

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 2:04:14 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 08 July 2026, 02:03 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd D3 RA000536 Kaya Connection
Comments	July 8, 2026 Mayor Leonard Krog and Members of Nanaimo City Council City of Nanaimo Re: Public Hearing – July 16, 2026 RA000536 Rezoning Application for Kaya Connection Cannabis Retail Store Dear Mayor Krog and Members of Council, I am writing to respectfully oppose the proposed rezoning application to permit a cannabis retail store at the proposed Kaya Connection location. I am the owner of Mood Cannabis Co., a locally owned and operated cannabis retailer that has proudly served Nanaimo since 2020. As both a business owner and someone who has worked closely with the City's planning process, I believe this application raises significant concerns regarding the consistent application of Council's own Cannabis Retail Store Rezoning Criteria. The City's Cannabis Retail Store Rezoning Criteria clearly states in Section 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." It is my understanding that the proposed Kaya Connection location does not satisfy this criterion, as it is located within 200 metres of a licensed daycare. This is particularly concerning because, when Mood Cannabis was evaluating potential locations several years ago, we identified two sites that were ultimately abandoned after discussions with the City's Planning Department. We were specifically advised that because those locations were within the required 200-metre separation from a licensed daycare, our rezoning applications would not be supported. We accepted that direction, continued our search, and ultimately invested in 2 locations that complied with the City's expectations. For that reason, I respectfully ask Council to consider the importance of consistency and fairness in the application of its own policies. Businesses rely on the guidance provided by City staff when making significant financial and investment decisions. If one applicant is required to comply with the City's adopted criteria while another is permitted to proceed despite not meeting those same standards, it undermines confidence in the planning process and creates an uneven playing field for businesses that have invested in good faith. I also encourage Council to consider whether approving another cannabis retail store serves the broader public interest. Nanaimo currently has approximately 17 licensed cannabis stores serving a population of roughly 100,000 residents. This represents one of the highest concentrations of cannabis retailers relative to population in British Columbia.

The proposed location is already well served by existing licensed cannabis retailers. Within the surrounding area are Island Cannabis Co., Super Bud, the BC Cannabis Store at Country Club Centre, and Mood Cannabis Co. Residents already have multiple convenient options to purchase legal cannabis within a short distance of the proposed location. Approving an additional cannabis retailer in this already well-served area would not improve consumer access to legal cannabis. Instead, it would further concentrate cannabis retail businesses within the same trade area, dividing an existing customer base among more operators while increasing economic pressure on businesses that have already made substantial investments in Nanaimo and have operated in accordance with the City's policies and expectations. Existing retailers continue to face declining margins, aggressive price competition, and significant regulatory costs. Many businesses are working diligently simply to remain financially sustainable. Adding another cannabis retail store does not create additional consumer demand, it merely divides an already limited market among more operators. I recognize that Council is not responsible for guaranteeing the success of individual businesses. However, Council is responsible for ensuring that its planning policies are applied fairly, consistently, and in accordance with the principles under which they were adopted. The Cannabis Retail Store Rezoning Criteria were created to guide Council's decision-making, and the 200-metre separation from licensed daycares has been an important component of those criteria since their adoption. Ultimately, this application is not simply about one additional cannabis store. It is about whether the City will apply its adopted Cannabis Retail Store Rezoning Criteria consistently and fairly to every applicant. When existing businesses relied on those criteria to make significant investment decisions, they did so with the expectation that all future applicants would be evaluated using the same standards. Respectfully, I ask Council to uphold those standards by denying this rezoning application. Thank you for your time, your consideration of this submission, and your continued service to the residents and businesses of Nanaimo. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the public hearing process. Respectfully submitted, [REDACTED] Owner Mood Cannabis Co.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: Written Submission in Opposition to Rezoning Bylaw No. 4500.255 (2180 Highland Blvd)
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2026 3:24:25 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the cannabis retail store proposed for 2180 Highland Boulevard.

My primary objection is the chosen location's proximity to a local school and a children's daycare. It is entirely inappropriate to place a dispensary in a high-traffic area for young kids and students. This placement creates unnecessary exposure to cannabis retail activities right where families gather daily.

