with ID is fine by me

I have specific comments I would like to share but this form will not allow enough characters to state them, or line breaks. Please fix this!

I think they're an important business, but there do seem to be too many of them popping up. I don't want them to go away, but I would like to see firm rules enforced. Can they be restricted and policed in the same way the tobacco shops are? Will they send in underaged/people without a medical need in to buy- and fine the shop if they are ignoring the rules little other retailers?

No concerns. People are overreacting

No concerns.

I think that regulations should be put in place that allow dispensaries to operate, but which govern how they operate. Like shops that sell tobacco or "adult" products, strict age and visibility regulations should be enforced: no product displayed should be visible from the street, government issued ID must be presented and a record kept (not necessarily one which identifies people, only which verifies that ID was checked and is valid). VicPD, the City of Victoria, and the dispensaries should work together to not only form these regulations, but also reach out to the communities they operate in to address concerns and educate.

The whole "easier for kids to get" thing is a myth, and at the very least would ensure that everyone is getting clean product, so I have no issues there. I think when you look at places like farmacy you see a level of professionalism and responsibility that can really make this whole thing a benefit, opposed to the shady ones like gorge and the one on cook st. Make it hard to open a dispensary but attainable so long as the absolute highest standards are held. This helps everyone.

As I am in favour of legalizing marijuana for all uses, I believe dispensaries should be treated similarly to liquor stores.

The concerns that are at the forefront for me are 1) the sale of marijuana to those without medical need or a prescription; 2) consumption of the product outside the point of sale and 3) the security measures that are required. The City needs to ensure that part of the regulations require an adequate amount of security which would dissuade those wishing to try to break in and perhaps moving on to other homes or cars that are nearby. A dispensary has opened up directly next door to my building in North Park and the owner has been

quite friendly and agreeable and we have had no problems with this gentleman or any of his customers, thus far. His employees on the other hand have caused complaints with regards to the consumption of their merchandise on the roof of their building, in the back parking lot (which is shared with our building) and noise after hours hosting others in the store late into the night. This needs to be regulated as well. I fully support the City in making medical marijuana legally available and easily accessible to those who need it.

Not sure why anyone would care if there is a medical need or not, none of our business. Alcohol is more detrimental to society and people themselves, yet that is readily available for EVERYONE. I think the statement that infiltration of organized crime is a concern is ridiculous and has been put on the list as a scare tactic, if it was a big concern, it should have been mentioned as a concern by the police as well, not just the general public. Set a minimum age to sell to, require that proper security measures are in place, and set a limit on the number of business that may apply to run within a certain distance of each other.

Considering the prevalence of marijuana use in society, and the success of legalization in Colorado and Washington, revisiting the legality of marijuana sale can only be a good thing. The concerns about "foot traffic" being increased is laughable. Businesses want more foot traffic, they just want to hate on someone. Keeping young persons away from the drug... how well has keeping young persons away from alcohol worked? Prohibition doesn't work. What does work is education. Create programs to educate people on the drug, allow people to make the decisions for themselves knowing the risks and you'll have a more informed society as a result, and thus one less likely to engage in criminal antics because they are getting proper education.

Dispensary businesses should be granted licenses to operate legally like any other store. 24 hour security should be mandatory. No minors should be allowed in the stores.

None.

I am a recreational marijuana user and I think there are too many of them. There needs to be more regulation on the amount of dispensaries that can exist in a particular area. An over-saturation of these businesses will undermine the public's opinion about marijuana's legitimacy for medical usage, as well as contribute to delaying the outright legalization for recreational purposes. There is a smart way to introduce these dispensaries to our city, and too many too soon isn't it. .

The concerns you have listed are ridiculous. 1) Increased foot traffic surrounding businesses ... Most businesses are pleased to have increased foot traffic in their neighborhood, because they want to attract new customers. 2. Nuisance ... Just what is the nuisance? What about the nuisance of noise and toxic fumes from the harbor to harbor flights. 3) Odor ... again, what about the odor from harbor to harbor exhaust; what about the odor from cruise ship exhaust; what about waffle cone order pumped into the street; what about the high perfume odor from various businesses on Government street; etc. 4) Exposure of young persons to the sale of marijuana ... WOW! That is a real laugh. Marijuana is pretty readily available in just about every high school in the city. The dispensaries generally do NOT sell to minors; and generally do not even allow minors on the property. 5) Infiltration of organized crime ... Bull! The whole point of the dispensaries is to circumvent organized crime. 6) Sales to persons without medical need ... The dispensary I go to REQUIRES a certification by an M.D. (not a naturopath) that you have one of the government designated conditions before

certification by an independent pharmacy, and you have one of the government-designated conditions before you are allowed to purchase. ALL of the concerns you have listed might well apply to any standard pharmacy. Prohibition does not work ... never has and never will.

The more pot shops, the more people who will not have to buy from the black market, giving legit business customers and taking away customers from illegitimate dealers

Just legalize and regulate it, and stop playing the children card. You already expose them to the sale of alcohol and tobacco.

I don't see any reason to introduce new regulations. I've seen no harm as a result of these businesses rising in my community or elsewhere in Victoria. In fact, I believe there is a reduction in street level drug sales as a result, so I see a net positive effect.

Obviously minors should not be permitted to purchase marijuana, otherwise I don't think it should be over-regulated.

Concerns mentioned above are all highly speculative/prejudiced. Victoria should be ready to adapt as the economic impact of impending Marijuana legalization/decriminalization takes effect. If we impose regulations now, business ventures that might otherwise be successful in the future as federal legislation changes could be undermined significantly. Marijuana-related tourism and export could be a boon for Victoria. Let's not jump the gun and preclude success in this area.

Legalise it, this will remove the crime element. All other issues are irrelevant.

I don't see a problem now if anything the appearance of these outlets has lessened the illicit drug dealing downtown.

No concern whatsoever I am 100% for the legalization

I have no issues with these businesses selling marijuana, as long as consuming it on public property is prohibited, just like alcohol. None of the "concerns" listed above should be even humoured as valid counter arguments. Prohibition is NOT the way to deal with marijuana. Prohibition enables criminals to prosper by selling the substance tax-free, and it costs huge amounts of resources from our justice system to enforce. Marijuana only requires the same kind of regulation as we already use for cigarettes and alcohol, and no more.

I think they are great, they should be legalized and taxed. So much good has come to places that has legalized it via tax income, tourism and other business opportunities.

let them be, don't let Ottawa shut them down.

There are a lot of them and the frosted glass everywhere stands out. I have no issue with them in general, and I think the demand is there so the city shouldn't overdo it, but something to make them less concentrated and less conspicuous.

I don't believe much more regulation should be in place. Perhaps a density limit or increase in discretionary

measures to assuage the concerns of the concerned. However the accessibility is a good thing, and my main concern is that draconian regulations will further increase the stigma and dissuade those who need it from seeking out medicinal marijuana.

Stricter regulations on the businesses should be in place, as well as very thorough routine checks of inventories by a third party (Preferably government officials) to ensure that none of the marijuana only goes to those who need it

I am okay with the marijuana dispensaries in and around Victoria. I have visited one and it has been discrete - no impact to the businesses surrounding it, and not visible from major roads.

Should pay for a business license like any other business, should only sell to those individuals with prescriptions for medical marijuana, marijuana smoking should have similar by-laws to cigarette smoking (cannot smoke within certain distance of entrances to public places etc.)

The people who are buying from dispensaries without a medical need are going to be buying anyway. If restrictions on the legal sale of marijuana cause too much hassle for buyers, or cause a significant price increase compared to illegal sales, people will return to buying it illegally.

I am not a user. It is my opinion that it should be easier to get for people who need it, or feel they need it medicinally. As for the dispensaries they are no more noticeable or intrusive than coffee shops.

I don't think the dispensaries are a big deal. The concerns of theft would not exist if marijuana was fully legalized. I will state a cliché and reiterate that the responsible use of cannabis is often quite beneficial to the users of it and has far less negative impact than alcohol on the individual and people surrounding the user in society. These businesses must not be stigmatized and should be enabled to continue to provide marijuana at a fair price. Marijuana sales should not be conflated with those of alcohol or tobacco as Marijuana is used for scientifically proven medical purposes whereas tobacco and alcohol are solely recreational. I am happy that our city is working on ways to de-stigmatize and support people who require marijuana.

I think there is a need for their existence, but the number and visibility of dispensaries should be reduced.

Beyond restricting sales to minors, I believe marijuana should be as legal, and managed in the same way, as alcohol sales and consumption.

That it be regulated like any other retail business - fairly and legally.

I believe that medical marijuana is good for some people. My concerns are: the level of addictability (?) in regards to young persons having access, and to persons w/out medical need. I am also concerned about possible increase of organized crime

Why are people concerned about cannabis? shouldn't the focus be on the harder drugs that can actually screw up lives? I've seen my father screw up his life, would like to not watch others.

No concerns. Let them operate like any other business e.g. liquor store or restaurant

I would think that increased foot traffic around dispensaries would be positive for surrounding businesses. I also believe legitimizing the dispensaries would reduce organized crime, we don't spend much police power on speak easies any more. As far as the rest of the issues I don't see how they differ from those provided by the increase in cold beer and wine stores in the past decade.

My concerns are that of organized crime. Who owns these businesses? Who do they associate with? where does the product come from?

