



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2015 #15-18

For further information, contact:
Mayor Nicole Read at 604-463-5221
nread@mapleridge.ca

Mayor Appeals to Ottawa for Greater Transparency in Medical Marihuana Production Approvals

Maple Ridge, BC: On April 21, 2015 Maple Ridge Mayor Nicole Read sent a letter to the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Canada's Minister of Health, expressing concern that Health Canada has no formal public process relating to the location of medical marihuana production facilities in our City. The result is that Maple Ridge citizens, in fact the citizens of any municipality in Canada, have no opportunity to express their views about the location of these facilities. As the Mayor states in the letter;

"It should be a formal requirement that Health Canada make the location of these potential sites known to the public and hold a public meeting and consider the comments of our citizens in determining if such a facility should be considered for licensing in our City."

"The situation in Whonnock highlights the issues around the failures in the current Health Canada process. Our citizens expect to have a robust public process around the location of these facilities, yet there is none," said Mayor Read. "To be very clear, we understand that there is a market for the medical use of marihuana, and the goal is to establish a national network of licensed growers. Our issue is around the process, and we will continue to vigorously press the Federal Government to establish a public process relating to the location of medical marihuana production facilities."

The letter, attached to this release, has also been posted on the City website at mapleridge.ca. For more information contact Mayor Nicole Read by email at nread@mapleridge.ca or by phone at 604-463-5221.



Office of the Mayor

April 21, 2015

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, MP
Minister of Health
Brooke Claxton Building (Tunney's Pasture)
#0906C
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Dear Ms. Ambrose,

I write to you as the Mayor of Maple Ridge, British Columbia to express our concern with the potential number of medical marihuana production facilities in our City.

The City of Maple Ridge has received 13 notices of intent to apply to Health Canada to become licensed producers of medical marihuana under the *Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations*. This is close to the number of fully authorized licensed producers across Canada listed on Health Canada's website in just one community.

Our City Council has heard loud and clear from many of our residents that they are very upset and concerned about the large number of intended medical marihuana production facilities that could be licensed in our community.

The City has a large number of parcels that are in the agricultural land reserve in B.C. and therefore appears to be receiving a larger number of the applications than other communities.

The City understands that very little land is actually required to meet the needs of the small portion of the Canadian population that requires marihuana for medical purposes.

The City is concerned that Health Canada has no formal public process relating to the location of these facilities in our City and therefore our citizens have no opportunity to express their views about the location of a medical marihuana production facility. It should be a formal requirement that Health Canada make the locations of these potential sites known to the public and hold a public meeting and consider the comments of our citizens in determining if such a facility should be considered for licensing in our City. Our citizens have the right to expect a more open and transparent process from Health Canada.

1/2

District of Maple Ridge

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The City therefore urges Health Canada to undertake a full public process and consider the comments from our citizens as a result of that process in exercising its discretion to issue licenses in our City. Furthermore, the City urges Health Canada to only issue licenses in our City proportionate to the number of authorized licensed producers across Canada and the need for such facilities.

I appreciate you considering our comments and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Nicole Read
Mayor

cc Maple Ridge Council
Jim Rule, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Maple Ridge
Frank Quinn, General Manager, Public Works & Development Services, City of Maple Ridge
Christine Carter, Director of Planning, City of Maple Ridge
Randy Kamp, MP, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows-Mission
Marc Dalton, MLA, Maple Ridge-Mission
Doug Bing, MLA, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows

“NOTE: Subsequent to the letter being sent on April 21 The City has been verifying whether the ‘letters of intent’ are still active with the applicants and if these proposed locations are still being pursued with Health Canada”