



# CANNABIS RETAIL STORE REZONING CRITERIA

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The following policy was endorsed by the City of Nanaimo Council on September 17, 2018. The intent of this policy is to be used to guide Staff and Council in considering CRS rezoning applications.

## CRITERIA

### 1. Location

- 1.1. The proposed CRS should be located on, or in close proximity to, a provincial highway, urban arterial or urban major collector road, as defined in the City's *Functional Road Classification Working Plan*, or in an urban node, commercial centre or corridor, as designated in the City's Official Community Plan.
- 1.2. The proposed CRS should not be located directly adjacent, or in close proximity to a school or licensed daycare facility. A minimum separation of 200m from these facilities is considered necessary, as measured from the front door of the CRS to the school or daycare property line.
- 1.3. The proposed CRS should not be located within 200m of another CRS as measured from the front doors of the CRS. Where the CRS is to be located within a dense urban area (ie: downtown) consideration shall be given to the overall urban density and context of the area.

### 2. Building & Site

- 2.1. The size of the proposed CRS should be consistent with the nature of the immediate area and the size of existing retail stores within the area.
- 2.2. The design of the proposed CRS should enhance or improve the aesthetics of the surrounding area, not detract from them.
  - 2.2.1. The revitalization of heritage buildings is encouraged.
- 2.3. Outside the downtown core, consideration should be given to a requirement for onsite parking and loading for every CRS.

### 3. Community Impact

- 3.1. The applicant must outline his or her awareness of potential negative impacts of the proposed CRS on the community, and must identify the specific measures that will be taken to minimize or prevent these impacts from occurring.



- 3.1.1. Possible measures could include efforts to prevent service to minors, minimize smells, prevent smoking or cannabis consumption on or near the premises, property maintenance and beautification programs designed to prevent unsightliness, etc.
- 3.1.2 Consideration must be given to the impact CRS's will have when they are located in close proximity to libraries, public recreation centres, public community centres, parks, places of worship and other family-oriented facilities.
- 3.2. Projected traffic volumes and on-street parking demands associated with a proposed CRS should not adversely impact nearby residential and commercial areas.
- 3.3. The support of the local community, neighbouring property owners and the local neighbourhood association for the proposed CRS is important to Council's decision.
  - 3.3.1. The applicant is required to notify all neighbouring property owners within 200m of the subject property of the rezoning application, prior to the application proceeding to Council.
- 3.4. All rezoning applications for CRS's must be reviewed by the Community Vitality Committee and the RCMP, in addition to being reviewed by the City's Community Planning and Development Committee.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

In order to be considered, each rezoning application for a CRS must be accompanied by a number of specific items, in addition to the standard items which must accompany all rezoning applications. In all, each rezoning application for a CRS must include:

- a copy of the Provincial preliminary letter of approval for the proposed CRS with a description of the proposed CRS outlining:
  - the proposed size of the facility;
  - the facility's proposed operating hours;
  - the specific market segment being targeted; and,
  - measures taken to minimize odours associated with cannabis.
- a community impact statement that outlines the proposed CRS's potential:
  - positive impacts on the community;
  - negative impacts on the community; and,
  - measures to be taken to prevent and/or address the negative impacts.