



August 29, 2016

Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat
Address locator 0602E
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

cannabis@canada.ca

RE: Toward the legalization, regulation, and restriction of access to marijuana

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Government of Canada's consultation on the legalization of marijuana. This issue is an important one for municipalities and touches on the core services municipalities provide to their residents. These are preliminary comments, as the federal government moves forward on legalizing marijuana; we look forward to continued engagement through that process.

With marijuana legalization, the federal government will no longer play the key role it has in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* offences. While, as in the regulation of tobacco and alcohol, the federal government may set certain baseline standards which provincial governments may expand on and refine for their jurisdictions, municipalities will have an increased role in ensuring the day-to-day safety and health of residents. This role will be particularly pronounced in bylaw enforcement, building standards, zoning issues, and emergency response.

SUMA asks the federal government to fully engage with provincial and municipal governments to achieve consistency and ensure resources are provided to municipalities. Questions on proper areas and methods for marijuana production, sales and consumption, and harm-reduction strategies present significant challenges that cannot be overcome without cooperation and collaboration. With recent notable commitments to open interprovincial trade within Canada, there is a unique opportunity to engage with the different orders of government to work on the best solutions for these challenges.

The federal government should also work to ensure that communities remain safe and healthy. Specific examples include mechanisms for determining drug impairment, reviewing the national building and fire codes for safety standards reflecting home and commercial production, and national strategies to combat substance abuse.

We appreciate you allowing SUMA to take part in this consultation. Please contact Sean McEachern, Director of Policy and Communications, at 306-525-4394 or smceachern@suma.org if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Button".

Debra Button
SUMA President

"The Voice of Saskatchewan Cities, Towns, and Villages"