

**Isfeld, Lori**

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 4:30 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: Under 40 metres vs more than 300 !

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Peter Lipskis s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 1:17 PM

**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

**Subject:** Under 40 metres vs more than 300 !

The West End Liquor Store & Dover Arms Pub has been 38 paces (less than 40 metres) kitty-corner across Denman from King George School since 1975 with no apparent problem(s) Discriminating against an infinitely less harmful substance seems ignorant and irrational.

## Isfeld, Lori

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 4:26 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: Dispensary hearing

**From:** Alan Hill s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 4:00 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Dispensary hearing

Thank you Mayor and council for taking these leaps and setting an example for other cities in our province, country and sending a message to the federal government, that this is not going to go away and (some level of) government needs to step up.

I will briefly introduce myself before going into my comments regarding the previous hearings dates, as this letter does not provide me 5 minutes of your undivided attention as being there in person would. I will come back to myself, and how these regulations would affect me, personally, at the end.

I am a 29 year old man living and working in Fort Saint John, British Columbia. I am not a transient BC worker; I own a home in Fort Saint John and have a steady "pencil pushing" job for a local company. I'm simply not a big fan of "city life," and though I was educated and lived in Coquitlam and Richmond, Fort Saint John is my home. I do have a personal stake in your decision, but first I will reply to, or comment on a few things I've heard in the hearings.

**First**, I've heard it stated that council does not have the ability to regulate product, if this is true, how does the city plan to ban edibles? Especially considering the result of the Owen Smith case, I would think this would be found to be unconstitutional if taken to trial, I believe Mr. Tousaw raised this point.

If you cannot regulate product (and thus packaging; and in my opinion the word "packaging" should include the edible argument of brownies vs pills) then it is my suggestion to council that council partners with CAMCD and requires future existing dispensaries to be members of CAMCD and allow CAMCD to control and enforce these requirements. (Perhaps "grandfathering" Canna clinic if council were to accept their program as equivalent).

*As for personal opinion on the subject, Councilor Jang suggested the idea of giving a child a pill with a spoonful of jam as an alternative to the use of brownies and chocolates. I experienced this method of a child, and as he says, it was only so effective, likely it was still a struggle for my mother. I bet if she could have gotten Benadryl in a nice tasting candy form (to be kept on the top shelf of her medicine cabinet with everything else) she would have, who doesn't appreciate zero fuss, there simply isn't that alternative.*

*Or is there? You can buy laxatives in at least three forms and at least three flavours. Vitamins come as gummies with screw tops and I draw your attention to this service London Drugs (and others apparently) provides to flavor medications, this certainly would make them more appealing to children in my mind.*

*<http://healthblog.londondrugs.com/pick-a-flavour-any-flavour>.*

*Chocolate is a huge mood lifter, I know this and I've never personally had a bite. I find it troubling you would deny someone, who is already suffering, the ability to purchase a properly packaged chocolate from a dispensary to brighten their day rather than choking down a handful of pills. Something they're already trying to avoid. Personally, I find taking pills to be extremely depressing.*

**Second**, not to single someone out, Councilor Jang seemed concerned about topical ointments (etc) when questioning a presenter, I am curious mostly as to why, or what he is concerned about. He suggested it might be confused for sunscreen, topical ointments do not cause a high, perhaps if ingested but I doubt any topical ointment or sunscreen is technically safe to ingest. What about topicals are concerning to him, so that he can be provided the information to relief him (and council) of this fear.

**Finally**, the idea that mail order will be stopped is possible the greatest issue for me. This is how I will be most personally affected. Approximately 9 years ago I received a head injury after being attacked by a large group of young men in a Coquitlam park. I was beaten over the head for several minutes with a lead pipe. It took me almost two years to recover from the blinding migraines, and nausea and this only happened after a co-worker (whom I never really got along with, BULLIED me into trying it because he was sick of watching me suffer). After a few months I was able to use marijuana once or twice a month to keep my migraines in check and moved to Fort Saint John.

