

To Your Worship and City Councillors,

We would like to start off by thanking you for taking the time to consider Grasshopper Retail Inc.'s rezoning application from a Temporary Use Permit to C1c zoning. We are very excited and proud to be a part of Prince George's growing and vibrant downtown core.

In February of 2019 our Cannabis Retail Application was approved by the BCLDB and our file was then sent to the City of Prince George Administration to start our full rezoning process. We were then guided by Administration to change our application to a Temporary Use Permit instead, as Cannabis Retail was a new space and there were many uncertainties around its effects (either negative or positive), especially to the downtown community. We ultimately decided to take the Administration's suggestion and switch our application to a Temporary Use Permit, knowing we had the option to re-apply for the full rezoning prior to the 3 year expiration. We were approved for the Temporary Use Permit in April 2019 and were able to open our doors in July 2019. We feel that the past 15 months provide a strong indication that the effects of legal cannabis downtown aren't generating any negative effects to our beloved community. As noted in the Staff Report to Council, "The intent of the Temporary Use Permit was to allow Administration the opportunity to learn and evaluate the extent of any impacts that may occur as a result of a Retail, Cannabis use being located in the downtown. Administration has not received any complaints related to the operation of Grasshopper Retail Inc. located at 421 George Street from adjacent property owners, or the public at large since the operation."

Earlier this year we made the decision to purchase our building at 409-445 George St which was a driving force on why we are going forward with rezoning to C1c. We met with the City of PG Administration Planning Department in June of this year to gather their thoughts on our potential application and also on timelines of rezoning. We were advised that the rezoning process might take longer (possibly 6 months) than a typical rezoning due to the Ministry needing to be referred out to for comment. As an ownership group, this was a risk to take however we feel very strongly that we have created a business that goes above and beyond for our customers and our staff. It's one that gives back to the community, and is an example of a small business success story for Prince George. Since our building purchase we have fully renovated the interior of our building. We've also replaced the original windows and doors on both sides, and the roof of our building with a brand new torch-on and flashing. We also renewed a lease with North City Donair in their location to ensure they are able to operate for years to come. In 2021, we will work with the Downtown Business Association to upgrade our exterior so our building will align more with the goal to revitalize Downtown.

Since opening, we have processed over 100,000 customer transactions and have yet to require any assistance with unruly customers from either RCMP or Bylaw. We can assure you; our presence downtown has only been a positive one. We employ 15 staff members in our humble yet workable 900 square foot storefront. We also currently pay an annual Business Licence fee of \$1,000 to the city to account for the unknown of cannabis retail. We proactively had the RCMP Crime Prevention Team come to our store and teach our staff about Emergency Process and safety Protocol.

Accomplishments:

- 2020 Business Excellence Awards nomination for the PG Chamber of Commerce for:
 - Business of the Year
 - Service Excellence Award
- 2020 Reader's Choice Award by the Prince George Citizen
 - Prince George's # 1 Cannabis Retailer as voted by the public

Donations:

- Hospice: Give a Gift Campaign
- Hospice 2020 Dream Home: Builder Appreciation Night
- 100 Heroes: Quarterly donation to winning charity
- United Way of Northern British Columbia
- Relay for Life: Art Easel
- Spirit of the North
- Nica House: building homes for the less fortunate in Nicaragua
- Grasshopper gives back: 100+ gift bags of winter gear, toiletries and food to downtown residents in need.

Safety/Education for all Grasshopper employees and owners:

- Worker Security Verification
- Selling it Right course
- Licenced Producer in-class and online training
- RCMP Crime Prevention Training



Kind regards,
Sandy Przysieny
Derrick Przysieny
Joe Postnikoff

grasshopper retail inc