

Minister of Justice
and Attorney General of Canada



Ministre de la Justice
et procureur général du Canada

MAR 24 2017

The Honourable / L'honorable Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., Q.C., M.P. / c.p., c.r., députée
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H8

MAR 20 2017

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

Dear Councillor Krause:

Thank you for your correspondence, sent on behalf of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), concerning UBCM member-endorsed resolutions. I regret the delay in responding.

As you may know, matters concerning the cost of DNA analysis fall within the purview of my colleague the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, while those concerning abandoned and derelict vessels fall within the purview of my colleague the Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport. I note that you have also addressed correspondence to Ministers Goodale and Garneau. I will therefore leave these matters to them for their consideration.

As you know, our government will introduce legislation in the spring of 2017 in support of our commitment to legalize cannabis.

Given the complexity of regulating legal access to cannabis and the implications on municipalities and other sectors, our government established the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation on June 30, 2016. The Task Force, which was chaired by the Honourable Anne McLellan and vice-chaired by Dr. Mark Ware, was mandated to consider key aspects on the design of a legislative and regulatory framework.

As you know, the Task Force held in-depth consultations with a range of experts and key stakeholders, including representatives from municipalities and their associations. I know the Task Force is grateful for the feedback it received during a teleconference, held in October 2016, with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), in which UBCM officials participated. Moreover, the Task Force appreciated the written submissions it received from the FCM, the UBCM, and several British Columbia municipalities, including Vancouver and Victoria. Please be assured that your views and perspectives concerning the design of an effective new regime to regulate legal access to cannabis are valued.

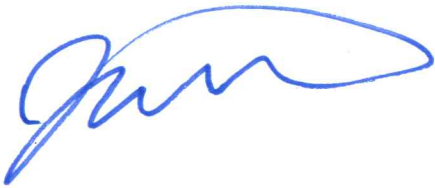
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The final report of the Task Force was presented to the Government, parliamentarians, and the public on December 13, 2016, and is available at <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/task-force-marijuana-groupe-etude/framework-cadre/index-eng.php>. Our government is carefully considering the Task Force's advice as we develop legislation to legalize cannabis.

As you know, municipalities have a key role to play in this matter, and our government remains committed to engaging with all levels of government. I understand that Health Canada officials are working with the FCM to ensure that the interests and perspectives of municipalities are understood. I am also aware that staff members from my office met with the FCM on March 3, 2017, and heard their views on this matter.

Thank you again for writing.

Respectfully,



The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
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