Marijuana Dispensaries should have more support from municipality as they are providing an essential service. The issue is that they are being marginalized and targetted by the police, as are medical marijuana users. As someone with **Personal information**, Medical Marijuana provides pain and other symptom relief that simply isn't availabkle to me via any other route due to severe intolerances to most parmaceutical pain relieving drugs. It is very frustrating to continually find myself marginalized by my need to use marijuana. I would like to see the City of Victoria work directly with the dispensaries to create programs educating the public as to the benefits of using marijuana and enabling dispensaries to be recognized for the healthcare services they are providing to thousands of critically ill people in the CRD. In Vancouver similar dispensaries have added other holistic services to their clients, such as a herbal medicine dispensary, and access to acupuncture, and massage. The Vics dispensary on cormorant street, which is the oldest and one of the most reputable dispensaries in Victoria operates next to a community acupuncture clinic, and they work well together; each respecting the services of the other. It's a testament to how things can be done.

Personal information I experience from my symptoms. If you want to clamp down in illegal marijunana sales to Kids, then you need to address the illegal dealers, and the RCMP are the ones to do that because marijuana from dispensaries is CLEAN, and uncontaminated with chemicals and other drugs like fentayl, or speed. Dispensaries are here to stay, embrace them, work with them, and help get rid of the drug pushers and dealers.

I think the access to people who need it is excellent. Regulation of businesses just because they sell something that "some" may find as unsavoury is not a fair practice. I feel that everyone should have the freedom to access medication they might need.

All medical marijauna is doing producing a group of people who are insane, self induced insanity. We as a society are being insane letting them hide behind the medical, a word to be respected.

I think regulation is a good thing if for nothing other than making sure they are being operated safely. like any business

No concerns beyond ensuring that regulation takes a sensible approach based on harm reduction, and an understanding that marijuana needs to be treated like alcohol, a potent mind altering drug with both positive and negative consequences to users and to society.

I have no concerns regarding the marijuana-related businesses in Victoria. I hope that they thrive and continue to allow safe access to medical marijuana.

The fears of marijuana are old and outdated

no concerns

My main concern is a broad one---I don't want to see regulations introduced that are based on prejudice or misinformation, and I want to see regulations applied consistently. For the record, I use marijuana for neuropathy caused by chemotherapy. I am not a business owner.

1. Increased foot traffic: Wouldn't any successful retail business increase foot traffic? As long as the business is in an area that is zoned for retail, why is this a problem?
2. Nuisance: What kind of nuisance? This is very vague, so it's hard to respond to. The dispensary that I use does not allow its customers to hang about the store front or have their product in the open. That seems reasonable.
3. Odour etc: I've never noticed an odour outside the dispensary that I use but I can see how that would be a concern. I would love to see some regulations around the odours produced by businesses, for example, there's a soap store on Government St that reeks. The smell of float plane exhaust and cruise ship smoke are really offensive (choking), too, and they are also a health concern **Personal information** and airplane exhaust is a carcinogen). In terms of food safety, I think marijuana dispensaries should have to follow the same regulations as any other business that produces or sells food.
4. Youth: First, youth are exposed in other ways, so we mustn't delude ourselves that hiding or disguising marijuana dispensaries will prevent youth from exposure. The dispensary that I use is very discreet---you would never know from the outside what kind of business it is. We could treat marijuana sales like we treat cigarette sales and keep it hidden. Second, this seems hypocritical, since we openly sell alcohol and pharmaceutical drugs.
5. Organized crime: Infiltration into what? I don't understand how a sensible, measured approach to the production and distribution of marijuana results in infiltration of organized crime. I would think that it has the opposite effect. The dispensary I use keeps prices as low as they can, which makes it a poor option for criminal activity.
6. Medical need: We have some empirical evidence of marijuana's efficacy in treating certain medical conditions, and we have a lot of anecdotal evidence of its efficacy in treating a whole slew of medical conditions. The dispensary I use requires medical proof that you suffer from one of the recognized conditions. If all dispensaries did that, a lot of people would suffer. We don't have enough empirical evidence to define "medical need" and it will take years to get it. Also, disallowing the recreational use of marijuana is just plain hypocritical, since we openly allow and encourage the use of alcohol. We continue to expand the alcohol industry with more wineries, breweries, and specialty wine stores but we're going to deny people the right to buy marijuana? That defies reason.

In summary, I would like to see marijuana dispensaries treated like other retail businesses. They should have to follow the same regulations as other retail businesses. Furthermore, we should be consistent in how we apply the regulations. We should impose similar regulations on non-marijuana-related businesses that we impose on marijuana-related businesses.

I don't see any problems on regulations as is since most of the dispensaries are pretty well kept and out of the way of other businesses.

The City of Victoria and the VPD should work closely with the dispensaries to provide mechanisms ensuring that cannabis will not be sold to minors, ideally modelled after the systems we have in place for alcohol and tobacco. While these systems aren't perfect, they are the best option we have without burdening the dispensaries with excessive regulation that will ultimately harm patients seeking medication for their

conditions.

No concerns. The businesses are less harmful than liquor store

Sustainability

No concerns.

Alternative administration should be considered favorably, and checking government issued ID upon each visit should be mandatory, some of the club cards are easy to fake.

Regulations should focus on keeping marijuana away from children and teens similar to tobacco and alcohol.

I hope that Council will resist the temptation to charge restrictive fees for these businesses. The last thing I want is for small businesses to be forced out by high costs. I also want Council to continue standing up for the will of the electorate, which is clearly in favor of legalization. Since the Federal government is intent on fighting this cause against the will of local people, it's up to us to stand up for our rights.

No concerns. I want the dispensaries.

No concerns.

I do not have concerns. I disagree with the existing concerns. I believe they should be treated with similar regulations to other retail outlets.

I think regulations should focus on 1. Age verification 2. Removal of advertising (like tobacco) and 3. Safety practices like CCTV or a police presence to avoid violence. Be careful, don't regulate too much, or we'll go back to street dealers and that's much less safe.

Legalize the sale of

No new regulations for medical marijuana-related business in Victoria please.

I believe that municipal regulations will be band aids at best. Marijuana should be legalized, licensed and taxed, just like alcohol.

I am concerned that my husband who has severe and debilitating Crohn's, won't be able to easily access MJ (the only substance currently able to help his pain management). Please continue to allow the dispensaries to continue. His doctor is "against" MJ and his specialist claims he is under censure by the Canadian Medical Assoc to not prescribe to anyone not terminal. It is ridiculous. Only the city's bylaws are able to help him currently. Thank you for standing up to a flawed system.

I have no concerns. We have more important things to worry about than harmless pot smokers. This drug aids many people with chronic problems. If we can learn anything from Colorado and Washington is that with proper regulation and security measures, the cannabis industry can flourish given the opportunity.

I think it's great, it lets people know alternative uses for cannabis. It also provides an avenue to educational

information for users of medical marijuana.

ease of access to medicines, decrease stigma associated with use, onus on medical use (including educating youth (children!)),

I worry about the qualifications one needs to use these dispensaries. I also worry about the goods being sold after purchase, to a third party. In my opinion, this step makes it much more readily available to abuse.

My main concern is that it is not sold to anyone under age and that the stores don't become targets or robbery. I think some sort of regulation needs to be put in place to limit the total number of shops or proximity of shops, but overall (even though I don't frequent these stores) I think they are important and must remain open and available to the public. In short, I do believe some regulation is needed, but if those rules and restrictions become too harsh and citizens lose valued access to medical marijuana, the entire thing will be a giant waste of taxpayers money and time.

I'm concerned about the security of the staff. It seems they are likely to be robbed, and need better security measures (heightened police presence would be ideal)

I want to be sure that regulations are set in place so that medical marijuana-related businesses operating in Victoria are in areas that are safe with well lit streets. I also want to be sure that their products are available in various forms, including pre-made edibles. I would also request that the all have printed information onsite that they send home with clients, regarding dosage, side effect, possibly uses, different forms available, and easy access to resources for if you have any medical questions.

I would expect the regulations for marijuana should closely resemble those for tobacco and alcohol product sales.

Regulations should include adequate security for the premises. One visible guard is all that is needed to deter most/all problems. No other regulations are necessary. Increased foot traffic, nuisance to other business(subjective), odours are all non-issues, that could have positive impact on surrounding business. Young people can buy and see pot for sale in their schools, about time it was regulated into dispensaries. Organized crime infiltration unlikely as they already have access to the illegal components of marijuana sales. And selling to people without medical need is nothing I would care to regulate.

I have no issues with marijuana related business as they currently exist.

I truly hope that the dispensaries will continue to exist as I myself have been waiting decades to see this finally happen, medical marijuana is indeed medicine and one should be able to get the medicine one needs. Trees always follows and enforces the rules and try to help people with whatever ailment they may have. They are honest and informative and more importantly, they follow the rules and laws. Hope we can keep trees in our city, it's a great thing!!!!!!

ALL these stores are operating illegally and are enriching organized crime. They need to be shut down until the drug is legalized at the Federal level. It's a sad state of affairs that I would be penalized for drinking a beer at the beach before anything happens to these illegal stores. It makes a mockery of our Police and

justice system. Other municipalities have acted on illegal pot sales so why hasn't Victoria?

I don't have many concerns or much to add to the conversation. I have noticed that there are perhaps many more than is necessary. But they do provide a safe environment for users to procure their medical Marijuana and that is hard to fault. There is a demand and we, as a city, are able to supply it. The tax revenue and employment it brings is nothing to shake a stick at either. All the while, your average medical Marijuana user is far less obnoxious and costly to the city than the average drunk downtown, and so if we can support this growing sector then, why not?

No concerns - recreational and medical Marijuana should be legal and accessible.

Just regulate it so qualified people can open a business, and place a reasonable geographic limit so we don't have like 3 in the same city block. Just tax the damn stuff so it can contribute back to society and who cares.