My migraines eventually started getting worse after a while, and I moved back to Coquitlam to attend college. During the next few years I learned that the violent injuries of my attack (or just pure fate) had resulted in multiple sclerosis rearing its head. While fighting for a diagnosis, I self medicated illegally with marijuana, utilizing the black market to access marijuana to keep my symptoms in check, this was difficult with varying access and product.

Once they started to realize my prognosis, my GP helped me get my MMAR.(my neurologist refuses to sign, but supports my use stating anything else he could prescribe me would be far more harmful, so if this works...) My MMAR allowed me the ability to join the Vancouver Dispensary Society, which offers a varying range of medications across the spectrum, incredible staff **and a mail order service.**

This mail order service allowed me to return to Fort Saint John. To get a job that supported my medical costs, to get a mortgage and work towards buying a home.

I have used the MMAR mail order, the marijuana supplied was barely fit to cook with or use for extraction. As such I have been mostly supplied from the VDS, however I am now a member of several dispensaries to save money, using one for extracts, one for flower and various for edibles and sales. As with any business, some can supply some products for different prices, proximity to suppliers, being the producers themselves and etc, may affect price.

I would never use an LP as I would need several sources and have to start over the trial and error process of finding flower that helped control my symptoms and this has been difficult. I currently have a supply of Haley's Comet (the Haley who has been referred to in these hearings) and several others that work for me. I generally also use edibles and concentrates as I do not like to smoke joints. I do smoke extracts however, 3 or 4 strong "dabs" of extract is easily equivalent to smoking 5 2 gram joints for me.

I smoke during the day and use extracts in my food in the evening or snacks before bed to sleep. I am up hourly to smoke otherwise.

**If you take away mail order, I will either**

**A: have to find someone to take the risk of becoming my caregiver to purchase meds in person and then take the risk of mailing them to my upon themselves.**

**B: Return to the black market (which A kind of is).**

**C: Have to quit my job, sell my house, and move away from my home. I will not be able to support myself, if I could find a compatible job at all. I will become a burden on your local system. I will become a burden on the dispensaries taking med discount programs from people who really can't work.**

I must cut this short for submission... but thank you for reading this and your considerations.

## Isfeld, Lori

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 8:02 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: from Neil Magnuson

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**From:** Neil Magnuson s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 7:18 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** FW: from Neil Magnuson

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**From:** s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**To:** s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Subject:** presentation #2  
**Date:** Mon, 22 Jun 2015 12:45:57 -0700

I was born in Vancouver 58 years ago . My dad was a strict Christian man. I started smoking cigarettes when I was ten so my parents moved to Surrey where I continued to get into trouble, by 14 I was drinking alcohol, at 15 I started smoking Cannabis and then lots of other drugs.

I quit drinking the day I turned 19 and had also given up all other drugs except for Cannabis which helped me in many ways and I became a good human.

I worked hard, got married and had kids, I was a hockey coach and a community volunteer. My wife was a bank manager and I was a restoration expert. The marriage ended after 17 years when my son was 12. She took my kids and all the money. I was devastated and depressed ( a few other bad things also happened to me at this time). Thank god I used Cannabis and not alcohol, I came out of it and moved on.

When my son was 16 he asked if I would smoke a joint with him, I should have been happy for the opportunity to bond but instead I feared for his future as a criminal in this upside down world. So after seeing a poster for a protest rally at the art gallery on April 20th we went and we kept going to the rallies for the next 5 years becoming 2 of David Malmo-Levine's most reliable volunteers.

In 2004 David asked me to be his business partner in a place we called the Vancouver school of drug war history and organic cultivation or the "herb School" on Hastings near Main right beside the supervised injection site.

It was during the long weekend of renovating that that I really learned the truth about prohibition, that it is a protection racket based on lies to protect patentable synthetic substitutes for cannabis because it is the most valuable biomass on the planet.

So it was greedy industrialists who were behind the prohibition and all the harm that it had caused, I got very angry, and when I learned that it was food that could feed starving people I cried my eyes out and quit my job the next morning, dedicating my life to helping end prohibition.

Within months I knew it was not about Cannabis, it was about freedom and I have never liked bullies. I co-founded LEAP in Canada, Law enforcement against prohibition.

