

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BEFORE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
ZONING AMENDMENT BYLAW (CANNABIS RETAIL) NO. 2371, 2022

Dear Mayor and council,

Three this week.

How is that Squamish has four retail cannabis stores, and we have zero? In a time of reduced revenues for the RMOW and the prospect of using reserves for municipal OPEX/CAPEX, it would seem prudent to welcome a new revenue stream in Whistler.

Please open up the market to cannabis stores.

Regards,

Patrick Smyth
Whistler BC. "Exceeding Nature"

Surfers go here: www.patrick.tc
Snowboarders go here: www.whistler.tc

"Whatever you do and wherever you go and however you get there, just remember one thing: surfers travel. If you don't, you might as well quit."



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Tyler Follett [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2021 1:59 PM
To: corporate
Subject: Double Standard

Dear council,

I am writing to you today out of curiosity. I am curious why you are so vehemently opposed to allowing a legal cannabis dispensary to open up in Whistler? Meanwhile it seems like any time a bar would like to open on the stroll, the red carpet is rolled out for them. Why the drastic difference? People should have a safe and legal option, rather than having to drive to Squamish and spend their money there.

How much money does council spend cleaning up after drunkards? I've lived here for over 5 years and can tell you the routine of every Friday and Saturday morning, vomit, cans and items of clothing littering the village stroll.

Is it because money from the sales go to the province and not the municipality?

With all due respect, it really seems like this is a council that is out of touch with the residents.

Sincerely,
Tyler Follett
2111 Whistler Rd.
[REDACTED]

From: Aimee Todd [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 3:11 PM
To: corporate; Jack Crompton
Cc: Jaclynn Pehota
Subject: Cannabis Retail in Whistler

Dear Mayor & Council,

I am writing in response to a local news item in the February 11th edition of the Pique News Magazine, regarding Whistler's slow response to providing citizens and guests legal access to recreational cannabis. Specifically, Mayor Compton was quoted "Non-medical cannabis retail and licencing is in the Resort Municipality of Whistler's current work plan, and is identified for consideration in 2021. But a lot depends on resources available.". (https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/local-news/cannabis-retail-on-whistlers-2021-work-planresources-permitting-3372031?fbclid=IwAR300_ZIEwUCIHv_Kt9gMTvUULbRXHZtYgVLSQk5OPU_K19qDGuIH3PrK2w)

As an owner of a legal shop in Squamish, I am excited by the likelihood that Whistler will have a store in 2021 based on your answer that it depends largely on "resources available" because help is available. Much of the work to get Whistler cannabis ready is already done. The RMOW can get educated quickly and easily now that two years of data exists.

You can look to your Sea to Sky neighbours- Squamish and Pemberton have first hand experience. Squamish, in particular, has been a leader in the province on keeping themselves educated and forward thinking. In fact they are in the process of modernizing their bylaws around cannabis to eliminate redundancies and conflicts with BC's official guidelines.

ACCRES (Association of Canadian Cannabis Retailers) is a rich source of information as their mandate is to protect and expand the private cannabis retail sector in Canada. They can educate you on things like independently owned vs. government run shops, and provide data to fuel educated decisions. For example, you may not know the devastating effect government stores have had in some BC communities or the number of shops a municipality should consider and why.

Feel free to contact me, I will be happy to answer any questions or steer you in a better direction. By the time all the free resources are exhausted, the RMOW may find themselves with a surplus!

Best,
Aimee Todd-Mussett
Owner/Operator
Sky High Cannabis Ltd.
PO Box 2568 St. Mn.
Squamish, BC V8B 0B7
info@skyhighcannabis.ca
604-262-2839



Mayor Crompton & Council Members,

My name is Randy Tingskou, and myself, along with my wife, Kaleigh, are the owners of A Little Bud, which is White Rock's only licenced non-medical cannabis retail store. We frequently vacation in your resort community and are in the process of relocating there from Abbotsford. We are not a traditional corporate cannabis retailer; we are a family-owned and operated business and we pride ourselves in listening to the needs of our customers and community.