Alcohol does more harm than marijuana, everyone knows that. Welcome to the 21st century! worse than prohibition!

marijuana should be legal and available

I have no concerns. Legalize it and follow Colorado's lead re: regulation!

I have no concerns. I walk downtown everyday and now no one walks up and tries to sell you "weed" anymore. Feels less dirty downtown.

Even though I don't smoke marijuana, I'm happy to see such a up-and-coming industry in this town. The only concern I have is that they should be treated like liquor stores, with cameras and proper security for the safety of both staff and customers.

There should be a limit to the number of dispensaries downtown- more and more good commercial real estate is being used by these businesses when a minority of the population is able to frequent them.

Please do not bow to pressure from the backwards Conservatives, who want to send innocent Canadians to jail, for a plant, which can cure cancer! I am a user of medical marijuana, and a citizen of Canada, and the U.S.A, Namely Washington state. I believe change needs to happen, and we can't wait for "big gov" to do it. We need to do it on a municipal level, with your help! Please do what is right for the people of Canada, and the world, and resist the tyrants who care not for us, or our health. Besides, these dispensaries are only going to generate legal taxable income, and I hear someone needs to fund a bridge.. So yeah, I hope you appreciate what these brave people are trying to do, and I thank you for listening. Your friend, -M- P.s. De-regulation and cooperation please, not exclusion for big business or money grabs please. Thanks!

I believe these dispensaries have created a safe way for many people to access medicine they need, especially those frustrated with the federal medical marijuana program. This is a step in the right direction and I applaud the city of Victoria so far in its actions towards this issue (including this survey! Good job, democracy!!). I hope the city of Victoria will continue this logical path, and does not give in to federal pressures. Feel free to contact me me

Personal information

My concerns are that those of us using marijuana to treat mental illness will be prohibited from doing so if regulations are strengthened. I use marijuana to treat anxiety as well as manage the unavoidable side effects from medication I take for ADHD. I'm lucky that I can use marijuana to curb some of my anxiety symptoms and take less of the anxiety medication that I'm also prescribed. Upping the dosage of that medication can cause side effects bad enough to interrupt my life and job for up to 10 weeks. It's important for me and others who may use marijuana in the same way to be able to safely manage our symptoms in a way that has little-to-no adverse effects in comparison to the side effects from taking an SSRI. I hope that the powers that be will consider this when drafting new regulations.

Fair taxation and reduce the proposed \$30k business license

I think medical marijuana should be dispensed in a pharmacy like every other prescription drug.

Food safety, organized crime

I believe that the City of Vancouver has the right idea and that we should follow their lead.

how the city can benefit tax wise.

I'm all for regulating marijuana related businesses. The less money going to gangs and dangerous criminals the better. Legalize and tax it.

I don't have any concerns. People using or selling marijuana does not bother me.

I believe marijuana should be accessible to those that wish to use it. There should not be any further regulations. If the area is unsafe, increase security. Do not make it harder for those to access this medicine if they find it beneficial and improves their quality of life. As a medical professional in the field of oncology, reducing stigma and barriers to access this plant if patients so choose to use is vital and should not involve government.

I have no complaints concerning marijuana dispensaries at this time.

No concerns.

I have no concerns as I have not been affected. Why would the regulations governing marijuana dispensaries be any different from those governing liquor stores.

Neocon earns as of yet.

Increased visibility of marijuana dispensaries doesn't bother me. I am very supportive of the legalization and regulation of marijuana in BC/Canada, which at this point makes a lot more sense than trying to regulate dispensaries operating in a legal grey area.

Quality of Cannabis standardization

No concerns

I think only non-profit dispensaries should exist. It should not be a for-profit business.

I have no concerns regarding marijuana. It should be legal and regulated similar to tobacco and alcohol.

no concerns

Adults only. Discrete signs required.

I'd like to see more support for non profit business. Looking into having products tested for mold and pesticides and as much information as possible (chemical percentages and grower!). Support for edibles / extracts also a must.

the amount one could consume in a day

Personal information

, I would like to see security made a very big issue.

Treat like a bar/liquor distributor.

As long as they pay taxes I think it's a good thing.

When it comes to edibles, don't ban them outright like Vancouver has done! Far better to require opaque, child-proof packaging.

I have no concerns, I have seen all the benefits it has done to place like Colorado and I fully support the dispensaries

I think it is clear to anyone who has taken the time to properly educate themselves that cannabis is FAR from harmful. The services that dispensaries are providing has vastly improved the quality of life of countless people suffering from anything ranging from anxiety and depression to terminal illness. The overwhelmingly positive results in Colorado and Washington should be a clear indication that licensing and regulating dispensaries is both helpful to the public, and profitable for the city, province and, as a result, the country. I do NOT believe that dispensaries will lead to an increase in exposure of cannabis to children, if anything I believe regulation will help limit exposure to youth who can currently walk down the street to any dealer and buy as much as they want without being ID'ed. Dispensaries provide quality control, a safe environment for purchasing, options for patients (including edibles, which can be very important for those who need to medicate but prefer not to smoke), and by IDing EVERY SINGLE customer to ensure they are legal age to purchase. If we continue to ignore the need for regulation of Cannabis in Victoria I believe we will be abandoning an opportunity to provide our citizens with a service they clearly require, as well as missing out on important revenue for the city. To put it bluntly, marijuana is not doing any harm to anyone and dispensaries are helping eliminate organized crime and youth access to cannabis. And as for security measures, any retail business is at risk of being robbed. That is of no concern in my opinion. Thank you.

My personal safety is a concern--that before and after my purchase I will not be harassed, approached or robbed. My privacy is a concern as well--that my information and record of purchases remain confidential. I

am also concerned about the strict quality and standards be maintained within the products that are offered. I have never purchased street drugs of any variety and not a smoker. The edibles offered for sale at one particular dispensary offer hope to me in dealing with early menopause, after a disastrous recent experience with a prescription offered by my family physician. I am grateful for the opportunity to manage my physical and mental health, an opportunity I would not have under more conventional options.

Thank you for this survey. It's the right thing to do on this subject. I hope that the laws will change to reflect the reality that this drug can be used as medicine but also should be completely legalized.

Encourage the industry. Freedom from pain is a democratic right.

Legal access to marijuana reduces the need for individuals to procure it from unregulated sources. It also reduces the influence of organized crime on the drug trade.

Dispensaries should be required to provide accurate cannabinoid profiles for each product (THC/CBD content) so medicinal patients can dose accurately, as well as provide proof that they have passed mould/fungus screens.

Regulate them like beer and wine stores.

My concerns are that places like trees that sell safe product will be closed down and people will have to turn back to the streets and the drug dealers who lace the marijuana with other drugs potentially killing people.

security

I support the presence of medical marijuana dispenseries in the city of Victoria and appreciate the Mayor and Council's decision to explore this issue. I personally believe the impact on nearby businesses is fairly minimal as people are in and out quickly. Also, foot traffic may be a good thing as increased foot traffic could bring money to other local businesses. What I see going on, at Farmacy on Scott & Hillside, is that a former bank gave up its commercial business space and the space sat vacant, unleased, for months. The Farmacy folks moved in, invested money in remodeling the place, and now they employ a decent sized staff. So from an economic point of view, I think it's great and have no problem with it in my neighborhood. One thing I like about Farmacy in particular is that one can't tell it's a dispensary. The windows are covered in a decorative style, the larger sign is plain, and there is a sign stating 19+ on the door. There's no way a minor is getting far beyond the door, let alone through the vetting process. Incidentally, members/ customers are all ages of adults, both sexes, and from a variety of walks of life. It can be done in a mature and reasonable manner. On a few of the other points: if organized crime is involved, then it's at the supply end. Maybe that's true. But then again, the biker gangs in Canada have been running pot for decades, perhaps dispensaries can put these guys out of business by purchasing from non-gang affiliated suppliers (which I'm sure most are) which then takes this product over of the black market. Personally, I'd love to see the city of Victoria take in some nice revenue from these places, maybe fix the roads (Have you been down Shelbourne recently?) I think the VPD may be onto something with the security issue- perhaps they can collaboratively come up with safety standards? Regarding the odour, non-existent. Food safety, well, McDonalds is across the parking lot, and so is DQ, Little Ceasars, and FKC. Now that's food safety I worry about. If I could offer a suggestion or two, I'd suggest a cap on the number of shops at something like 15. Signage out to be bland, no pot leaves, etc. //like

suggest a cap on the number of shops at something like 15. Signage not to be bland, no pot leaves, etc. (like Farmacy or Ocean Garden one in Fernwood, stuff my kids wouldn't recognize or even consider)

I have no concerns. Keep the non-profit dispensaries open.

I don't use it, but I see very little negative impact too if similar guidelines to alcohol are used

I have not been bothered or effected by the increase of Marijuana dispensaries in Victoria.

These operations are already quite established. They follow many regulations and bylaws in order to exist in a city such as Victoria. Although I don't live in Victoria at the moment I do run errands or visit friends in the city at least one to two times a week. When I'm there I have visited some of these businesses and in my opinion I don't feel they pose any more of a threat to the city than the liquor stores or pharmacies do. I have never seen one of these businesses encroaching on another business. I have never smelt an odor outside a store nor seen anyone milling about. Many establishments are fairly isolated or in lower traffic areas of the city. The windows of these businesses are always entirely covered and products are put in unmarked bags so people outside are not exposed to them. While some businesses have rather obvious names many of them wouldn't be that distinguishable to younger children. They also have no more of an impact on the city's youth than the presence of your local liquor stores. In addition to this at no time are minors given access to medicine/product. Proof of age must be shown before the transaction begins and product/medicine is not touched by patients/patrons until transaction is complete. A minor would not be allowed service and even the friendliest of faces are expected to show proof of age upon entrance. Loitering and/or consumption of marijuana products outside these businesses is strictly prohibited. Ultimately, the existence of these establishments helps lower drug-related crime in the city, brings more business to Victoria, contributes to the local economy (taxes etc.), and ensures that people are consuming cleaner, regulated products. There are many current and trusted academic sources that support and demonstrate the many medical benefits of marijuana. Many of the people that need these products are law-abiding, contributing members of society. These businesses allow them to obtain the cannabis products they need in a safe environment. These businesses are following city bylaws and should not be targeted simply because they sell something that is seen as "taboo" by only a small portion of uninformed, overly conservative residents.