I worked for a year and a half at the Herb school before embarking on the first of 4 5mth long educational cross Canada tours called the Freedomtour where I met with police, Mayors and Media talking about what

freedom is, what the role of public servants is intended to be, the dangers and cost of attempting to prohibit drugs and the value of Cannabis and Hemp.

The Herb School was the 2nd self regulating retail cannabis outlet after the Compassion club (there was the da kine for 4 mnths) we had different regulations than the compassion club, we required adults to be properly educated on our 2hour long "drug war history walking tour" where they learned about cannabis, prohibition, their rights and the difference between use and abuse. This is a fine model and should be given consideration.

The Herb School helped people for 3 1/2 years and was a very positive influence in the area and its positive effects are still being felt today.

So its been quite a journey for me over the last 11 years. I have been a big part of putting on the 4 20 and cannabis day rallies as well as the Global marijuana march.

I worked at the pain management society and I have been a friend and advocate of many of the dispensaries that now exist.

As you can imagine I am thrilled that this forum is taking place and I am very proud to live in Vancouver where we've had such progressive and compassionate, city governments.

And now you have come to the point of wondering what to do? You feel you must do something and you wonder who to follow? What is the right thing to do?

I believe the answer is to keep doing what you have been doing... We are by far the most progressive city in Canada because you have allowed the dispensaries to serve the public and to regulate themselves. The Dispensaries have done a great job of this and are already using best practices. This nearly 2 decade experiment has been a great success. They may not all be up to the standards of the BCCC but none of them has caused any significant problems for the people of Vancouver as evidenced by the lack of people coming forward with complaints, and all of them are providing significant benefit as evidenced by the strong support they receive from their customers. ( even tho most cannabis consumers would not go into a dispensary).

I am happy with how far we have come but I am still an angry activist and we are not there yet. I am angry about the millions of wasted tax dollars, the many ruined lives and the decades of discrimination and stigmatization that is still happening. Which is why we say that we will not accept any dispensary being shut down. We have come a long way in moving this issue forward, we do not want to go backwards.

The proliferation of Cannabis dispensaries has brought with it a large economic benefit to Vancouver, hundreds of jobs have been created and tens of thousands of residence are being provided services. Undoubtedly there has also been a surge in tourism as well.

I again appeal to you to officialy declare vancouver to be a safe sanctuary for the Cannabis community.

Lastly, i would recommend that a committee be formed to review any problems that arise and that it be comprised of not just police and coastal health but also activists and representatives from dispensaries. I will gladly offer my participation should you like.

We do NOT need a multi-million dollar regulatory scheme and with all due respect to coastal health, in 2002 the Canadian Senate, after an extensive review Concluded that the continuing prohibition is harming and jeopardizing our communities far more than the substance ever could, and that the age of access be 16. Young people need Cannabis for stress and depression just as much as older people need it for arthritis and joint pain.

Cannabis is the safest therapeutically active compound known to man, please treat it that way, thank you!

**Isfeld, Lori**

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 8:00 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: Dispensary Regulations

**From:** Tracy Curley s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 6:47 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Dispensary Regulations

Dear Mayor and Council,

I would like to commend you on taking on this daunting and controversial task. I am a medical marijuana patient currently authorized by the MMAR program who lives in Toronto.

Since leaning about the benefits of medical cannabis in 2005 while treating the complications of my life long Type 1 diabetes I have volunteered and worked as a patient advocate nationwide helping other gain safe, clean access to cannabis.

Please know we are all watching the proceedings across the country in hopes that you will be the city that blazes this trail for us.

I know you have a lot of information and testimonials to consider in this decision but would like to encourage you all to take the advice of Hilary Black and CAMCD in these proceedings as many of us consider their ideas as the industry standard.

Dispensaries are an important point of access for patients not just for cannabis or edibles but for education as well and I ask that you not cut off that very important resource as with patients more than anyone, knowledge is power, when they need it most.

