The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver

CORPORATE POLICY

Title	Non-medical Retail Cannabis Policy
Section	Development and Social Planning

POLICY

It is the policy of Council that the approval of a retail cannabis business in the District of North Vancouver may only be considered through a rezoning application that meets the guidelines, criteria and processing requirements set out in this policy.

Policy approved on:
July 22, 2019

Policy amended on:
October 7, 2019
October 20, 2025

PROCEDURE

The following procedure is used to implement this policy but does not form part of the policy. This procedure may be amended from time to time at the discretion of the Chief Administrative Officer.

DEFINITIONS

"Council" means the Council for the District of North Vancouver.

"District" means the District of North Vancouver.

"Liquor & Cannabis Regulation Branch" means the Provincial branch which regulates British Columbia's liquor industries and private retail non-medical cannabis industries (formerly Liquor Control and Licensing Branch).

"Cannabis Retail Store" means a business for the retail sale of non-medical cannabis for off-site consumption and cannabis accessories and does not permit a warehouse use.

REASON FOR POLICY

To provide locational and evaluation criteria to guide decisions on permitting the retail sale of non-medical cannabis in the District.

PREAMBLE

The District has taken the approach of considering retail cannabis businesses through an individual rezoning process considered on a case-by-case basis. Applications for a retail cannabis business should comply with the locational guidelines and other criteria contained in this policy and will be subject to public consultation requirements of the District's Development Procedures Bylaw and the statutory provisions of the *Local Government Act*.

APPLICATION

1. This policy applies to applications for rezoning to operate a retail cannabis business in the District of North Vancouver.

2. Administration of this policy is handled through the processing of rezoning applications and preparation of bylaws for Council consideration. Compliance with this policy does not guarantee development approval from Council.

3. Applicants who apply to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) for any retail cannabis business licence must submit a rezoning application to the District after the application is referred to the municipality for input by the LCRB. Rezoning applications will only be considered after the date of approval of this policy.

LOCATIONAL GUIDELINES

The following locational guidelines will be used to assess the suitability of a site for a retail cannabis business when an application for rezoning for such a use has been submitted to the District:

A retail cannabis business may be located on a site that:

1. Is currently zoned to permit a liquor store use;

2. Is located at least 200 metres from any elementary or high school property;

3. Does not exceed a maximum of one (1) business per each of the following key growth centres identified in the Official Community Plan*:

    a. Maplewood Village Centre;
    b. Lions Gate Village Centre and Marine Drive Corridor;
    c. Lynn Valley Town Centre;
    d. Lynn Creek Town Centre.

*Additional businesses outside of Town and Village Centres may be given consideration on a case-by-case basis, subject to a review of the merits of the application.

4. Complies with all of the requirements of the Provincial *Cannabis Licensing Regulation*.

OTHER EVALUATION CRITERIA

In addition to the above locational guidelines, the following criteria will be considered in evaluating a rezoning application for a retail cannabis business use:

1. Access for vehicles, including potential traffic impacts and parking availability;

2. Access for pedestrians and cyclists, including proximity to public transit;

3. A proposed interior layout that does not accommodate product sampling;

4. A proposed exterior design that is sensitive to the design and character of the respective Town and Village Centre in which it is located and is consistent with all applicable guidelines that regulate the exterior appearance of all residential and commercial properties within that Centre to the extent possible that it complies with the Provincial *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*;

5. Design of signage that is in accordance with the District of North Vancouver Sign Bylaw;

6. Operating hours that do not exceed 9am – 11pm;

7. Store security requirements that meet the Provincial Cannabis Retail Store Licence Terms and Conditions Handbook.

NON-MEDICAL CANNABIS APPROVAL PROCESS

All retail cannabis businesses must undergo a site-specific rezoning process before the retail sale of non-medical cannabis is permitted. This will include opportunities for public consultation.

All applicants interested in establishing a retail cannabis business shall submit the following applications:

1. An application to the Provincial Liquor & Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) for a cannabis retail store license prior to submitting an application for rezoning to the District;

2. An application to the District for a rezoning of the parcel to permit a retail cannabis business, once the application has been referred from the Provincial Liquor &

Cannabis Regulation Branch to the District for input. Applications for rezoning will be processed using a first-come-first-served model based on the date and time the application was forwarded to the District from the LCRB. Applications should be submitted to the District within 15 days of a referral from the LCRB. If an application is submitted more than 15 days after the referral from the LCRB, then it will be processed on a first-come-first-served model based on the date that the complete application is accepted by the District.

3. In the case of a Provincial store, the date that an application is submitted to the District will be considered the date of referral.

4. An application to the District for a development permit as required by the District;

5. An application for a District business licence, upon successful adoption of a rezoning bylaw and a positive recommendation from the District to the LCRB; and

6. Additional permit applications as required by the District, including but not limited to a building permit and/or sign permit applications.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1. Rezoning to permit a retail cannabis business will require public consultation as specified in District bylaws and policies (e.g. Development Procedures Bylaw) and statutory procedures set out in the *Local Government Act* (e.g. Public Hearing).

2. A summary of the public consultation will be included in a Report to Council for the rezoning application.

CONDITIONS OF REZONING

Council may require that one or more of the following conditions must be met prior to the adoption of a rezoning bylaw for a retail cannabis business:

1. The applicant may be required to submit details regarding on-site signage.

2. The applicant may be required to submit details on how potential odour that may be emitted from the premises will be controlled. A Section 219 covenant, or other means, may be used to secure any required odour mitigation measures.

3. The warehousing of cannabis as an accessory use shall not be permitted.

4. Any other conditions as may be required by Council.

SMOKING REGULATIONS SIGNAGE

1. A minimum of two signs shall be posted within the interior of the building and a minimum of one sign on the exterior of the building, with all signs having dimensions of at least 12” x 18”. The signage shall detail the restrictions for smoking within 6 metres of any openings to the building, including doors and windows that open and any air intake, as outlined in section 6(a) of the Smoking Regulation Bylaw.

COUNCIL DISCRETION

While this policy is intended to establish a framework which would apply to all rezoning applications for retail cannabis uses, Council maintains full discretion to allow or reject any application for a retail cannabis use and may, in its sole discretion, exempt applications from all or any part of this policy.

AUTHORITY TO ACT

Provincial legislation, including the *Community Charter, Local Government Act*, and the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*, authorizes the District to regulate locational aspects of retail cannabis businesses and to establish procedures to assess and approve such businesses.