No concerns

better then having to deal with drug dealers!

, Please take the time to read my reply to Our concerns. The access to clean and safe medicine is important to everyone. •Increased foot traffic surrounding businesses- A good thing? •Nuisance to other nearby businesses, potentially impacting their customers- People have the right to sell alcohol, so, why should the wide culture of people who regularly enjoy cannabis be demonized? And impacting their costumers..? Like how the sale and consumption of cannabis contributes a higher revenue steam to restaurants? Yah, i'm sure restaurant owners will hate it.... •Odour, food safety and other health issues- Um ya, we want safe medicine..? "And there are ways to prevent odour leaks". •Exposure of young persons to the sale of marijuana- people have been booting for years, get over it. "Education is the answer".. •Infiltration of organized crime- Come on.... •Sale to persons without medical need- I don't think they'll want to be shut down. ei: "Liquor store".

Concerns that this won't happen quickly enough. Pretty much copy the liquor laws.

better security, and more accessible policies to offer documentation for marginalized people with illnesses.

minimum cost of regulation and intrusion on normal business activities of m/j sellers;

If it is deemed as a medication, why isn't it sold through regular pharmacies by prescription? If you are under Fair Pharmacare, and couldn't afford it, your pharamacare plan would be able to pay for it. In London, England you could get a tincture of medicinal marijuanna from the pharmacist if you had a doctor's prescription.

I have no concerns and believe the city of Victoria should follow suit with Vancouver

Until this insidious drug is legalized, we should not be having this discussion and if it is legalized we can look for more drug addicts, increased health issues, more crime and more costs associated with the legalization of the drug.

dispensaries in victoria offers medical products for those of us that cant afford to get a medical license. i like many others have epilepsy and since going off prescription meds and going on cbd i have cut seizures down by 1/3. the staff is amazing and has been so helpful in knowing what will help.

I believe that there should be little to no regulation regarding the dispensary's. It has been proven time and again that marijuana poses little threat to those who use it and to those around them, barring of course burning plant matter being inhaled for those who smoke. There are those who benefit greatly from these dispensaries and regulating them into the ground will only make their lives that much harder compared to now where they can simply enter and pick up what they need with no hassle. The influx of competition is a result of the demand and if harsh regulation were to be enforced business owners and medical marijuana users would suffer in the end.

The spaces seem pretty wild-west at the moment. I would rather see more regulation/oversight and the associated income to the city/province

I don't understand why there are so many marijuana stores! And I'm confused as to the actual law re: its sale and use. Isn't it still illegal federally? Also I'm concerned re: who actually is signing off on the use of medical marijuana: MDs? acupuncturists??

Involvement of organised crime is my only concern. Cannabis is safer than alcohol which can be purchased at hundreds of locations all over the city

Any regulations specific to medical marijuana businesses should be no more onerous than those placed on alcohol, tobacco, or other similar drug dispensing businesses.

I think all these new businesses are great as long as they're following protocol.

I don't have any concerns. I am in favour of cannabis being legalized and taxed in the same that tobacco and alcohol are.

Let them have more indoor smoking areas

I agree with most of the general concerns listed above. Especially the sale to persons without medical needs and the organized crime associations.

My concern is the location of stores and density of stores. I am not concerned with the other items listed (eg: increased foot traffic)

I am 100% for medical cannabis as well as for public use of cannabis in all its forms from clothing, food and other products. Yes some regulation needs to be in place for product consistencies and health and safety for packaging. The community will simply have to get used to this new medicine and lifestyle in our lives and not just what is seen in the movies. I would think more foot traffic would be good for business as it is new money coming into those communities. If we publicly break down the barriers that separate us we stop being so afraid of one another, most people who are committing crime are doing so simply because of where they are and what they have. If they were rich they would pay a fine, because they are poor they are criminals. Regulations should have a public interest for availability, freedom of business in a growing marketplace, have enough vendors licenses to accommodate the growing interest. As of now security does not seem to be as needed, perhaps some simple ideas like having to be buzzed in at the front door that is locked. Provide more public service and education to actually help people in need. I lived on the streets of Victoria many years ago and it took a lot to get out and become accepted as a valuable member of society

I think it's great. No concerns really. As long as the dispensaries are clean and run well.

To maintain the public (including teenagers) how to properly use marijuana to decrease any health risks. They are still going to find a way to access it and they should be prepared and thoroughly informed

None, there are three within walking distance from my home and I've seen no impact. A bigger issue is the homeless population in public parks, the users of marijuana businesses tend to be much neater, nicer and polite than the homeless who use in the park beside my house.

There seem to be too many store fronts that have opened considering that they are only supposed to be serving those prescribed by a doctor. As long as it's still illegal, people should not be smoking outside, even if they have a prescription. If there are this many dispensaries now, how many will there be when it inevitably becomes legalized?

no concerns, have not noticed any problems

Food safety and organized crime are the only legitimate concerns. Increased foot traffic should be welcomed by surrounding businesses regardless of whether they think the foot traffic is by "desirable persons" or not. What type of nuisance? That needs clarification. Odour could also be referenced by vegetarians living/working near fish and chip shops or steak houses. "Young persons" will always be exposed and have access to un-/controlled substances. Why not sell to those without medical need and charge tax? In just one year, in the US, the states that legalized marijuana, raised \$70 million in taxes. I am not a marijuana user. ALSO. This format is not at all user friendly as there is no way to see everything that you've stated. In addition, the phrasing of the text indicates an already present bias towards what you want people

to answer.

Regulation is an excellent idea. While you have noted concerns about exposure to young people, there is more access in the unrestricted illegal market than there is in regulated businesses.

all of the concerns listed above seem pretty small and there are other concerns that are more in need of attention. I can't stand the smell of Lush soap store on Government St when I ride my bike past and many others have similar concerns; I understand they pump the smell out into the air in order to attract customers - will the City please regulate this practice? Cars are dangerous and unhealthy - the City should look at regulating which cars can drive in the downtown area. I avoid downtown when people are coming out of bars because drunk people are obnoxious and dangerous - will the city please close down all the bars? The more out and open marijuana sales are, the less likely organized crime will be involved. As for youth and people without medical need, they will be buying more risky drugs if they can't buy at a dispensary - I don't understand the concern.

None. I believe that marijuana should be legal.

Leave things how they are

Wu Tang is for the children.

As long as each person receives a card and their marijuana use is maintained responsibly, the dispensaries serve a great medical purpose to the community. They should be closely regulated through a computer system.

My only concern is its obour being increasingly frequent around town. The scent is quite bothersome for me. I appreciate the survey!

I don't see it being a problem and or doesn't seem to be anymore or less foot traffic, If you look across the street where the alcohol is that's where the nuisances are. just open or our eyes a little.

Get rid of the medical sham and just legalize it.

High License fees. Not within 200 yards of school, daycare or playground. Not within 1 km of another shop.

Medical marijuana-related businesses should look tidy and professional. Medical marijuana-related businesses should be required to post information on designated driver services to discourage their clients from driving while high. They should be required to purchase all or most of their medical marijuana from properly licenced BC growers to support the BC economy. They should be required to have each batch of their medical marijuana tested for pesticides and other chemical adulterants. They should be regulated similar to liquor stores. The city of victoria should hire a specialized medical marijuana buisness inspector/pharmacist with a small department to oversee bylaw enforcement for this unique sector, make regulatory changes as necessary, and resolve regulatory issues in a proactive fashion. Most of these shops are likely to go out of buisness within a year or two because the market looks over-saturated. Victoria needs an action plan for filling all the vacant storefronts promptly once most of these medical marijuana shops

close.

should be legal recreationally and through a doctor. Prices should go down about 50%

These are not legal. Why even entertain them!

None

I am fine with these stores. I believe the regulations are fine. I believe the complaints are exaggerated.

I am with dispensaries that seek for medical - or when legal - recreational use. It is the volume of stores that concerns me. They need to be regulated like liquor stores, with a limited number of licenses available.

The vast majority of people I know that are using the dispensaries have no medical reason, but tell a small lie to get their memberships. The business owners are for profit, of course, so they really approve everyone. I believe stricter regulations are required for membership approval. I've noticed a large increase in public marijuana smoking over the last 1-2 years, and I find the smell to be very intrusive and bothersome, as the smell lingers in the air for a long time. The presence of dispensaries are making people a lot more comfortable in smoking all over the place publically (downtown), which again, is bothersome.

no comments

I support not for profit compassion societies which provide marijuana on the basis of medical need and doctors referral. marijuana businesses are only interested in profit, and should not be allowed in the city . The usual problems listed above generally are avoided by non profits who keep a low profile and don't antagonize neighbours and make a nuisance of themselves.

I have no problems with dispensaries or casual use of marijuana, and I think the opportunity to tax it is too great to pass up.

That there be too many of them.... I think I have seen 4 or so pop up recently.... that seems a good number. I am concerned in terms of security issues that these places are high on the list of potential robberies. They may attract unsavory characters.