I again thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

With Respect and Thanks,

Tracy Curley  
Patient Advocate- Toronto

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

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\* Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History\*

## Isfeld, Lori

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 8:00 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: Five recommendations

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**From:** Dana Larsen s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 6:26 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Five recommendations

Hello to the Mayor and Councillors,

I'd like to briefly summarize my five major recommendations.

- 1) Make membership in CAMCD mandatory for all dispensaries. This helps keep things "medical" and allows an extra level of industry oversight. CAMCD is very open to working with the city in this regard. Dispensaries should be required to keep medical records and membership lists.
- 2) At a minimum, allow capsules, tinctures and drops, if you want to ban "edibles" limit that ban to food products or even just to sweetened baked goods. I've spoken with a supplier who wants to sell us infused brownie mix for baking at home, your regulations should be sure to allow this kind of product.
- 3) Grandfather in dispensaries that have been open for more than 4 years and that have the support of their local communities. Dispensaries that have been open a long time and shown to be responsible and to benefit their communities should be allowed to continue.
- 4) Allow for dispensaries that fall within 50m of the edge of a buffer zone to apply for a variance. (250-300m from a school or another dispensary.) This helps deal with the fact that many places opened in good faith before these proposed bylaws were first introduced.
- 5) Allow dispensaries to have a vapor lounge. There is a solid legal argument for medical users to have a safe place to inhale. Allowing dispensaries to have a vapor lounge for members only will keep out non-medical users and protect patients. My legal advice is that patients have a legal right to a safe consumption site.

I hope you will consider these recommendations carefully, and do the right thing on this important issue.

Dana Larsen  
Director, Vancouver Dispensary Society  
Director, Sensible BC  
Vice-President, Canadian Association of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries



## Isfeld, Lori

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 8:00 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: Addition to my previous letter:

**From:** Alan Hill s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 5:58 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Addition to my previous letter:

I would like to add, if my suggestion of partnering with CAMCD is embraced, perhaps the cost of joining CAMCD (I heard 6 thousand for license and the cost of meeting the licensing requirements, so perhaps even a 10 thousand dollar drop on the 30k fee would be entirely reasonable, in my mind.)

**Isfeld, Lori**

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**From:** Kayla Blandford s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 8:10 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** E-mail Regarding Cannabis Regulations

Hello!

My name is Kayla Blandford and I would like to thank the city councillors and mayor for allowing me to express my opinions in regards to the proposed regulations for medical marijuana in Vancouver. There are a few major points I would like to focus on and go into more detail about. First, for a few years I have been a medical cannabis user to combat anorexia (and the symptoms which pertain to this challenging ailment) and I also provide a high quality non-psychoactive topical cannabis cream to patients across Canada. The suggested regulations directly affect the access to proper medication and cost of my medication, as well as put me at risk for legal trouble if I am unable to use the cannabis lounges.

Cannabis is incredibly expensive because of the high demand in the illegal market, especially for the medical cannabis user who lives on a modest budget such as myself. In order for my not for profit cream business to be able to afford the \$35,000+ annual fees I would have no choice but to drastically raise my prices for the customers, which is not a reasonable option. There is no way for someone to get "high" from my products, it is very low risk high success rate for different ailments including severe pain and eczema. Many of my customers are non-smokers, senior citizens, and others looking for relief but do not want the euphoric effects. Imagine if cannabis costs were \$1 a gram to avoid high profit for illegal markets?

The city of Toronto in 2011 wanted to regulate or shut down the cannabis lounges and dispensaries extremely similar to the rules proposed for Vancouver. Unfortunately for me, I was caught in the middle when I was the only cannabis user arrested in one of the cafes. The police had me go through a very thorough strip search and interrogated me about my confidential medical history. At the end of the traumatic ordeal, the judge tossed my case out because I could prove I was a medicinal user with no previous record. By closing down the lounges it is forcing the patients to medicate at home (which risks eviction and arrest) or in the street/alley/park (also risks arrest) or worse: an experience similar to my own in Toronto. Again it is a very expensive waste of tax payers money and resources if the judges do not find these petty crimes worthy of court time.

