

Marius Miklea

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_K19qDGulH3PrK2w)

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,
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