I have no concerns I think dispensaries are beneficial

I am considerably less concerned about the sale of marijuana than I am about the homeless and affordable housing situation in Victoria, and I have considerably more experience with antisocial behaviour associated with consumption of alcohol than with marijuana. I get the strong impression from the paragraphs above that this survey is soliciting complaints and ideas for restrictive regulating. I would much rather the city put energy into homelessness and affordable housing, which is a serious cause of concern in my neighbourhood, not only because of the human impact, but also because of the business impact of needles and trash in doorways and parks, shopping carts of stuff on sidewalks, camping in parks, etc. Frankly, the marijuana dispensary is the nicest building in the neighbourhood right now, and I'm a delighted somebody put some time and money into that building. It was an eyesore before they moved in, now it looks like a bank.

what ever it takes to keep it happening

No concerns.

These businesses, like liquor stores, could be restricted to persons over 19. Daylight hours, say 9am to 6pm might help. Security is important for employees. Could marijuana be sold in liquor stores?

i believe that Having regulated dispensarys are a good thing for the community. In my opinion, it is taking it off the streets, providing a safe place to buy it, and it gives the person in need options to suit their tolerance. If regulated, i can be controlled and not sold to people underage, and extra tax revenue could be used to put back in the community.

My only concern would be strict age policy everyone must show two pieces of photo government issued I.D, and must be 21 or older. I like the idea that trees has with the foodbank and the potential for all dispensarys to follow I think would have a huge impact on the community

My only concern is that these businesses are licenced and are following the same guidelines as the medicinal dispensaries. A doctors prescription or recommendation is a must. No selling to minors without a parent present.

I have absolutely no problem with these businesses. They fill a niche that Health Canada and most family doctors are unwilling to provide. Most doctors are unwilling to give patients a prescription for medical marijuana use, unless it is for something serious like cancer which leaves many for whom it would be advantageous, left out. If it were legalized, I would go to them for balms and such, for my Personal information conditions. I am a mature, responsible professional, not a junkie, but I don't feel comfortable going to one of these places due to the potential for legal repercussions. Instead I have to suffer because traditional (chemical) medicine doesn't work and is harmful to my body. I have never seen a lot of foot traffic around any of these places and they look very clean. I have also never noticed a smell, at least no more so than anywhere downtown on any given day. Organized crime is around for other reasons as well. I'm sure this is not the only type of business that is impacted by it. The sooner it is made legal, the less of a foothold organized crime will have. No doubt the pharmas will be jumping on the bandwagon too once it is legalized and profiting by it. I think that alcohol abuse is a much bigger problem. If you have to regulate them, so be it, but don't punish those who want to try it as an alternative medicine, even without a doctor's prescription, and ensure the safety of the employees working in these dispensaries. Also, these places provide a more cost effective solution for people who need it. Going through government channels to obtain medicinal marijuana is often too expensive for many, and the ridiculous processes that people with life threatening illnesses must go through to obtain it is unacceptable. The public shouldn't have to fear legal repercussions, or pay a fortune for trying to be pain free and feel well. There are many studies showing the positive impact, and I have done my homework, so that when it is legalized I will be able to try it for conditions where nothing else has worked.

None, I welcome the businesses. Tax and regulate it. Make money for the city to improve.

I would rather people buy pot from a store with business hours than from the dealer in my apartment

building who is apparently available 24/7.. That foot traffic is what pisses me off. I am fully in support of decriminalizing marijuana and taxing it like cigarettes. It's alcohol that should be clamped down on. It's incumbent upon the businesses to ensure adequate security measures for their staff safety and property, just like any other store. I find the wording of this survey to be biased and uninformed about the actual danger of marijuana use, and this is coming from a person who never touches the stuff because I find the smell unpleasant.

It should be decriminalized and taxed similar to alcohol, tobacco and lottery tickets

Don't know what the new regulations might be. I would hope that we could get over the road blocks to legalization and just get on with legitimizing this as a business and it doesn't have to have a sleazy reputation anymore.

We should treat marijuana laws similar to alcohol..... Regardless of medicinal needs it is safer in the long run to buy through a dispensary... We should research any concerns people have and run tests to understand as much as we can about the effects.... Tax it all and put the proceeds towards mental health and homelessness problems downtown.

Though pointedly illegal operations, the dispensaries significantly reduce buyer's exposure to dangerous, secluded interactions with street dealers. Particularly for more at-risk buyers, these dispensaries offer a level of visibility and safety that will be noted for years to come. Moreover, they've become in a short time a boon for tourism in Victoria. Although these dispensaries absolutely present some problems (for instance, none of their product can come from registered MMAR growers), in my opinion, they solve more problems than they cause. Overall a net gain.

1. Odor and other health issues. 2. Robbery prevention.

wow. where to start. increased foot traffic surrounding business .is'nt that what any business wants ?and how can increased foot traffic be be a nuisance to other businesses , you'd thik they'd welcome the increase in people walking by thier shops.as for odor.it's a non issue ,try walking near the town side of the bay street bridge and get a good whiff of the compost pile there,it'd gag a maggot.food saftey i can see that , as to "other health issues ,really vauge there ,might want to clarify on that one.young people aren't allowed inside ,same as a liquor store,no exposure.and your kidding me with the organized crime thing aren't you , cause it's been involved with all illeagal drugs for a loong time now, the only way to get them out of the picture is to leagalize it and tax the crap out of it so there's no profit to be made for the bad guys . need a dr note for a beer or ciggeret or maybe some caffine or some other legal stimulant.sercurity is an issue with some stores as is with any other businesses ,that is something that is done on a one by on basis,as the need arises.without stores like Trees people like myself will be forced back to the criminal element to get the same product we can get at the store.fourty years of dealing with is not as much fun as you'd think , let's not got backwards , move forward to the future .open your eyes to the amount of taxes that will be made , it boggles the mind.and don't make us tie up the bc med system just to buy some marijuana i'm sure there are people in more need of that service with more serious helth issues .get what i'm saying .remember the LeDain commision .thanks for your time

I believe this product should be treated exactly as the sale of alcohol. It's not rocket science. People should stop this idea that Cannabis is "taboo"! Also, one should ask oneself; did my parents consumption of alcohol influence my life? For me, no, I have made my choices according to my own wisdom.

Many of those concerns are not unique to these businesses and appear to only be masked moral concerns. I have no concerns about these businesses as long as they are paying property tax.

Everyone should have access to cannabis medical or not, I am happy the city is willing to work with a cannabis community. I think regulations are a good thing but should also be fair! These businesses help a lot of people and do no harm to the community

No selling to minors. Consumption of product must comply with city bylaws (7 meters, bla bla)

It's wonderful. It's about time we ditch the outdated "mindset" about marijuana. It should be able to be used and consumed in all of its forms -- Edibles, concentrates, beauty products & of course, as flower

As there is clear evidence from trials in Colorado, Washington, Israel and other countries and states marijuana has legitimate uses to treat chronic illnesses. On top of medical, recreational marijuana in Colorado has brought in huge additional revenue streams to the tune of 40-50 million dollars a year which is going towards schools and drug education and city maintenance along with the benefit of tax revenue Colorado has reported highway and traffic accidents are near an all time low from an all time high in 2012. Marijuana can be beneficial to the community as a whole when it is regulated, taxed and sold appropriately and I support full legalization due to the good it can do to the community.

It should be available and regulated in all forms (flower, concentrate, edibles and beauty products)

I have a concern about exposure of young people to marijuana - the shops make it look like a legitimate product. I am concerned about where shops are located - e.g. on the same block as my local bike shop - I don't know what to think about it.

Marijuana dispensaries are a safe way for medical users to acquire marijuana. They detract from organized crime, in that people in need are no longer forced to do business on the black market to acquire a high quality product. The high number of customers shows both the high demand for a safe source in Victoria. The list of concerns, as listed above, echo concerns brought to the table when pubs or bars are allowed in areas. The City has a should embrace pub culture, as should you embrace pot culture. I do think that effective and reasonable security measures at the businesses for the protection of employees should be contemplated by the regulations.

I think that the street advertising and neon pot signs and sidewalk signs should go.

Honestly, I haven't seen any of the negative effects of the dispensaries that many claim. I live near several, and work near several more in the Burnside-Gorge area. I haven't noticed any increased crime, loitering or foot traffic. I don't use marijuana personally, but I believe it should be legalized and regulated similarly to tobacco and alcohol. As far as regulating these businesses, they are businesses, so treat them as such. Treat them similar to liquor stores and tobacconists - essentially they are the same

...treat them similar to liquor stores and tobacconists--essentially they are the same.

I don't have any concerns about deregulation of marijuana. People using marijuana are less likely to be violent than people using alcohol, and the health benefits of marijuana far outweigh its potential risks.

I don't smoke pot because I don't personally like how it makes me feel, having said that, I doubt feel it should be illegal. I have no issue with dispensaries. I feel that valid id should be mandatory for purchase just like with alcohol. For safety purposes there should be two staff members on at all times. I feel they should be structured similarly to a private liquor store.

I don't smoke pot for fun or for medicine and pot culture bores me easily as much as sports culture does. That being said, I watch it help people with chronic pain, anxiety, sleep issues and eating issues. Also, people who are using it as a stepping stone to get off of genuinely damaging drugs, many of them prescription pain-killers. The fact that I think it smells like skunk ass and holds no appeal to me shouldn't interfere with other people's access, whether for health reason or for recreation purposes. Harm reduction is worth some inconvenience. Can we just fully legalize this, try to be patient and assume some good intent during the legislation process and get the hell on with things..? Also, this comment box is ridiculous and very awkward to use. It's hard to take the official interest in this subject too seriously when the means for communicating around it are so slap-dash.