Cannabis prohibition in Canada is 90 years old, and by 2015 it is very obvious that prohibiting any substance does not stop people from self medicating. It is an expensive system built to fail, and in my humble opinion, I feel that some of the new regulations may be designed to fail the cannabis patients as well. I am definitely in favour of regulations, but they must help the well being and health of the patients first. Please review the regulations and take my points into consideration.

Thank you kindly!  
Kayla

## Isfeld, Lori

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**From:** s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 8:18 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Support regarding Medical Cannabis in Chinatown

Dear Honourable Mayor and Council,

My name is Graham and I am an Eden Medicinal Society employee. I would like to begin by thanking you for the time everyone has set aside to deal with this important issue of creating business regulation for the medical cannabis industry in Vancouver.

Since the opening of Eden in 2011, Eden has demonstrated a high level of commitment to its customers and community. Eden's focus and mission is to provide high quality standards practice and professionalism in the cannabis industry. Eden provides safety, support and security to their neighbours, clients and community.

Eden brings hundreds of people to its stores everyday. Eden's community involvement begins with the creation of successful harm reduction programs which continues to help several DTES residents reduce and even stop their opiate intake. Eden has an open door policy with the Vancouver Police Department and constantly provides video footage to assist in crime prevention. Eden removes all graffiti from its properties immediately to discourage further behaviour. Eden provides educational seminars to the community to further understand cannabis and its many uses. Eden has created donation programs for individual clients in desperate need as well as donating medicine to their clients on a monthly basis. Eden operates in a discrete yet inviting manor and has a strict no minor policy. The stores are clean inside and out. Eden has been helpful to the Chinatown community as I recall overhearing a working colleague speaking Cantonese to a customer on more than one occasion.

Eden believes it is equally as essential to the neighbourhoods as coffee shops and tourist novelty stores. Eden has always followed a nonprofit model and looks forward to future opportunities to give back to the community and its clients. Eden has the support of local Chinatown businesses as well as the residents as demonstrated through hearing speakers and support letters provided from other submissions. Please consider allowing Eden Medicinal Society to remain operational on the 100 block of East Pender Street.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Graham ES

**Isfeld, Lori**

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**From:** Nick Whitehead s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 8:58 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written Submission to Vancouver City Council  
**Attachments:** Nick Whitehead - Written Submission to Council.pdf

His worship Gregor Robertson and Council,

Please find my written submission to Vancouver City Council regarding the proposed dispensary regulations attached to this email.

Sincerely,

Nick Whitehead

His worship Gregor Robertson and Council,

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

I would like to start by thanking Mayor Gregor Robertson and Vancouver City Council for their courage in moving forward to create sensible regulations for the local marijuana industry despite opposition from the federal government. Vancouver has been a leader in drug policy reform for a long time and I am proud to live in a city that continues to take a progressive stance in addressing these challenges facing this emerging industry.

I am not a medical marijuana user nor am I a recreational marijuana user but I am writing today as a concerned citizen who feels very strongly about this issue. I would like to address three key issues with my submission: the 300m buffer zones for sensitive land uses, the restriction of access in the Downtown Eastside (DTES), and next steps for these regulations moving forward.

I completely understand the city's position when it comes to setting a 300m buffer zone around sensitive land uses such as schools, community centres, and neighbourhood houses. I question the rationale for setting the distance "as-the-crow-flies." We can all agree on the importance of keeping a reasonable distance between dispensaries and sensitive land uses. However, as we all know children do not travel as the crow flies, they travel along the sidewalk.

Having previously worked in municipal government as well as for civil engineering firms, I am well aware of the cost that would be associated in determining the street distance from every single dispensary in the city to the nearest school or community centre. Not to mention the challenges of determining all of the possible walking routes a child might take to the nearest dispensary.

I strongly believe that the city should consider allowing dispensaries that are located between 250 and 300m away from a sensitive land use to apply for an exemption that would allow their existing location to be assessed based on the walking distance from the nearest sensitive land use since this distance will almost certainly be longer than the distance "as-the-crow-flies."

