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FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT _____

October 4, 2018

Chair and Board Members
Fraser Valley Regional District
1 - 45950 Cheam Avenue
Chilliwack BC V2P 1N6

Dear Chair and Board Members:

The Province will be able to issue licences for the retail sale of non-medical cannabis on or after October 17, 2018, and we are currently in the process of assessing the applications that have been submitted to us.

Our consultations with local governments indicated you wanted to ensure that the needs of your communities were considered as part of the licensing process. We would like to take this opportunity to explain the important role local governments have in cannabis licensing.

It will be up to each municipality to determine if and where non-medical cannabis can be sold, and whether it is sold in private or government stores, or a mixture of both.

Once an application is received by the provincial government and it is deemed to contain the required information, the Province will notify the respective local government of the area where the proposed store is located.

Upon receipt of notice, local governments can:

- choose not to make any recommendation in respect of the application for a cannabis retail store licence (Note: this would end a licence application in progress because the Province cannot issue a licence unless the local government gives a positive recommendation that the licence be issued)
- choose to make comments and recommendations in respect of an application for a cannabis retail store licence.

If the local government makes a recommendation to deny the application then the Province may not issue the licence, and if a recommendation in favour of the application is made, then the Province has discretion whether or not to issue the licence, but must consider the local government's recommendation in the decision whether to issue a licence.

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The Province will notify local governments about applications in the order that they are confirmed as complete. This ensures that you will have all the information you need to begin your process of making a recommendation.

We would also like to remind local governments that they may delegate the recommendation decision to staff.

We invite you to review the enclosed Local Government's Role in Licensing Cannabis Retail Stores for detailed information that will help you navigate the recommendation process. If after reviewing this information you have any questions, please email Cannabis.Licensing@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you for your consideration in this important new process.

Yours truly,



David Eby, QC
Attorney General



Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

Enclosure

pc: Chief Administrative Officer Paul Gipps