Haven't noticed any problems, I would imagine keeping dispensary's a little ways from schools and from advertising openly are good ideas. Really whatever rules we have for alcohol probably make sense for marijuana business

Trees Dispensary has been a professional service that my family and I rely on for our health concerns. The location I particularly frequent is on Rock Bay Avenue, and my observation is that the store has actually cleaned up the neighborhood quite a bit. Trees is very strict about selling to minors, loitering, and impacting the community negatively, which are values I appreciate. At times it could certainly be busy in there, but it goes to show the many people medical cannabis assists. Regarding robbery prevention, there are bullet proof glass serving as a barrier between the budtender and the customer. My concern is that by not allowing these dispensaries to operate, so many individuals will be left without the holistic aid they were using to alleviate whatever ailment they were treating, wether it be **Personal information**. I believe all the stores should have this glass up, that they should be allowed to sell edibles so long as they're properly labeled, and that bakeries should also be inspected and certified. Thank you!

Safety for staff members

Dispensaries should be like a normal pharmacy. If you don't have a Confirmation of Diagnosis or a MMPR liscense you should not get access to a dispensary. This way it will keep the foot traffic down, and check ID so you are not selling to minors in the area. So you would need something with your picture and birthdate as well as your dispensary membership card in order to gain access to services.

When my partner was ill **Personal information** Compassion Society dispensary. They had stringent rules for accessing their services that seemed to work. I would want regulations to facilitate legitimate use, support conscientious providers, and minimize inconvenience to the surrounding community

without adding significantly to the providers' bureaucratic burden.

Regulations should encourage businesses to be more discreet without forcing them to stay underground. Businesses should be strictly 18+ and should be positively involved with the business / residential community surrounding them.

I have not seen the the potential regulations. My concern is that people will have to go back to buying on the streets

I am concerned that those operating these types of small businesses are being unfairly labeled by a ignorant minority which speaks more loudly, and shows no moral foresight. Regulations and taxation are the only thing we should be talking about in this day and age.

I believe the regulations are perfect, if anything too strict.

First of all, thank you so much to the Mayor of Victoria for caring enough to ask the general public on our opinion on such a 'hot-topic'. Thank you.

Personal information

and enjoys Victoria and all the surrounding areas. And, I am very very sick. If it wasn't for all those good and compassionate people who work at Trees, (and I am sure, other places like it in Victoria and B.C.) I think I would not be able to write this, I firmly believe I would be in the hospital, on a permanent basis. I started taking medical marijuana because it was recommended to me, by a professional health provider who refused to 'grant' me a legal medical 'green' card because he/she was afraid to 'lose' their medical license (absurd!!!). I discovered Trees late last year and I just cannot begin to express to you the difference that medical marijuana has made in my life. I can eat. I can sleep. I can relax my mind, pain free! And, I do not know what on earth I am going to do if you shut down Trees (and any other marijuana facilities, both here and in B.C.). Please consider how many of us actually use medical marijuana because we are ill. I have ZERO concerns if these facilities stay. I have MAJOR concerns if you close them. After using the marijuana, I have been able to cutback on most, if not all, of my medications. I do not take medical marijuana for 'fun' or to 'get high'. I take medical marijuana to live. As far as draft regulations are concerned, perhaps we should look to the U.S. and see how they have legalized marijuana in many states and from what I can tell, crime is down (considerably), and people who need marijuana get it. I believe that should be the same here. WE're all adults, so up the age, if it makes people happier, to over 19 years of age. And, I guess, tax it. That always make government happy I am sure. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. Thank you so much for listening. I cannot tell you how much Tree's and many many other good facilities, mean to people like me. It has, quite literally, saved my life. And, with your asking for our opinion, I hope that you will 'allow' facilities like Tree's and many other to remain open. Most sincerely, someone's Mum.

It should be age-restricted

I think it's important to have this substance available and accessible to people whose lives will be positively affected by it.

I have used a couple of the dispensaries. I found them to be professional, well run, discrete and unobtrusive. I do not have any grave concerns about the present situation.

I absolutely feel that these dispensaries are necessary, but there does have to be rules and regulations. Marijuana rules should be the same as alcohol rules

These dispensaries give people the ability to purchase safe marijuana.

I think that this is a great idea. opening in other municipalities is highly suggested. I am afraid that these kind of businesses will be viewed incorrectly. such as a black market operation or some underground ring. the other main concern is that they don't appeal to minors.

As someone who smokes marijuana here and there, it's way better to have a source to buy from that is reliable and has good product. It's safe, friendly, and a comfortable environment, something lost when you have to buy from an unincorporated dealer. All round support!

No concerns

This is a chance for the City to show itself to be progressive, modern, and in step with the rest of the West. The tax boom that Colorado reaped has demonstrated what benefits there are for the economy. Change is inevitable, the City can embrace it and reap the benefits, or miss this opportunity altogether. Increased jobs are a good thing. Common sense rules should apply, there should be a minimum distance from (children's) schools, etc, but there is absolutely no reason for regulations to be any different than for the sale of alcohol or cigarettes.

License it, make sure it's not being sold to minors(same way it is done with cigarettes) and then leave them alone.

I am happy that the city of Victoria is regulating the medical marijuana industry and support all new regulations. I currently have no problems with what the city is proposing.

None

I would prefer a local dispensary provide my medical marijuana I require edibles and concentrates on a daily basis to function as a productive member of society.

I don't have any concerns. All businesses I have visited have seemed to operate without any cause for concern. I have met very very few people who have a problem with them.

That they not be selling to minors; that they not have people hanging around outside the premises; that the businesses look clean and not have monstrous signage; that they offer quality products; that they have knowledgeable staff and can refer to other sources for additional information.

For one, let me open by asking that my living in Saanich doesn't negate my opinion. I am a client of one particular business and I find that its location is in line with the initial proposed regulations regarding school proximity. It's in the Gorge/Rock Bay business neighbourhood and there are two stores at either end of Rock Bay. I don't notice any groups of people hanging around being a nuisance, unless I'm closer to The Landing homeless centre. Not that their being homeless is the reason they're a nuisance, it's more that they

congregate on the block around the centre while smoking and occasionally accost the odd passersby for change and whatnot. The store I go to also has an ongoing food drive, offering free joints for those who bring in a moderate food donation for those other patrons, or even community members of age to enter, who are less fortunate or have addiction problems preventing food security. Sure the idea of 'free drugs for food' might seem to the average person to be a social atrocity, but having seen a few donations myself take place, the freebie went skipped each time. No one really takes the carrot. It's also essential to inform you I did sign forms, and show my prescription medications that would medically necessitate marijuana. I was also informed of strict policies regarding daily maximums, reselling, sharing, smoking in the neighbourhood or in/around the store and about having ID and my card EVERY TIME NO QUESTIONS OR EXCEPTIONS! Everyone, every time gets their cards out. The concept of letting a regular slide is barred. The other necessity of this store is marginalized people getting access to products when a prescription is not obtained. My medications have side effects which are eased by marijuana in its varied forms. My boss allows me to be medicated as my job doesn't involve machinery that may kill anybody and I don't work with the public (yay me), but I can't smoke it and be all baked, so I need access to products that are ingested in controlled doses as to treat, but not trip. This store provides those products which might only be produced otherwise at home by average people with no medical knowledge with product obtained illegally, and possibly dangerously. There is a safe, age-controlled, policy-regulated environment where people can obtain medicine, and some free canned goods should they need it. There is no evil biker bouncer at the door, there are no drunks or stoners or junkies hanging around the block. There are informed people who care for their clients as any other business. The only real issue is the product is marijuana and that's scary to some people. Being in a semi-industrial neighbourhood, operating far from residential or schools, and with reasonable operating hours, this location I go to fits many requirements for licensing. The store is called Trees.

Everything listed above. Except the risk of exposing young people to the sale of pot. If they go to school they are exposed to the sale of pot. Regulation and taxation make illicit sales of marihuana less profitable to drug dealers. Which makes it more expensive and therefore less affordable for youth. It is far more difficult for youths to get alcohol than pot.

I think they should be regulated strictly and not made available for people under 18 years old. Strict penalties for people who "boot" for minors as well.

My biggest concern is that I need to have access to medical marijuana from a safe dispensary, such as TREES. I would resort to street marijuana without this trusted dispensary and others like it in the city of Victoria. I want TREES to be allowed to continue to operate and am concerned that they will be regulated out for some reason. One major thing that needs to be considered is the availability of willing physicians, either online or in-person who will prescribe medical marijuana in the first place. I am a mature, well into middle adulthood resident of Victoria. I have used medical marijuana, in moderation, for many years with only beneficial effects. The dispensary TREES and others I have visited over the years have a knowledgeable staff with relevant important information about the products they sell. They are nothing like street dealers who are obviously only making money and will sell anything, contaminated or not. The professional standards of cleanliness at TREES is something I'd like to see regulated in all dispensaries. I am not personally aware of issues in Victoria around cleanliness but it would not surprise me to know that some facilities are not up to

standards that I, as a consumer, would expect of any retail store selling products that are to be inhaled, eaten, or otherwise ingested. I hope the dispensaries are found to be beneficial by the City of Victoria in providing long term relief to physical and psychological ailments without side effects. I hope the City of Victoria moves to license medical dispensaries.

I have no concerns, they should follow similar regulations to the ones Vancouver has put in place

It is very important to the community to have dispensaries to keep the sale of medicines off the black market and to give those in need a safe place to gain information as well as safe and professionally handled products. It's important however to consider the communities and businesses that surround medical dispensaries in any regulations, such as limits on where dispensary businesses can operate.

My concern is that marijuana needs to be readily accessible for those of us with chronic pain and decreased mobility.