On top of the limitations and challenges with using "as-the-crow-flies" buffers I would also like to ask council to reconsider the buffer zones around schools, community centres, and neighbourhood houses within the Downtown Eastside. I appreciate the City of Vancouver's attempt to create exemptions along Hastings Street and Main Street that will ensure that patients in the DTES will have access to medical marijuana.

The problem is that once you overlay the 300m buffer zones for the local schools, community centres, and neighbourhood houses there is only a very small patch along Main Street that is actually suitable to house a dispensary. This effectively means that any existing dispensary patients in the DTES will either have to travel further or simply go without their medicine. For patients who are using

medical marijuana to alleviate symptoms of AIDS/HIV, for harm reduction purposes, or for a variety of other issues the last thing that we should be doing as a city is requiring them to struggle across town to access their medicine. I implore the City of Vancouver to overrule the 300m buffers along these two corridors so that some of the dispensaries currently serving a vulnerable community are able to continue their good work.

Moving forward I strongly believe that the City of Vancouver needs provide preferential standing for dispensaries that are trader members of the Canadian Association of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries and are working towards certification under the CAMCD's certification standards. The City of Vancouver has been clear that it only has the authority to regulate the location of the business and municipal bylaws. However, the City of Vancouver has the option to strongly encourage all licensed dispensaries to become members of CAMCD so that the industry can exercise self-regulation over the aspects of these businesses that the city cannot legally regulate.

Beyond encouraging or ideally mandating membership in CAMCD, I would also encourage Vancouver City Council to create a committee that will continue to explore these issues as the city begins to implement the new regulations in the coming months. I would also highly recommend reaching out to CAMCD, other industry representatives, as well as other leaders within the drug policy community to participate on this committee. There was limited consultation with the industry prior to the initial draft of these regulations and as we move into the implementation phase having an ongoing conversation with key stakeholders in going to be extremely important.

Again I would like to thank Vancouver City Council for taking big steps forward to address a very challenging issue. I strongly implore council to pass these regulations and consider the amendments that I have included in my submission.

Sincerely,

Nick Whitehead

## **Isfeld, Lori**

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**From:** Jordan irwin gardner s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 9:32 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Regulation of retail dealers-Medical Marijuana-Related Users

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

First and foremost, I want to thank you for providing an open forum to consult the public, to whom you serve, on these very important matters. I have been following this hearing closely and feel like it is my duty to communicate my views, from the perspective of a healthcare provider, citizen, and provider.

Almost three years ago, I was a victim in a car accident which left me with acute and chronic injuries. I sustained a concussion, post concussion syndrome, and debilitating physical and psychological injuries and traumas that have lingered to present day and will likely be a part of my life forever.

Post accident, aside from having to stop my life, and endure 1000's of hours of therapies, I was prescribed multiple, pharmaceutical medications, and as months went by, I started to feel desperate. The medications were so potent they too were having such a negative impact on my life, and were hindering, not helping me. I knew without really knowing, that there had to be something out there that would help me. Through my desperation for help to relieve me from my suffering both physical and psychological, I was guided towards obtaining an MMAR, and did.

Banning the sale of edibles absolutely compromises the rights of patients, like me, to access edible medical marijuana.

When you have the flu, do you have enough energy to get out of bed, and make yourself a bowl of soup, or a nutritious meal needed to help heal? Do you have enough wherewithal to safely follow a recipe, use a stove or other kitchen equipment? Also, imagine trying to learn how to now also cook with a complex ingredient while suffering through whatever ails you.

Without me saying directly, you can see where I am going with this I am sure.

Having ready-to-eat edible marijuana at dispensaries allows patients reliable access to their medication, especially when they can't necessarily rely on themselves. They can ingest their medicine, ready to eat, in their time of need.

It is unrealistic, unfair, and unjust, to expect each edible marijuana user, medical or otherwise, to have the time, knowledge, skill, endurance, finances, among many other factors, that are required to produce edible marijuana.

