



February 4th, 2022

The City of Prince George Mayor and City Council  
City Hall  
1100 Patricia Blvd,  
Prince George, BC  
V2L 3V9

**Re: Rezoning Amendment Application No. RZ100727**

**Attention: The City of Prince George Mayor and City Council**

The Prince George Airport Airline Consultative Committee (ACC) represents the air carriers serving the Prince George Airport. These air carriers include Air Canada, Central Mountain Air, Encore, Jazz Aviation LP, Pacific Coastal Airlines, Sunwing and WestJet.

As Chairperson for the Prince George Airport Airline Consultative Committee (ACC), please accept this letter as notice the Prince George Airport ACC opposes the Rezoning Amendment Application No. RZ100727 to add "Retail, Cannabis" as a secondary use to the Z1 Airport zone based on the following concerns:

1. The ACC feels the "Retail, Cannabis" use and the proposed store is not in keeping with the Z1 Airport zone's Primary Use as an Airport and Secondary Uses intended to serve the airport.
  - According to the store proponent's business case, the store will market to the general public "members of the community" and will not be restricted to people that need to be at the airport for work or travel.
2. The "Retail, Cannabis" use and the proposed store will market to and attract non-airport related traffic to the airport which will increase demand and pressure on the limited capacity of the airport parking, access and terminal facilities.
  - The airport is a specialized transportation facility, quite different from retail facilities such as shopping centres and retail commercial strips, particularly as it relates to government rules and regulations for air transportation safety, security and restricted access.

- It is designed specifically to accommodate air travel and the associated passengers and airport staff. It is not meant or designed to accommodate additional demands from off-airport, non-airport related traffic.
  - The ACC is concerned about the additional traffic and congestion the store could create for parking and road access facilities and for the adjacent check-in area in the terminal building.
  - Should it be necessary to expand airport facilities, the costs will be primarily funded from the Airport Improvement Fees (AIF) which are paid by air passengers.
3. The ACC feels the sale of cannabis in the airport is not compatible with the operation of an airport facility and other airport terminal uses:
- The ACC is concerned a store in the airport, promoting and encouraging passengers to purchase and consume cannabis products just prior to their flight will significantly increase the number of passengers that might not otherwise have chosen to use products before their flight. This increases the chance of risks associated with passengers intoxicated from cannabis consumption.
  - The Prince George Airport Authority does not plan on imposing any airport-specific rules regarding the consumption of non-combustible cannabis products in airport public areas.
  - The ACC is concerned that customers will be allowed to consume non-combustible cannabis products anywhere in the airport public areas including the children's play area and in the restricted, post security departure gate area.
  - Air travel is heavily regulated, particularly with respect to safety and security. Many resources are devoted to ensure safety and security at the airport. Additional non-airport related traffic for this and potentially other establishments will place additional demands and risks on the airport resources, infrastructure and operations.
  - It may be argued that since it is legal to sell and consume alcohol in the airport, cannabis sales and consumption should also be allowed. There is a big difference between the sale and consumption of alcohol and the sale and consumption of cannabis.
    - There are strict rules on the consumption of alcohol in the airport and in public areas. Alcohol may only be purchased and consumed in limited locations in licensed establishments and is controlled by trained professionals.
    - Alcohol cannot be taken through Pre-Board Screening (PBS) and it is easily identified. Cannabis products are allowed in carry-on baggage and may be taken through PBS screening.

- Alcohol consumption is difficult to hide whereas the consumption of non-combustible cannabis products is allowed in all public areas of the airport, is easy to hide and the amount of use is difficult to monitor.
- Alcohol intoxication is easier to identify and test whereas cannabis intoxication is more difficult to identify and test and the intoxicating effects may be delayed.
- It may be argued that cannabis can be legally purchased at off-airport stores and consumed at the airport prior to departure. As stated previously, the ACC is concerned a store in the airport, promoting and encouraging passengers to purchase and consume cannabis products just prior to their flight will significantly increase the number of passengers that might not otherwise have chosen to use products before their flight. This increases the chance of risks associated with passengers intoxicated from cannabis consumption.

The Prince George Airport ACC would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to present the above concerns and we respectfully request that you reject the subject Rezoning Amendment Application No. RZ100727.

Sincerely,



Rick Miller

Chairperson, Prince George Airport Airline Consultative Committee

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