I myself, smoke marijuana recreationally, and have access to it with or without dispensaries. I think it is wonderful that they offer alternatives to smoking such as edibles & oils. I do not know how much it should be regulated, it seems the suppliers & producers are working to create high quality products. The city of Victoria "leaders" should meet with them to better understand. I have not noticed an increase in crime. Only a rise in poverty & homelessness.

Security is a legitimate concern for the police department and if they think it is something to be considered then it should be. Odour is another concern to be considered as is health food safety of the edibles when developing regulations. I don't believe any of the other concerns listed above are valid. And I have no additional concerns and welcome the marijuana related businesses in communities.

Encourage discreet business. Make it easy to find all the locations so they can be plain stores?

Mostly I'm concerned that the substances be sold in a regulated form that cannot be mistaken for another thing, such as a marijuana infused cookie or brownie which could be mistaken as a non-infused baked item. Oils and herbs could be sold, but I am not in favour of selling baked goods. No other medications are sold in this format, though the marijuana infused oil can of course still be prepared in that way in someone's private home.

I am concerned about the RCMP response to this issue despite our local police forces more practical approach, will any of this regulation matter if Ambrose is still gonna crack the federal whip? How exactly will you respond when that situation comes to a head?

I agree with having a marijuana dispensary in my area

I believe there need to be tighter requirements for people to acquire medicinal marijuana. It is common knowledge that people are obtaining it with little to no specific issues that require its use.

Review the City of Vancouver's regs. They should be licensed, and regulated as to hours of operations, proximity to schools, etc. Liquor laws are a good place to start.

they're not a problem. treat it like alcohol. wasting any more resources on them is just that - a waste.

Need distance from schools. And to limit the number if dispensaries per neighbourhood. Right now, they're EVERYWHERE.

There should be no change to the regulations. If anything dispensaries should be more relaxed. I have no concerns and see dispensaries as a positive because it offers a safer source for people to buy marijuana than through a dealer.

My biggest concern is that thorough police checks of business owners AND their associates are being done. It seems that some of these businesses may be dubious operations run by organized crime or other profiteers, with product that has no quality controls (checking for mould, produced with chemicals that are unsafe for medical users). Compassion clubs that pre-date the law with respect to mail-order marijuana should be grandfathered in as they have long been part of the industry serving MM users.

Not selling to minors, keeping organized crime out of the business, paying taxes

The questions that are being asked here frame the issue in a way that only serves to perpetuate fear and stigma about marijuana dispensaries and the people who use them. Increased foot traffic doesn't seem to be considered when new businesses or services open unless they serve a segment of the population that others consider undesirable in some way. There will always be increased foot traffic when a new business opens up, whether it's The Bay, a McDonalds or a marijuana dispensary. It's important to look at how the questions we ask and the way we frame the issue encourages and perpetuates stigma and myth about the business/service and the population who uses it. Increased foot traffic should not be a concern in spaces zoned for commercial use. It's also important to rethink how we engage with children and marijuana (and all drugs, in fact). No, children should not have access to marijuana and they shouldn't be around people who are smoking it, but getting up in arms about children being aware of the sale of marijuana simply perpetuates the stigma and does more harm than good as this viewpoint necessarily deprives children/youth of important and truthful information about marijuana and increases the chance that where they will learn about it is through their peers. I'm not aware of what is or isn't being done currently in terms of security and robbery prevention, but I would imagine that the dispensaries would need to take similar precautions to pharmacies, which also dispense substances that have a street value.

Marijuana shouldn't be sold at all it is illegal for a reason and should remain that way

I think these facilities are a great benefit to have in our city for the people who need this type of assistance.

Regulate proximity to schools playgrounds and a certain number of metres from other med marijuana shops

As medical dispensaries are businesses, they should be regulated to some degree but they are essential services that should not be faced with additional hurdles. All of the dispensaries I have visited are thoughtfully designed and are discreet operations. They may not save lives, but they definitely help alleviate pain.

My main concern is quality control, i would like to be more confident that the quality of all marijuana strands,

edibles and beverages are properly correlated to the prices asked for. Some things to be considered should be how the illegal tracking would be greatly reduced. After observing the decriminalized states in America it is evident that there are many economic and social perks to decriminalization and further regulation. Crime rates are down, traffic accidents are at historic lows and most importantly the usage of teenagers and youth has not increased..

I personally think they should pay business tax, like any other business, but aside from that I haven't seen any negative impacts to having more of these around.

The regulation of marijuana should be such that people can gain access to it in a safe organized manner. It should be regulated in a way that allows those over 19 to gain access with penalties imposed upon those who share with minors. To ban the sale/ purchase of marijuana would be highly arbitrary unless similar bans were imposed on the sale of alcohol.

none. they're of no impact to my life and work

Density of the businesses can be a problem, but getting rid of them entirely would not be good. I have Crohn's and access to marijuana through other means is not currently possible due regulation and doctors medical association not allowing prescriptions unless it is for a terminal illness. Without access to marijuana I would suffer from nausea, diarrhea, cramps constantly (or need to take high doses of steroids, which have much worse side effects). I support regulations to stem the tide of businesses, keep them away from certain areas (schools mainly) and try to ensure they are run in an ethical manner.

I am concerned about teenagers having access to the shops. Sales to minors should be highly restricted on par with government liquor stores. Based on what I have heard directly from a friend who has used these businesses in Vancouver, the threshold is exceedingly low to obtain the drug. In some cases a naturopath "doctor" speaks to the person via Skype and then approves the "prescription." Businesses even offer free marijuana if you recommend them to a friend. In other words, the atmosphere is very lax for something claiming to have a medical component. I understand the concerns that pharmacists have raised that the term "dispensary" - used by many of these businesses - is misleading and an affront to the serious job performed by pharmacists.

There are too many in my neighbourhood. Can we limit the number per neighbourhood? We already have "bong shops" and now so-called medical marijuana businesses. We don't allow so many liquor stores or licences in a neighbourhood and all other prescription drugs you have access through a regulated pharmacy.

My concern is around what has been reported to Police. Whenever I go to trees (Once a week) there is never heavy foot traffic and loitering. Everyone is always friendly and respectful. It is a quick exchange. In and out and you are home with your medicine. When dealing with mental health and addiction it doesn't seem doctors are too willing to give prescriptions for marijuana. Thanks to Trees i have been able to get the education I needed around marijuana to find the perfect strains for my needs, insomnia and anxiety. Without the education and information provided at trees I would have went to a friend and got a bag of weed and not properly be taking this medication and never knowing exactly what I was getting. To be able to walk into a dispensary and get the medication that I want helps empower me in my recovery.

I'm unsure why they are legal, since marijuana is illegal, but I don't see any problem with them. I'd much rather have 10 times the dispensaries than any liquor stores. I think the public would like some clarification as to where the legality stands. Otherwise, someone is going to get hassled by police and it will be a whole firestorm.

offer more pre-made edibles and concentrates for those who don't want to smoke. Serve to all even if they cannot gain a doctors prescription

The big gap here is not the businesses doing retail sales, but the total lack of local doctors willing to do the federal approval process. Without local doctors on board, people are stuck in a legal grey area.

Similar to a liquor store. Plus a municipal tax. They should have security camera, ID, LCLB should check up on them. (or some other group created specifically for them) If you charge \$10,000-\$20,000 a year plus 10% on all sales that would seem fine to me.

I do not observe any of the above mentioned concerns at the trees location I use. The staff are well protected and well informed. I use marijuana to help control blood glucose in my type 1 diabetes and really enjoy being able to do so without meeting a guy on the corner.

The dispensaries should be permitted to carry a wide range of products, and there should be no "minimum price" as is enforced with the sale of alcohol. Let the market and consumers dictate the price. If taxes are being collected, or fees for business permits, the public should be informed of where that money is going. This is a new revenue stream off a product that is still readily available on the black market. I don't mind paying a little bit more to be buy variety and better quality, but I want to know that my tax revenue I am contributing is going to a positive public service. although it is contrary to the anti-smoking legislation, I would like to see marijuana lounges that have a patio area for smoking. If we have the ability to purchase marijuana in the city, it seems silly to be allowed to buy a product, but have no where to enjoy it.

Please remember one thing... Using Marijuana with or without a "doctors prescription " is not harmful. I self medicate and i live a full healthy life. There are countless studies that prove the positive affects of Marijuana use. Make alcohol and cigarettes illegal, these have proven to kill thousands of people each year.

It seems to be like all new things: its taking some time for people to adjust, and some people don't like the change. So of course there is uproar. But it is too great a positive impact on our community for anyone to step outside the guidelines, be irresponsible (i.e. unlawful sale&exposure minors), or attempt to step on toes. I would like the see the City of Victoria embrace this positive change & and make good use of a renewable natural resource! Instead of fighting this, why not use it to our advantage - be proactive, Victoria!

with the dispensaries around town i able able to get a variety of edibles to help with my symptoms of depression. I am unfortunately unable to obtain a doctors prescription and trees dispensary has been able to help me cope with my pain. I feel like having regulated dispensaries around town can help fight street crime and provide a safe way of receiving medication from a reliable source. even if the prices increase to account for government taxes, i believe it would be a step in the right direction for our growing community.

