

Request for EAD Meeting Item

SUBJECT:	Cannabis & Business Licenses
REQUEST BY:	Chair Demenok
DESCRIPTION/CONTEXT:	<p>Director Morgan and I attended a half-day conference on “Canada’s New Cannabis Regime” put on by Fulton & Co and sponsored by the City of Salmon Arm.</p> <p>It was attended by Salmon Arm councilors, mayor and staff and major and councilors from Armstrong, along with Larry and myself. This was similar to a session at SILGA, but in more detail.</p> <p>Here’s a brief summary of the key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bill C-45 is expected to pass and be implemented in April 2018 – intent is to increase safety of supply, reduce crime, decriminalize cannabis, reduce youth use – there are billions of dollars involved. This is not a mom and pop industry. Canada will be a world leader, massive production facilities being constructed across Canada. Capital being raised on the stock market. – manufacturing, distribution, possession and use will all be highly regulated – there is a great deal of regulation needed to fall into place at federal, provincial and local government levels in a short period of time...lots of uncertainty – potentially a very significant revenue stream for LGs – local governments will be given/downloaded significant responsibilities – business licenses represent a major way for LGs to regulate, control, enforce and receive revenues...taxes another mechanism for revenues. Denver generated \$27mm in 2016; Salmon Arm projected at \$658k using same criteria. – changes expected to Local Government Act and Community Charter... – UBCM is actively advocating....but not sure what their position is or what they’re advocating for. – LGs recommended to get out in front of this one...zoning, business regs, building and safety, inspection/monitoring/enforcement, public consumption, private grows are all going to be LG issues. Potentially huge issues if policies not established. – significant learning being tracked and published by City of Denver....lots of issues to address, significant learning over time – need for a collaborative approach amongst LGs eg., if Salmon Arm regulates...distributors may just move to the electoral areas to escape their licensing and taxes <p>We have already discussed the potential advantages of business licensing at the RD level at Shuswap Economic Development. This discussion had to do with revenue generation to support local Chambers of Commerce and provision</p>

	of business and demographic information to aid in economic development and planning.
DISCUSSION:	<p>Given the additional implications for business licensing in association with legalization of cannabis, I would suggest that we ask staff to investigate this issue to learn the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – what are other RD/Munis doing in anticipation of cannabis being legalized in Canada in 2018? – what RDs have business licenses and how did that occur? How did CORD bring it in? – what is the UBCM position on cannabis and business licensing by RDs? – what is the Vancouver position on cannabis? – what is the advice from our legal counsel on this issue? – what is Salmon Arm doing? – what are first nations doing?
OTHER COMMENTS:	<p>This might make for a very timely and important discussion and information session at an upcoming EAD meeting. Thoughts?</p>