

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Cannabis Retail Store Hours of Operation
Business Licence Bylaw Amendment**

REPORT of the Public Meeting held on Monday, May 25, 2026 commencing at 6:04 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor Mike Little
Councillor Jordan Back
Councillor Betty Forbes
Councillor Jim Hanson
Councillor Herman Mah
Councillor Lisa Muri
Councillor Catherine Pope

Staff: Dan Milburn, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Genevieve Lanz, Director – Legislative Services and Corporate Officer
Neonila Lilova, Manager – Business and Economic Development
Mina Sami, Development Planner
Cheryl Archer, Confidential Council Clerk
Jillian Holden, Administration Clerk

1. OPENING BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Little welcomed everyone and advised that the purpose of the Public Meeting was to receive input from the community on the proposed bylaw amendments as outlined in the Notice of Public Meeting.

He further noted that the Public Meeting was convened pursuant to Section 59 of the *Community Charter*. Members of Council, staff, and the public participated in person and via Zoom and the meeting was being streamed live over the internet and recorded in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Mayor Little stated that:

- Following the staff presentation, speakers would be called from the established speakers list. At the end of the speakers list, the Chair would call on speakers from the audience;
- Each speaker would have five minutes to address Council for a first time and should begin remarks to Council by stating their name;
- After everyone who wished to speak had spoken once, speakers would then be allowed one additional five-minute presentation;
- Any additional presentations would be allowed at the discretion of the Chair;

- Speakers were reminded to refrain from repeating information from their previous presentations and to ensure all comments remained focused on the bylaw under consideration;
- If a written submission was provided, speakers were asked not to read the entire submission, noting that they could provide a summary or briefly reiterate the highlights;
- All members of the audience were asked to be respectful of one another as diverse opinions are expressed, noting that the meeting was an open and impartial forum for Council to hear everyone's views;
- Council's role at Public Meetings is to listen to the public, not to debate the merits of the bylaw;
- Council may ask clarifying questions during Public Meetings;
- A binder containing documents and submissions related to the bylaw is available for review in hard copy and online;
- Speaking opportunities would be provided for everyone who wished to provide input and the meeting would be continued on a second night, if required;
- At the conclusion of the public input Council may request further information from staff, which may or may not require an extension of the meeting, or Council may close the meeting, after which Council should not receive further new information from the public.

2. INTRODUCTION OF BYLAW BY CORPORATE OFFICER

Genevieve Lanz, Corporate Officer, introduced the proposed bylaw, stating that Bylaw 8788 proposes to amend the Business Licence Bylaw to update cannabis retail store operating hours from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. to align with the District's Non-medical Cannabis Policy.

3. PRESENTATION BY STAFF

Neonila Lilova, Manager – Business and Economic Development provided an overview of the proposal elaborating on the introduction by the Corporate Officer. Ms. Lilova advised that:

- The proposed bylaw is a housekeeping amendment to align the District's Business Licence Bylaw with its Non-Medical Retail Cannabis Policy;
- Updates to the Non-Medical Retail Cannabis Policy were approved by Council to align the operating hours of cannabis retailers in the District with the Province's cannabis retail licensing standards of 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on October 20, 2025;
- Staff identified the inconsistency between the bylaw and policy and brought forward the amendment to the Business Licence Bylaw to address the inconsistency.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

4.1. Marcia Stephenson:

- Spoke in opposition to the proposal;
- Stated she opposes the extension of operating hours for Imagine Cannabis as it would only benefit one business owner and customers who are not able to organize their time to make their purchases in the 12 hours they are currently open;
- Opined that longer opening hours at this location would cause issues for more than 400 people;
- Stated that she would not like to see conditions that encourage late meetups;
- Stated that people smoke in public and the smoke comes into residences through ventilation systems;
- Stated that Imagine Cannabis would be the only store open later on that side of the mall;
- Questioned why cannabis stores need later opening hours;
- Stated that people want quiet after 9:00 p.m., including families and seniors;
- Stated that she did not want destination vehicle traffic roaring down her street; and,
- Stated that other businesses that stay open late are on the other side of the mall and do not disturb residents.