I would very much like to establish A Little Bud in Whistler as part of a soft introduction to cannabis via a 5-year Temporary Use Permit which would ensure the Resort Municipality of Whistler holds the most advantageous position while we work together to ensure cannabis' successful launch in the municipality. A Temporary Use Permit is advantageous to the RMOW because it allows for changes to operating hours etc., would provide the RMOW with all necessary data to make future decisions on cannabis retail in Whistler (i.e. number of stores, placement, and community impacts), and potentially be rescinded at any time should we not meet the expectations. With 2 locations, one either in Function Junction or Creekside and the other in the Upper Village, we can bring year-round revenue to the municipality from beginning to end. A Little Bud can co-exist nicely with the family-friendly atmosphere of Whistler and be a significant complement to the après lifestyle with fewer consequences associated with intoxication as what typically follows overindulgence with alcohol. It could also be a boon to local restaurants and retailers as a common reaction is "the munchies". Unlike established "cannabis chains", we are a small boutique business focused on the needs of our community.

Traditionally, cannabis has been regarded as a "stoner culture" with the bulk of users being either teens or hippies. This is not the case; especially as it pertains to A Little Bud. You might be surprised to know that at our White Rock location, the average age of our customer is 66. Yes, we won't deny some are "stoners" in the stereotypical sense but the bulk are affluent working citizens seeking something to unwind from their stressors. This is also reflected in product sales which are quite balanced between flowers/pre-rolls and edibles/beverages/topicals.

BDS Analytics' landmark cannabis consumer research study confirmed what we in the industry have long understood about cannabis users. The study found that the average user is accomplished (personally & professionally), satisfied with life in general, are family-oriented, nurturing and volunteering and love the outdoors. They are Whistler! (see attached summary for full details).

We believe in supporting the community where we live and work. As part of our business plan, A Little Bud would be committing 15% of our net profits directly to the Whistler community; specifically 7.5% to the Resort Municipality of Whistler and 7.5% to non-profits (Zero Ceiling,

Whistler Community Services Society, Whistler Animals Galore and Whistler Women's Society).

We believe a 15% contribution could generate \$100,000-\$150,000 annually divided between the RMOW and the non-profits. While it would be at the RMOW's discretion on how to use the funds, we would have some ideas from our observations and from getting to know local business operators. 1) Updating the RMOW's current no smoking signage to include vaping and cannabis, 2) establish designated smoking (cannabis) areas outside of the family-friendly and congested areas of the village. Many of the hospitality operators that we have consulted in the area have shared with us their frustrations in not having a proper place to direct their guests to consume cannabis and/or other smoking products such as vapes or cigarettes. By working together, providing access to legal cannabis and designated consumption areas (as done by other world-class facilities such as the Vancouver International Airport), we could establish guidelines for cannabis use in Whistler instead of having people continue to find ways to skirt the rules. A residual benefit of designated consumption areas would be that responsible cannabis users, including a high percentage who use it for medicinal purposes, have a welcoming and respectful place to consume, as well as experience an increased sense of community among like-minded people discussing best practices.

All aspects of the resort municipality are executed masterfully with its carefully laid out processes and procedures that contribute to making it "the" resort community in B.C. From dog-friendly waste disposal to snow removal that seems like Disney magic to pedestrian-friendly walking trails complete with ample lighting & signage, Whistler knows how to appeal to tourists as well as enhance the lives of its year-round residents. The flow of the village is not unlike a river, always enticing you to walk a little further, explore a little more, and enjoy all that it has to offer. There is nothing in Whistler that we take for granted, nor would we. Everything is meticulously designed.

We appreciate your attention to detail and would love to contribute to Whistler's approach and complement it with regards to cannabis.

In 2020, MMGY Travel Intelligence and Enlightn Strategies, who are advisors in the CBD- and cannabis-related tourism space, did some research (see attachment for full details) and found that 29% of all active American leisure travelers (and 18% of all Americans) are interested in cannabis-related activities on vacation. This can really impact a tourist's decision upon where to visit. As evidenced in Colorado, where cannabis became legal in 2014, the Colorado Department of Revenue states that Cannabis Tourism grew 51% from 2014 to 2020 .

Canada is now 2 years into the legalization of cannabis. It is reasonable to assume the province may require municipalities to allow cannabis retail in all towns as a part of reasonable access. This process is well underway in legal markets in the United States. We want to actively work with you to make cannabis accessible while respecting the Whistler aesthetic. It is no secret that cannabis was in the air in Whistler long before legalization. By establishing A Little Bud within this respected resort community, it will not only provide a legal venue with products regulated through Health Canada but also one that contributes financially, not just through donations but with permanent employment.

