

June 24, 2019

Leford Lafayette  
Development and Engineering  
City of Grand Forks  
[llafayette@grandforks.ca](mailto:llafayette@grandforks.ca)

Dear Mr. Lafayette:

**Re: Development Variance Permit No. DVP1901 Proposed Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Store Licence at 7500 Donaldson Drive**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments from a healthy communities perspective regarding the above referenced application. It is my understanding that this referral is for a variance to subsection [58.3 of Zoning Bylaw 2039](#) that regulates the distance a Non-Medical Retail Cannabis Store can be relative to a community use zone.

In order to reduce harmful cannabis patterns of consumption in the general population, Interior Health recommends you consider supporting a public health approach to the retail sale of non-medical cannabis. Locations that reduce exposure to cannabis marketing to youth and discourage harmful patterns of consumption in the general population are the desired option. Aligned with *subsection 58.3 of Zoning Bylaw 2039*, this includes distancing retail locations from youth- centred facilities and outdoor spaces. As indicated in the referral package, this retail location is within 36m of James Donaldson Park which may be used for youth baseball and other recreational opportunities. Though outside the 100m buffer listed in the Bylaw, this proposed retail location is also within 350m of the arena and Aquatic Centre which may be used by youth.

The proposed hours of operation of this retail location are to be 9:00am -11:00 pm. Interior Health also recommends further restricting the hours of operation of this proposed retail location to prevent excessive consumption and related harms.

Additionally, considering a standalone smoke free bylaw to include tobacco, vapour, and cannabis smoke can help to protect residents in public places. Many communities are amending their bylaws to ensure cannabis is included. For more information please contact Tobacco Reduction Coordinator, Jacqueline Duncan, at 250-770-5540 ext. 31256 or [Jacqueline.Duncan@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:Jacqueline.Duncan@interiorhealth.ca)

The legalization of cannabis presents both an opportunity and challenge for local governments in the development of healthy, vibrant communities. Interior Health – Healthy Communities welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the City of Grand Forks around education and awareness efforts.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Kady Hunter  
Healthy Communities – Population Health

Bus: (250) 505-7239  
[hbe@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:hbe@interiorhealth.ca)  
[www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca)

Population Health  
333 Victoria Street  
Nelson, BC, V1L 4K3