

TO: Mayor and Council
District of Lillooet
615 Main Street, Lillooet, BC

Ref: Rod Pleasance
Director of Public Works
District of Lillooet

Re: Development Variance Permit for 657 Main Street – Retail Cannabis Sales

DEAR MAYOR AND COUNCIL,

I oppose Applicant Yada Holdings Ltd.'s proposal for 657 Main Street changing the zoning by-law for cannabis retail dispensary.

While the government did legalize non-medical cannabis in British Columbia for individuals of the age of 19 and older, we still, as a community, have a responsibility to manage access and visibility to the children and families of the community. The provincial government already concedes that smoking and vaping cannabis within sight of where children commonly gather is not allow, nor proper (www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/cannabis). Having a dispensary in the direct middle of the town in such a pivotal, visible, central, area where children and families are constantly found during the day goes against the "spirit" of the provincial regulations and will cause a further erosion of any self-discipline that young people under the age of 19 are dealing with. I do not believe the Village should be complicit in the "normalization" of cannabis ingesting or smoking product to children, especially when the provincial government agrees. If one is not allowed to smoke or vape at playgrounds or schools there can be no justification for the actual sale of the product in such a central publicly visible location.

The science on the massively negative effects that THC from cannabis has on young minds under the age of 25 are clear (www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/cannabis-children-and-youth - Canadian Paediatric Society). Placing this dispensary in such a visible and central location will further put added pressures on families to deal with a product which is **already** an incredibly difficult issue to navigate... I speak from heart breaking experience. The central location of this, and any, cannabis dispensary will continue to push the normalization of cannabis to these young minds which are already pressured at so many different levels to experiment and use the drug.

I believe that the current bylaws regulating cannabis dispensaries should **not** be amended for the benefit of one business which will have a negative impact on many, many, young people and families. While I personally disagree with the legalization of cannabis for non-medical purposes, I accept the governments ruling but ask that our local government not further walk down that path and keep the bylaws governing its legalization to it's current "acceptable" and reasonable limits. Other locations can be found for this dispensary which fall within the current District bylaws... other Main Streets in Lillooet can not be walked down by the children and families of our community. By amending this bylaw the Mayor and Council will be giving a clear message to families that they are not going to be supported by our local government.

Bob Van Natter
VirtualHelp Electronics