



March 20, 2006

The Honourable Tony Clement
Minister's Office – Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney's Pasture
Postal Locator: 0906C
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Dear Minister:

On behalf of Victoria City Council, I am writing you regarding the issue of public access to cannabis for medicinal purposes. This issue most recently came to our attention when numerous citizens expressed their concerns to City Council.

Many of these citizens currently rely on marijuana for the purpose of pain management and have expressed an inability to access the Federal Marijuana Medical Access Regulation (MMAR) program.

The meeting highlighted the concerns of the adequacy and effectiveness of current Health Canada regulations governing distribution and access to this controlled substance.

While the previous Federal Government has endorsed in principle the efficacy of the medicinal properties of cannabis, adequate production and distribution channels do not appear to be in place. In the absence of this infrastructure, many Canadians will continue to suffer the debilitating effects of their illnesses without the benefit of effective pain management techniques.

Victoria City Council therefore respectfully requests an immediate review of current policies and regulations to determine where improvements can be made to ensure a better quality of life for those Canadians in need of medical assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan Lowe".

Alan Lowe
MAYOR

c: The Honourable Vic Toews, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Members of Council
Chief Paul Battershill, VPD
Ted Smith, Victoria Cannabis Buyers' Club
Linda Dabros, Director, Health Canada
Philippe Lucas, Vancouver Island Compassion Society and Vice-Chair,
Downtown Advisory Committee