Village of Daajing Giids

March 20th, 2025

Mayor and Council
Municipalities of BC
via email

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: Cannabis Taxation Sharing & Municipal-Owned Cannabis Retail Stores

The Village of Daajing Giids is sharing with you the attached letter from David Hume the Assistant Deputy Minister & Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch as we believe it is important to ensure that all municipal leaders are informed about this ongoing dialogue and are able to consider the implications and opportunities for your municipality.

The letter arose from the Village of Daajing Giids' 2023 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) advocacy efforts with regard to Cannabis Taxation Revenue sharing with municipalities. The Village requested a general update on this topic from the Minister of Finance based on a recommendation from the 2021 Local Government Financial Resiliency report "seeking targeted consumption tax that provides local government a share of provincial cannabis taxation revenue". With minimal update on taxation revenue sharing from the Province, the question of municipally-owned cannabis stores as a source of revenue for local governments was briefly discussed with then Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General Mike Farnworth.

The attached letter outlines the province's position and provides clarity on issues related to municipal eligibility for cannabis retail store licenses. We encourage you to review the document and consider not only the revenue possibilities but also the opportunity to ensure responsible distribution and community oversight for your municipality.

Sincerely,

Her Worship,
Mayor Lisa Pineault
Village of Daajing Giids
PO Box 580, 903A Oceanview Drive V0T1S0
Email: mayor@daajinggiids.ca | Web: https://daajinggiids.ca/

February 5, 2025

Her Worship Lisa Pineault
Village of Daajing Giids
903A Oceanview Drive
Daajing Giids, B.C. V0T 1S0
Email: Office@daajinggiids.ca

Dear Mayor Pineault:

I am writing to follow up with you on a letter sent from former Minister, Mike Farnworth, on February 5, 2024, regarding municipality-owned cannabis retail stores. As the General Manger (GM) of the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB), I oversee the province's liquor and cannabis regulations, including the administration of cannabis licences and authorizations. Through sound policy and regulation, the LCRB's mission is to enable vibrant liquor and cannabis industries, while ensuring public health and safety.

I would like to thank the delegation from the Village of Daajing Giids for your interest in the cannabis industry and for seeking clarification on whether a municipality is eligible to hold a Cannabis Retail Store (CRS) licence. I appreciate your patience while we reviewed this matter.

The *Cannabis Control and Licencing Act* authorizes the GM to issue a CRS licence to an individual, partnership, corporation or Indigenous nation. In B.C., the legal definition of a corporation includes a municipality or other incorporated bodies. Therefore, the GM is authorized to issue a CRS licence to a municipality if the municipality meets all licensing requirements.

If you are interested in applying for a CRS licence, you can submit an application through the LCRB's licencing portal: https://justice.gov.bc.ca/lcrb/.

More information on how to apply is on the LCRB's "Apply for a cannabis Retail Store licence" webpage: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/liquor-regulation-licensing/cannabis-licences/apply-cannabis-licence/apply-for-a-cannabis-retail-store-licence.

If you have more questions about the application process, please reach out to Karina Isdahl, Licensing Manager at Karina.Isdahl@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

David Hume
Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
www.gov.bc.ca/lcrb

pc: Janet Donald, Executive Director, LCRB (Janet.Donald@gov.bc.ca)
       Pamala Renwick, Executive Director and Deputy General Manager of Licensing
       (Pamala.Renwick@gov.bc.ca)