I wanted to also address the comment made June 13th from a councilwoman I believe, regarding an overwhelming number of overdoses from edible marijuana in and around April 24 at St. Paul's --- I want to point out, this statistic/statement was taken from a date that soon follows 4-20 (April 20th), an internationally recognized day for celebration of cannabis. If in fact the statement was true, this would reflect an abnormal occurrence. There is an influx of people and product. People getting excited and celebrating the great things marijuana does for

Thank you.

Jordan Irwin Gardner  
you are wrapping up



**Isfeld, Lori**

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**From:** Dr. Gourkow s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 9:37 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cannaclinic Medicinal Society written submission  
**Attachments:** Cannaclinic written submission\_June 17 2015.pdf

Dear Mayor and Councillors,  
Thank-you for the opportunity to voice our opinion on the proposed regulations.  
Please accept this written submission which expands on the two points I brought up during my presentation  
Kind regards,  
Dr. Nadine Gourkow



Dr. Nadine Gourkow

Cannaclinic Medicinal Society

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council,

Thank-you for this opportunity to present our Society's views on the proposed regulations for medical marijuana dispensaries in Vancouver. The opportunity to voice our opinions is a great gift for all of us working in this field and our patients.

Our Society is in favour of Vancouver city's proposal and 100% ready to abide to all regulations. However, we are hoping you will consider the following proposed amendments relating to the following:

- The Point System;
- The Number of Licences per Society; and
- General Comments on the Proposed Regulations

### **1. The Point System.**

According to the City's proposed point system, two existing dispensaries that are located in an acceptable area but within 300 m of each other would be compared to each other on the basis of the proposed point system regardless of when they were established. Should they end up with the same score a lottery system would be used to determine which one needs to relocate.

#### **Disadvantages of the point system**

- Older dispensaries have sometimes been denied construction permits. In our case, we were sometimes able to obtain them and yet, denied them at other times. City staff, told our contractor on more than one occasion, that permits couldn't be issued to a



business not in possession of a current or valid business license. The operational letter required by the city would have forced us to lie, we were not prepared to do that.

- The longer a dispensary has been operating the more chance it has to have had one or more nuisance complaint (sometimes unfounded) or to have an interaction with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) for any of many reasons.
- It has come to our attention, through our lawyer, that dozens of people and organizations have requested his services for the preparation of commercial leases for the establishment of **NEW** dispensaries. This suggests that many more applications will be submitted to the City than there are dispensaries currently or potentially available spots for these dispensaries. These new applicants will do better on the point system since they will not have done construction, will have not had interactions with VPD, etc. I suspect other law firms are receiving very similar requests from new dispensary owners. The flip side of their absence of negative history however is that they also do not have a patient base relying on their specific products and services. This advantage given to new applicants under the point system is thus unfair to us and to patients. It should be an important consideration in the granting of a license that many older dispensaries have:
  - Served the community well (as most give back to the community in one way or another);
  - Fostered positive relationships with neighbouring businesses; and
  - Developed important relationships with the patients they serve, understanding their needs and are already sourcing and providing the specific products needed by each individual client.

#### First example

West 4<sup>th</sup> Cannaclinic (4<sup>th</sup> and Burrard) has been in operation for several years. We opened this specific location following requests from many of our mail order patients who asked to have access to our products and services in Kitsilano. We currently serve approximately 7000 patients from that location. We have a registered massage therapist, a Chinese Medicine Doctor and a Naturopathic Doctor serving our patients at that location. This is also the only location where we



provide consultations to pet owners regarding the use of CBD (non psychoactive cannabis) for pets with chronic pain.

A new dispensary opened up a few days ago (4<sup>th</sup> and Cypress). They do not yet have a patient base and to our knowledge do not offer a wide range of medical services.

#### Second example

Hastings Cannaclinic (2347 Hastings) has been in operation for approximately 4 years and offers medical services as well services with the addition of a mental health and addiction counsellor.

At the Hasting Street location we provide several clothing and food drives each year and offer free barbecues for the local people in the nearby, surrounding community. We have developed and maintain an excellent relationship with our neighbouring businesses. We also offer our space to local artists who can display their work there. We serve over 10,000 patients at this site.

