



Dec 20, 2016

Murry Krause, Councillor
President, Union of BC Municipalities
60-10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond BC
V6X 2W9

Dear Mr. Krause:

Thank you for your letter of November 16, 2016, to the Honourable Anne McLellan. Ms. McLellan has asked me to respond on her behalf.

As you are aware, the Government of Canada is committed to legalizing, strictly regulating, and restricting access to cannabis to keep it from children and youth, and to keep profits from criminals, in particular organized crime. This is a serious, complex matter, and the Government is committed to a thoughtful, transparent and evidence-informed process. Thank you for sharing the resolutions that were adopted by the Union of BC Municipalities.

The Government appointed the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation, led by Ms. McLellan, to consult with experts in public health, law enforcement, economics and industry, among others; provincial, territorial and municipal officials; representatives from Indigenous governments and organizations; and young Canadians. Hearing the municipal perspective was very important to the Task Force and critical to informing their advice to Ministers.

The Task Force has completed their report and shared it with the Government and the public; you can read it here: [http://healthy Canadans.gc.ca/task-force-marijuana-groupe-etude/framework-cadre/index-eng.php](http://healthy Canadians.gc.ca/task-force-marijuana-groupe-etude/framework-cadre/index-eng.php).

The completion of this report was an important step in helping the Government to fulfill our commitment to legalize, strictly regulate and restrict access to cannabis. The Government will be carefully considering the Task Force's advice as we develop legislation to be introduced in Parliament in the spring of 2017. As we move forward, the engagement of municipalities and others will continue to be important.

Thank you again for taking the time to write about this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Costen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Costen" clearly distinguishable.

Eric Costen
Director General
Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat