

To your Worship and City Councillors

For the second time in as many months, we write you today in opposition of Cannabis Licence Application No. CN000016 and the Temporary Use Permit Application No. TU000065 proposed by Epik Products located at 356 George St.

To date, all approved legalized cannabis retailers within the City of Prince George have currently been asked to follow the [‘City of Prince George Council Procedure: Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Policy’](#) which states the two following items:

- 1) Local Government Resolution Application Evaluation Criteria
 - The number of other similar types of uses within a reasonable distance of the proposed Liquor License and Cannabis Retail License.
- 2) Location of Liquor Primary Establishments and Cannabis Retail

Cannabis Retail License

- The following section details the suggested separation for Cannabis Retail stores. Council may increase or decrease the following suggested minimum separation between liquor primary establishments on a case specific basis in consideration of the evaluation criteria in Section C. 1.
- Cannabis Retail uses may be permitted with a minimum separation of 1.6 km from other cannabis retail uses.
- Staff will also provide in a Report to Council a summary of surrounding land uses and the proximity of the nearest residential, institutional and liquor and cannabis retail uses for Council’s consideration.

In terms of proliferation and reducing small clusters of stores, approving this application will set a precedent. It will create mass confusion for past and future applicants, and it will also make a statement to the public that proliferation is of little concern and will show a disregard for both the *Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Policy* and the *Provincial Liquor and Cannabis Act*. The applicant in this case admittedly knew all along that there was a store only 60 meters away from its proposed location on George Street (**25 times** closer than the recommendations by the City of Prince George Administration). It’s been stated that their business model and store layout will be different than the other existing Cannabis Retail Stores, but overall their license is exactly the same and should be treated as such. When you compare liquor stores to cannabis stores in the downtown core (Zagas Hemp Shop, Earth to Sky Cannabis, Grasshopper Retail Inc and 15th Ave Liquor Warehouse) the ratio is already 3:1. Why do we need four times as many cannabis stores than liquor stores in the downtown core when they fall under the same legislation?

We disagree with the notion that Cannabis Retail should be treated like any other retail store. Unlike a traditional retail store, we are heavily regulated through Federal, Provincial and Municipal Regulations. Like liquor stores, we require specialized zoning to operate, specialized training, we sell a product that cannot be sold to minors, which cannot be used in certain designated areas (vehicles, parks etc), and pay a higher business licence fee (\$1,000/yr).

We acknowledge that it looks as if the applicant Healx Medical Corp in collaboration with the BC Hemp Corporation has spent a lot of capital to enhance the proposed location but their complete disregard for the *Prince George Liquor and Cannabis Licencing Policy* isn't something that should be approved solely based on money spent in advance to being approved. That is a risk they decided to take on themselves without determining in advance with the City of Prince George Planning Department if the application would be supported with the information available at the time.

We appreciate the challenging decisions that council is faced with and we appreciate you taking the time to review our concerns with this application.

Kind regards,
Sandy Przysieny
Derrick Przysieny
Joe Postnikoff

grasshopper retail inc