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Cannabis Act Legislative Review Secretariat
Health Canada
Address locator 03021
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9
Via email: legreview-examenleg@hc-sc.gc.ca

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), which represents Manitoba's 137 municipalities, I am writing to provide some comments regarding the legislative review of *The Cannabis Act* as well as to express concerns related to the medical cannabis regime and lack of revenue-sharing with municipalities.

Municipalities are on the front lines in local communities where cannabis products are legally produced, sold and consumed. However, due to a lack of accessible information about the locations of legal cannabis production sites operating within municipal boundaries, some municipalities have found it difficult to monitor and take enforcement actions against offenders in cases of non-compliance or defiance of local by-laws and land use restrictions relating to cannabis operating activities. In particular, it is very difficult for local authorities to verify who has been issued a license by Health Canada, which creates uncertainty as to who is producing cannabis lawfully and who is doing so illegally.

Meanwhile, federal regulations for medical cannabis production allow up to four registration certificate holders to grow their cannabis at a single location, which frequently leads to grow operation consolidation. The result is that a significant number of cannabis plants often end up being grown at a single location within a community, without local consent. In turn, these cannabis grow operations are often discovered as a result of by-law infractions or calls for emergency services (RCMP, fire services). Municipalities are frequently on the receiving end of nuisance complaints from residents about cannabis-related activities, including odour and light pollution and concerns about criminality, which places additional administrative burdens on local resources and increases costs on local governments.

Additionally, individual medical cannabis growers are not subject to the same strict requirements that apply to commercial cannabis producers when it comes to keeping municipalities informed about their activities. This has significant implications for municipalities when it comes to local monitoring, enforcement, and public safety. Thus, it is imperative that Health Canada ensure that municipalities have all necessary resources and information on all licensed sites of cannabis productions within local boundaries so that municipalities can effectively enforce by-laws pertaining to cannabis production facilities.

Lastly, while the federal government committed to sharing 75 per cent of the excise tax with provinces and territories, the AMM understands that the Province of Manitoba is not a signatory of the Coordinated Cannabis Taxation Agreement and therefore does not receive a share of the federal cannabis excise tax. This is problematic given that the Province of Manitoba has decided to impose its own taxes and fees while Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries consistently reports revenues from cannabis operations year-over-year, including a 74 per cent increase compared to last year.

The AMM supports the position of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in calling on the federal government to ensure adequate revenue-sharing plans are in place and municipalities are able to share in the proceeds of this new federal policy. Municipalities must be active participants in revenue-sharing discussions, and a revenue-sharing model that respects municipal authority must be co-developed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Yours sincerely,



Kam Blight
President

cc: Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health of Canada
Hon. Eileen Clarke, Minister of Municipal Relations
Hon. Kelvin Goertzen, Minister of Justice
Hon. Cameron Friesen, Minister of Finance
Taneen Rudyk, FCM President