4.2. Andrew Prietel:

- Spoke in support of the proposal, noting he is the owner of North Shore Cannabis;
- Opined that their store does not have the same issues as identified by the previous speaker due to their location and proximity to other businesses that are open late;
- Noted that the liquor store adjacent to North Shore Cannabis is open until 11:00 p.m. and it would be helpful to have both stores open until the same time for security and their business model;
- Stated that later opening hours make a significant difference;
- Opined that the cannabis stores in Lynn Valley and Deep Cove will not open later because it is not a viable option for those locations;
- Noted there are cannabis stores in the City of North Vancouver that stay open later;
- Noted that the cannabis store in Lynn Valley closes at 6:00 pm. and is allowed to stay open later;
- Stated that the top cannabis suppliers to the North Shore on the internet operate 24 hours a day and hours are not enforced by police; and,
- Stated that online sales take business away from legal operators who pay taxes.

4.3. Corrie Kost:

- Suggested custom hours based on neighbourhoods;
- Opined that the proposed bylaw and existing policy are too broad and the extended hours are not necessary; and,
- Noted that businesses in Edgemont Village close at 9:00 p.m.

4.4. Andrew Prietel SPEAKING FOR A SECOND TIME:

- Stated that there are few problems with cannabis stores;
- Opined that most customers buy products and leave;
- Noted that cannabis stores do not have places to consume products on the premises;
- Advised that he had owned the Lynnwood Inn and stated that there were many more issues with people who consumed alcohol.

4.5. Marcia Stephenson SPEAKING FOR A SECOND TIME:

- Stated that her comments were based on her experience and that of her neighbours;
- Opined that the District established Town Centres and neighbourhoods for liveability;
- Noted Town Centres have been densified;
- Stated that she wants to be in a family-friendly community; and,
- Stated that consistency between the bylaw and policy should not be as important as the people living near cannabis stores.

4.6. Joao Pedro:

- Advised that he works for the BC Cannabis Store on Marine Drive;
- Questioned if information on changes to operating hours would be provided to their union;
- Expressed concern regarding the safety of employees if working alone with extended hours; and,
- Noted that the store manager chose to have 9:00 p.m. as the store's closing time.

4.7. Hana Watanabe:

- Spoke in opposition to the proposal;
- Stated that she does not use cannabis;
- Noted that Vancouver has issues with addiction and the Downtown East Side is in crisis;
- Stated she supports limiting access to cannabis by youth;
- Stated that 19-year-olds do not have fully developed brains; and,
- Opined that extended hours would enable youth to have easier access to cannabis.

5. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that if the bylaw is adopted, the five cannabis stores in the District, both private and public, would be allowed to stay open until 11 p.m., noting this aligns with the provincial standard. Staff further noted that the decision to stay open until 11 p.m. or to continue to close earlier would be at the discretion of individual operators.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that if the bylaw is not adopted, the District would need to change the Non-medical Retail Cannabis Policy to allow stores to operate until 9:00 p.m.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised the Business Licence Bylaw is not variable, meaning that variances to the Business Licence Bylaw are not possible. Staff noted that Council can modify operating hours in any business licence if there are issues. Staff further noted that the five cannabis stores in the District have had no compliance issues and no significant issues with the RCMP.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that some District stores changed their operating hours when the policy was updated in October 2025 and that they have all been notified that they may only remain open until 9:00 p.m. unless the bylaw is amended to allow opening later.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that cannabis stores in the City of North Vancouver are permitted to open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. but it is up to individual operators how late to remain open.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that when the bylaw returns to Council for further consideration, staff will provide options, both of which will align the policy with the bylaw.

6. COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT the May 25, 2026 Public Meeting regarding Bylaw 8788 is closed;

AND THAT “Business Licence Bylaw 4567, 1974 Amendment Bylaw 8788, 2026 (Amendment 56)” is returned to Council for further consideration.

CARRIED
(6:35 p.m.)

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Confidential Council Clerk