Eggs Canna Inc. has recently opened a marijuana outlet at 2303 Hastings. Although, they do not offer services to patients and sell marijuana from dispensing machines, they may end up with a lower demerit score than we will as they have only been there six months and have not done any construction to improve their location.

#### **The numbered system: How would it work?**

When a business is requesting a license, the current procedure is to go to the Development and Building Services Centre take a ticket, wait your turn and if all zoning requirements are OK, fees are paid and the license is obtained on the spot.

We are requesting that this procedure be followed for the licensing of dispensaries. **Those of us having applied in the past or having established a dispensary during this prohibition time should be given a number according to initial application date or date of first day in operation.**

I have applied for a license on behalf of our Society in 2011 and subsequently every time we have opened a new location. **Thus I am requesting that we be put back in the queue in the order of our original application.**



**Cannaclinic Medicinal Society's local business sites are as follows:**

- 758 East Broadway (A licensed dispensary-closed down due to a fire in the next building)
- 2223 Commercial Drive (includes our main education center)
- 1132 Granville street (includes our medicated wheelchair yoga studio)
- 2347 Hastings street (is the site of our main charity events)
- 1812 West 4<sup>th</sup> (the location where offer free consultations for pet owners)
- 725 Nelson Street (our newest location which houses our second education center)

With the exception of a retail license granted “temporarily for our first location at 758 E Broadway (later recalled by the city), we have been refused a license for any of our other locations. **Nonetheless, we feel that the city should honour our original place in the queue based on the date of our initial application to the City for a business license (2011).**

With this approach, if an applicant arriving much later in the 'queue' establishes a site within the 300m buffer zone of a previously established dispensary then they should be required to relocate. We feel that **this queuing system following the current rules is orderly, logical and fair to patients and the Societies.**

## **2. Number of Licenses per Society**

I suggest that Societies like ours that already have several locations be allowed to continue serving their members and thus be allowed to hold as many licences as they require for each of their existing location. As discussed in the previous section, each of our location offers services and programs developed with great care to meet the specific needs of the communities we serve. For example, pet owners in Kits commonly seek out our consultations regarding the health of their pets.

People from the Hastings area truly look forward to our clothing and food drives and have made good use of our mental health services.

To shut down one of our locations would leave many of our patients without the specific products and services they value and are in need of.



### 3. General Comments on the Regulations

As I listened to the questions asked by Counsellors during the public hearings I became concerned that the Compassion Club has become the accepted model preferred by the City. For example, Ms. Black was asked to send a list to the City of the dispensaries she feels may be similar to the Compassion Club's Model (perhaps to facilitate decision-making on which dispensaries may be granted a license).

I understand the importance and comfort of being able to point to one model of dispensary to facilitate the City's decision-making. However, I have worked for non-profit organizations for over 12 years and have a strong understanding of mission focussed programing and services. Cannaclinic has short and long term mission-driven strategic plans aimed at achieving our mandate of safe access to cannabis and access to cannabinoid medicine education for patients and their pets. Please keep in mind that there is a wide range of work to be done by Societies such as activism, research, education, medical services, product development etc. There is room for all of us to do our part to ensure patient's safe and secure access to their medical marijuana as ordered by the federal courts of this country.

In the case of Cannaclinics, all surplus monies are invested in cannabinoid research and curricula development in addition to our community work. We are currently the major contributors for the construction of a laboratory and veterinary research center on Vancouver Island where we will conduct studies on toxicity and dosage to fill an important gap in the literature.

We have also registered a school "Cannabis Career College" where courses will focus on increasing professionalism and knowledge of people working or wanting to work in the medical marijuana field. Our chosen areas of charitable work are thus focused on the ultimate goal of ensuring patients have the best possible products and support).

I sincerely hope that you will consider the amendments proposed.

Thank-you for your support

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Dr. Nadine Gourkow

**Isfeld, Lori**

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**From:** Alan Hill s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 9:44 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** response to mail order issue

My mail order is sent to my PO box where I must sign for it with (usually) ID as well. From the dispensary to the mail service, to my po box, to me. No children. Some sort of requirement like this could be created.