No one under 19 but I love the dispensaries, they really help people in need

I believe that the new regulations stopping dispensaries is horrible. the United states statistics should be enough proof that legalization is a good thing. i personally only purchase edibles from dispensary to help with the pain in my knees so that I may sleep.. not having access to this would affect me greatly and force me to go to street crime to get such products..I'm sure many people are in same boat

Cannabis use can cause psychosis and even schizophrenia especially for young users. While there may be research related to standardized medicinal cannabis I don't think we know the science yet. Certainly, many people have experienced psychosis and wish they would have known a balanced view of the drug. Schizophrenia affects 1:100 people. Use of pot increases chance for developing schizophrenia by up to 7 times in the mid teen years. Please see "downside of high". Cbc

I have worked in other municipalities facing these issues and, ultimately, there are no regulations you can implement that will adequately address concerns. The only solution is to not permit these activities, allowing only for those legally endorsed by the federal government. These businesses are not good neighbours and should not be permitted

Sale and distribution other than Canada Post is illegal. Leaders, of corporations or a municipality, should not pick and choose where and when they follow what laws. Leaders who turn a blind eye or willfully ignore inconvenient laws undermine the process. The City of Victoria should working with other municipalities to shape positive change to best meet the needs of those who desperately need medical marijuana, now and in the future. Instead, you turn our region into a marijuana-friendly town, damaging our reputation, undermining the long-term success of the medical marijuana program, risking external investment AND encouraging recreational marijuana use ... putting MY children and business sustainability at risk. Shameful.

1) Liscensing required, 2) clean establishments 3) walk-by locations in well lit areas 4) children are in and out of liquor stores all the time so there should be no problem with parents being honest with their kiddies about their habits and lifestyle. 5) we need not worry about food safety if people still believe that McDonald's sells food! 6) this will take away from crime and remove the sale from these creeps. 6) odours? I find it more pleasant to smell reefer then barbeque, 7) NOT a nuisance to neighbours, just come and visit :>)!!

asking! for ID

Offer a variety of strains, edibles, capsules, oils and concentrates. Provide knowledgeable staff. Contribute to local food security. Serve people in need of medical marijuana.

I am a parent of an elementary-age child, I have a career in Finance (work full time), and I use medical marijuana as encouraged by my family physician. Until recently, I felt that my only option in purchasing marijuana was "on the street". I can honestly state that, in purchasing this medicine from a "dealer", there was not a single transaction where in I did not feel embarrassed, and more importantly afraid (for both my personal safety and the general safety of my child, were I to be arrested as a result of the transaction). I recently became a customer of one of the local dispensaries (Trees, locations on Rock Bay and North Park) and for the first time in my life I find myself able to access the medicine that I require without feeling either

embarrassed or afraid. I feel that these dispensaries (or at least the one business with which I have experience - Trees) are an essential part of our community and should not be prevented from continuing the good work that they do. As a parent, I am impressed by the business model that Trees employs - from a distance of more than a few feet, one would never know that a marijuana dispensary was there. They do not flaunt their presence, and I feel this may be an opportunity for regulations - a glowing neon "pot leaf" (as I've seen on a business downtown) may not be the most appropriate method of signage. As a customer of Trees, I have always been asked to present government-issued photo I.D., and they clearly display "No Minors" and "19+ Only" both on their door and inside their store. As a parent of a child who is not yet of an age where any conversation about "drugs" would be appropriate, I would not hesitate to walk past a Trees dispensary with my child. I have never witnessed any gathering of customers either inside or outside of their establishments. I have not witnessed any "unsavory characters" lurking about or felt unsafe in any way. I have not witnessed any patient using their medicine in or anywhere around the establishments. In fact, the employees of Trees advised me upon my first visit that they have a very strict policy banning the use of any of their products either in or immediately outside of their business. I, like every other customer I have ever witnessed in or around the dispensaries, arrive sober, make my purchase sober, and drive home with my medicine sober. I feel that it is of vital importance to the health and well being of our city and surrounding municipalities that ALL citizens (not just those fortunate enough to have a family doctor who is knowledgeable enough to provide a prescription) to have access to marijuana dispensaries that offer a wide variety of products (flowers, edibles, concentrates, etc) and employ members of our community who are knowledgeable about the products they are selling. I believe the city would be well-served to regulate these businesses in the manner in which they advertise themselves, and I also feel that the city should benefit from their presence financially, be it through the issuance of business licenses, taxes, etc.

More security measures for the safety of the clients and the staff. It is a relief to be able to purchase this product without having to have contact with organized crime. The staff at trees dispensary are informed and knowledgeable and I have been able to sample a variety of products at an affordable cost including a cannabis infused herbal skin cream that has healed **Personal information** almost magically! I used to live in a northern B.C. and was unable to find a doctor willing to sign for me nor were there any accessible dispensaries which left me having to always know few drug dealers as i have **Personal information** and do use cannabis for pain relief. I have **Personal information** replacement. Please be informed that kids are buying illegal drugs from their local dealers mostly in the schoolyard! They aren't waiting outside to see if some 40 50 year old like myself to buy it for them! A portion of the fees should be allocated to product research and development so that we continue to have the best quality and variety of products available for regular consumers in B.C.

I personally in my youth smoked copious amounts of pot. I stopped smoking pot because of what I saw as the negative effect it had on my well being. I am not in favour of legalization or de-criminalization or normalization of Pot . We used to be referred to Pot heads for a reason. We were stoned! The attempt to sugar coat it and slip it in under the guise of Medical Marijuana is a farce. The most medicinal benefit it offers is if you are having a difficult time eating you may get the munchies. I say no to Marijuana related businesses!

They should be welcomed. Look at Colorado or Washington

I think dispensaries in Victoria are a fabulous idea. Regulations are important, but regulating marijuana isn't any different than alcohol. Put age restrictions on and ensure that everyone is ID'd so minors don't have direct access. I can't get a prescription for my back problems, but the dispensary doesn't discriminate against me for not having a medical card, and that's important to me. I'd rather buy it legally and taxed in a safe environment, than illegally from a sketchy drug dealer. This is a safe way for people to get quality and reliable marijuana. Don't take away a safe place for people that don't have any other means of safely obtaining. For pain management, depression, food issues... Marijuana helps in so many ways.

It should be available to anyone over the age of 18. The threshold should be minimal for those who apply on medical grounds ie. not needing a doctors cert. for stress relief reasons.

Business should be licensed and regulated. I don't like having so many dispensaries in my neighbourhood - maybe they could be required to be a kilometer apart, and a similar distance from schools, as the clientele could have a significant impact on our youth.

Please take into consideration that this is medicine to a lot of people who choose to live their lives as chemical-free as possible

I'm concerned that stricter regulations will violate my privacy rights and make it more difficult to access my drug of choice, which helps me with a chronic disease and for which there is no other alternative medicine

The privacy and safety of patients is important to me, making sure that the products available are 100% pure and safe.

there are too many reg. for everything that we buy

Nuisance to other nearby businesses, potentially impacting their customers, Odour, Exposure of young persons to the sale of marijuana, Sale to persons without medical need

As a permanently disabled person with a **Personal information** I am concerned about how new regulations might affect the cost of my medicine. Any significant impact on cost will require me to use less medicine and therefore have less benefit - I am on a federal disability pension. I get my medicine from the Vics and the VCBC. These are the two oldest in Victoria. I do not use the new stores as their prices are high \$15 / gram versus the \$6-7 at the legitimate medical dispensaries (VICS VCBC). The new stores are about profit, have dodgy practices, and from the couple I have visited are not legitimate medical dispensaries. Regulations must recognize the distinction between the Legitimate medical dispensaries and the fakes like the Gorge dispensary.

New regulations cannot negatively affect medical dispensaries. Patients will suffer. The new stores are not legitimate. They are out for money and not for patients. Tax them out of existence and leave the real medical compassion clubs like The Vics alone.

my disability pension is stretched. regulations must not increase prices for my medicine. Leave The VICS and the VCBC alone. they are doing good things for their patients. The new players are not doing anything good for anybody but themselves. I don't care if the new guys are closed down they only care about \$ not us

for any body but themselves. I don't care if the new guys are closed down they only care about \$ not as legitimate medical patients.

The dispensaries ensure that we get an organically produced, reliable safe source of cannabis medicine and the specific strains we need for various ailments, and do not have to buy from some shady character on the street or the poisoned garbage that Health Canada is pushing. The marijuana related businesses don't concern me at all as they help cut down the crime rate. Please refer to the success story of Portugal when they decriminalized all drugs <http://mic.com/articles/110344/14-years-after-portugal-decriminalized-all-drugs-here-s-what-s-happening>. I am fighting for my right to use my medicine and be able to grow my own organic herb. Please check out the Rick Simpson story "Run From the Cure" on YouTube and the Phoenix Tears foundation <http://www.phoenixtearsfoundation.com/> I am a Stage III Cervical Cancer Survivor because of cannabis and use it to improve my health to the point where I can now enter the paid working world. I have been a **Personal information** and have always maintained that I would rather associate with cannabis users than alcohol users. I am more concerned of all the liquor establishments (liquor-the great stimulant for all forms of abuse, spousal violence and rape and murder of women and their children) that are increasing. The ability to purchase alcohol in a grocery store disgusts me to no end.

They should be regulated exactly is with liquor (or as close as possible without federal/provincial law changes). Public hearings, etc.

Have not been affected by these businesses or patrons and I live in the area of town where there are many homeless and stray people wandering the streets. In fact, it seems better since they have moved into the neighbourhood.

Medical marijuana is great to relax when you are dealing with stress

Dispensaries are often linked to organized crime and have poorly documented supply chains. Close them and allow the MMPR licensed producers fill the void.

The smell from the dooe shop makes me nasious. Walk across the street from city hall and stand on the west side of cormorant and tell me you cant smell how terribly strong this is. Street people and skateboarding skids loiter the area now and I dont feel safe. Shame this is being allowed.

None.

4) If you would like to be informed about the Town Hall that will be hosted this fall, please include your email address here.

Response

Count

181 responses

Personal information