

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the City of
Nelson Council Meeting

February 4, 2019



Three Cannabis Retail Store Applications Approved

Following consultation with the public, a thorough evaluation of their applications and a lottery, Council recommended to the Province that it approve three cannabis retail store applications: The Kootenays Cannabis Tree (601 Front Street), The Green Room (306 Victoria Street), and The Potorium (471 Baker Street). The Province requires a Council resolution in support of an application in order to issue a cannabis licence.

The approved retail cannabis stores met the City's new zoning regulations that were developed after extensive public engagement was held early 2018. This included information sessions with Council and media, advertisements in the paper, information booths, five open houses, eight stakeholder meetings, and 5,645 feedback forms mailed to each household and business. Over 30% of city residents responded to the survey.

The key messages from the public consultation were that there should be a cap on the number of cannabis stores and that the preferred number and location of outlets would be two cannabis retail stores in the downtown, one along Nelson Avenue, one in the Lakeside/Industrial area, and one in Railtown, for a total of five stores. This is consistent with the number and dispersion of liquor retail stores in Nelson. Council also requested the Province limit closing hours to 9:00pm as recommended by the Nelson Police Chief.

This approval from Council will allow the Province to complete their security, financial integrity and other processes and ultimately issue a provincial license.

Hazardous Household Waste Collection Facility

Council approved the establishment of a hazardous household waste collection facility at the Nelson Leafs Recycling Depot at 120 Silica Street in the Railtown District. This is for a one year trial period to ensure that these materials are being collected, stored and disposed of safely. As part of Council's due diligence they required the Nelson Leafs to develop a flood mitigation strategy that was peer reviewed by the SNC-Lavalin who recently completed the City's overall flood risk assessment and mitigation plan.

The collection facility will consist of two specially modified containers which will collect household hazardous waste (HHW) and used oil through the BC Used Oil Collection program (BCUOMA).

Prior to the issuance of the building permit and installation of the containers, the Nelson Leafs must submit a design to SNC-Lavalin for approval and the issuance of a flood assurance statement.

Request for Support - Cottonwood Lake Preservation Society

The Cottonwood Lake Preservation Society has been formed to raise funds to preserve the forested land above Cottonwood Lake. Council agreed to support this initiative and will be providing letters of support which will be used in the Society's grant applications.

Regional Energy Efficiency Program Presentation

The Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) is a regional approach to energy efficiency in buildings for both new and existing homes. The Community Energy Association's (CEA) will deliver the 'new home' component of the REEP and Nelson Hydro will deliver the program for existing homes. To achieve this goal, Nelson Hydro will by rolling out their award winning EcoSave program to all residents in Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK).

As part of their work, the CEA will be supporting local governments in adopting the BC Energy Step Code. This is a voluntary provincial standard that provides an incremental and consistent approach to achieving more energy-efficient buildings that go beyond the requirements of the base BC Building Code.

The adoption of the 'Step Code' will result in more energy efficient buildings which will reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Staff have already contacted various builders and have received a positive response, including being informed that many new homes are already meeting these new standards.

The program will be launched in April 2019 throughout the area with public information sessions taking place and an on-going education and awareness campaign through December 2020.