With the establishment of 2 locations, we plan to provide 20-30 permanent jobs in addition to seasonal workers during prime time. Our starting wage is well above minimum wage. We believe in balance and diversity and this is seen in our staff where the male to female ratio is 60/40 and our staff range in age from 20-65. Many businesses have been hard hit for over the last year due to Covid, and with A Little Bud being in the cannabis industry, we are an essential service and our doors have remained open. In order to guarantee fair access to residents including seasonal workers, we would have special pricing in place for them of 10% off, with seniors and veterans receiving 15% off.

Being an essential service, resort communities can benefit from having a cannabis store as its presence generates a steady source of revenue. Studies have shown that tourists, who partake in cannabis usage, on average, spend more than regular tourists which can be of benefit to the bottom line of local businesses. Knowing that cannabis can be purchased in the resort community of Whistler also means that tourists will not have to travel outside the area to make their purchase (and possibly others – if they have to drive 40 minutes to buy cannabis, they may make other purchases as well – purchases they could have made in Whistler).

As part of our due diligence, we have already consulted with a number of local Whistler businesses and non-profits, with the goal to better understand the community and to get their feedback as to the steps we could take to ensure A Little Bud fits in and complements the area. They have expressed few concerns and large support for our vision. Many of the hotels are supportive and in fact mentioned to us that they frequently get asked where people are able to buy and smoke cannabis.

This is how we operate – through open and honest communication. With respect to our White Rock location, we have received nothing but praise from City Hall. A Little Bud was successful in getting established in White Rock due to how we operate which led us to beat out the BC Government store as well as the Choom Cannabis chain. Yes, there was hesitation given the proximity to a daycare 3 blocks away as well as concern regarding the city's main tourist attraction of the Pier (not unlike your mountain) becoming a source of intense smoking or littering which we are proud to say never became an issue. We do in fact remind any tourists who visit (and who may not be aware of the city by-laws) that they are unable to smoke along the Pier.

We would welcome the opportunity to work alongside Council to make our business successful and warmly received by Whistler as a whole. It would be a personal privilege to be able to bring A Little Bud to Whistler and with it an essential service (unaffected by pandemics) in an industry showing increased growth year over year with strong core values.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Randy Tingskou
Owner, A Little Bud

December 13, 2021

St. Andrews House – Cannabis Strategy 2022 – TUP

Mayor and Council,

As a long-time resident and commercial landlord, I would like to thank Council for taking the time to consider the detailed staff report, presented at the December 7, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. I am pleased that the RMOW is considering the possible implementation of a Cannabis Retail Strategy in 2022.

Further to the letter I wrote to you on June 30, 2021 titled, *St. Andrews House – Expression of Interest – Cannabis Retail*, I continue to be interested in, and would embrace any open engagement, as suggested by council, to involve myself as a local landlord in any future discussions.

My family has owned St. Andrews House since its construction in 1987. Located at 4433 Sundial Place, the building consists of 11 commercial units supporting local small businesses in retail, hospitality, and “health and wellness” sectors. We think that a small Cannabis Retail operator in our building would complement the existing businesses and support our overall mission to be a relevant and engaged commercial property, providing inclusive support to the village core for both locals and visitors alike.

We seek to be considered an appropriate location for cannabis retail by way of TUP or rezoning when council moves forward in the coming months.

St. Andrews House can offer a small retail space in a discrete but accessible corner of the building. While we would not operate the business ourselves, we would aim to support and give preference to a small family run operator, ideally with a proven history in cannabis retail, who is community orientated, and an equal opportunity employer, with a sound business plan and appropriate branding to complement the existing business mix in our building, and the Village aesthetics.

I realize that staff is currently working towards the next steps, but I hope to gain further information and clarification on whether, we as landlords will be positioned to initiate the process, or whether potential operators would be required to gain approval in advance of the applications.

I would very much appreciate it if you could reach out to me as information becomes available.

Respectfully,

Robin Crumley – Owner

St. Andrews House

Stratheden Properties Ltd.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]