



Dear RCMP Detachment/local police department,

RE: CANNABIS RETAIL STORES - OBTAINING A VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECK FOR THE PURPOSES OF OPERATION IN THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

The Cannabis Act came into effect on October 17, 2018. Local governments across the country have been given the authority to determine whether to permit the retail sale of cannabis in their municipalities. The City of New Westminster decided to consider applications for cannabis retail stores in the municipality.

The City of New Westminster considered the various levels of criminal record checks from basic online CR query, Police Information Check and/or a Vulnerable Sector Check, and in consultation with New Westminster Police, decided new cannabis retailers are required to submit a Vulnerable Sector Check as part of their application. This is a requirement of Business Licence Bylaw No. 5640, 1986 (Appendix A, Section 2) and the Cannabis Retail Rezoning Policy.

The reasons are as follows:

- Cannabis, although now legal, is an intoxicant and still a highly regulated product;
- Individuals who may be purchasing cannabis could have health issues or addiction-related matters that make them potentially vulnerable; and
- While typically the age definitions found within the vulnerable sector refer to younger individuals, a recent provincial youth homeless report referred to vulnerable youth as those up to the age of 24. Based on that review done including what they referred to as youth aged homeless and at risk individuals, cannabis retailers could be dealing with individuals between the ages of 19-24 who are part of that group.

The individual presenting this letter is interested in operating a cannabis retail store in New Westminster, British Columbia. In this role he/she will be placed in a position of trust with vulnerable persons. The results of the CPIC check and Vulnerable Sector Verification will assist the City of New Westminster in determining the individual's suitability for operating a cannabis retail store with the potential to have contact with vulnerable persons.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance with this request. If you will not issue a Vulnerable Sector Check, please provide a Letter of Refusal detailing why to the applicant. They can take this letter and obtain a Vulnerable Sector Check from the New Westminster Police Department. If you have any questions or concerns please contact New Westminster Police Chief Dave Jones at 604-525-5411.