

Kootenay Cannabis Council

Nelson, BC kootenaycannabiscouncil@gmail.com

Regional District of East Kootenay

Re: Introduction to the Kootenay Cannabis Council

Dear Board Directors,

Apr 3.23

This letter is to introduce you to the Kootenay Cannabis Council.

The Kootenay Cannabis Council (KCC) was created through the Cannabis Business Transition Initiative of Community Futures Central Kootenay in 2020. The KCC was formed to support the development of the legal cannabis sector in the Central Kootenay through insight and direction from key stakeholders. As well, the Council acts as an information exchange and gathering venue for the sector.

Our members represent diverse actors in the Kootenay region who are impacted by the cannabis sector: Regional and Municipal government representatives; economic development and planning staff; local industry leaders; academics; and non-governmental organizations.

Our Council's Purpose is to:

- Bring people together to drive positive change and create a thriving regional sector;
- Strengthen business development and employment opportunities;
- Reduce stigma and misconceptions while celebrating our cannabis history and culture.

The Scope of the Council includes:

- Kootenay region economic development for cannabis sector (for our purposes, cannabis includes hemp);
- Issues related to land use, consumer / patient access, product quality, market differentiation, legacy growers and transition, public safety;
- Providing direction on the development and delivery of a Kootenay regional brand (appellation);
- Providing direction on sustainability issues and resource management;
- Input into the development of educational programs to provide skilled workforce to industry;
- Development of cannabis tourism as a regional strategy;
- Advocating for the recognition of cannabis as an agricultural activity, with access to relevant agricultural supports;
- Providing direction for community projects.

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Since legalization in 2018, our sector, Regional governments, and community planners have been learning how to fit cannabis into our communities. Due to strict and ever-changing regulations, it can be challenging for Regional governments to fully understand and stay up-to-date on industry practices. The more closely we can work together, the better we can provide support for your policy and planning decisions, as well as for interactions with the public about cannabis.

We invite you to reach out to us if you have any questions or want further information about either our organization or the industry. You are welcome to share our contacts with any cannabis businesses in your area.

We look forward to working with you to build the cannabis sector into a thriving regional contributor to our communities and economies.

Sincerely,



Velvet Kavanagh

Coordinator
Kootenay Cannabis Council