Additionally, our city is already saturated with these businesses. Nanaimo already has roughly 16 operating cannabis storefronts, including an existing dispensary located just down the hill from this site. There is absolutely no community need for another shop in this specific neighbourhood.

I ask that Council prioritize the well-being of local families and vote to reject this application.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: Urgent Concern: Cannabis Store Near School and Daycare
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2026 3:33:50 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed cannabis retail store in Nanaimo.

While I understand that cannabis is legal and that licensed businesses have the right to operate, I believe this particular location is not appropriate. The proposed site is in close proximity to both a school and a daycare, where children and families are present every day. Even if the business operates within all legal requirements, its location raises concerns about the message it sends and the type of commercial activity being introduced into an area primarily used by young families.

Additionally, there are already cannabis retailers serving the community, and I question whether another location is necessary in this area. I believe the City should carefully consider whether approving another cannabis store at this site is in the best interest of the surrounding neighborhood.

I respectfully ask that Council take these concerns into account and reconsider approving this location. I appreciate your time, your consideration, and your commitment to making decisions that reflect the interests of Nanaimo residents.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: Formal Opposition to Bylaw No. 4500.255 – Proposed Cannabis Retail at 2180 Highland Boulevard
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2026 3:34:26 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To the Mayor and Members of Nanaimo City Council,

Please accept this email as my formal opposition to the proposed rezoning application for a cannabis retail store at 2180 Highland Boulevard (Unit D3).

I am deeply concerned about the location chosen for this business. It sits in immediate proximity to a children's daycare and a local school. Opening a cannabis retail shop in this exact spot unnecessarily exposes local youth and young children to cannabis marketing and retail environments on a daily basis.

Furthermore, Nanaimo is already exceptionally well-served by this industry. There are currently at least 16 licensed cannabis stores operating across the city, including one located just down the hill from this proposed site. Our community does not need another dispensary, especially not at the expense of a family-focused area near child-centered spaces.

I urge Council to listen to the neighbourhood's safety and zoning concerns and vote against this application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: No More Cannabis Store
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2026 4:29:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To who it may concern,

I live in the Brooks Landing and am saddened to hear about a cannabis store being added to the complex. There are more than enough cannabis stores in the area including Island Cannabis, Coast Salish, and BC Cannabis. Additionally, with a school and daycare so close by it is inappropriate. I hope these concerns will be looked at and addressed.

Thank you for your time,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: Objection to KAYA connection opening in Nanaimo
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2026 5:03:37 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Nanaimo City Council,

I'm writing to share my concerns about KAYA Connection trying to move to a new location here in town.

I really don't think this is the right spot for it. There is a school and a daycare right nearby. Having a cannabis shop that close to where kids play and learn every day just doesn't sit right with me.

On top of that, we already have enough cannabis stores in this area. We don't need another one down the street when the neighborhood is already covered.

Please think about our local families and turn down this application. I'd appreciate being kept in the loop about any upcoming council meetings or decisions on this.

Thanks for your time,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2026 12:51 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Fwd: FW: Cannabis stores

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To the Mayor and Members of Nanaimo City Council,

Please accept this email as my formal approval of the proposed rezoning application for a cannabis retail store at 2180 Highland Boulevard (Unit D3).

I understand you are receiving the odd objection. However, Nanaimo is already exceptionally well-served by the liquor industry. And until you take out the liquor stores, leave the cannabis stores alone, please.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

[REDACTED], Nanaimo

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am honoured to live, work and play on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw, Snaw-naw as, and Stzuminus people. I recognize the enduring connection that Indigenous peoples have to this land and express my gratitude for their stewardship over generations.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Cc: [Mayor Leonard Krog](#); [Sheryl Armstrong](#); [Tyler Brown](#); [Hilary Eastmure](#); [Ben Geselbracht](#); [Erin Hemmens](#); [Paul Manly](#); [Janice Perrino](#); [Ian Thorpe](#)
Subject: Rezoning hearing for D3 - 2180 Highland Boulevard
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 1:42:27 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello!

I'm writing as I won't be able to attend the public hearing on July 16th. I am the owner of VI Kidz Kompany Childcare Group Ltd. One of our childcare facilities (Kidz Kompany Harbourside) is located at 2150 Departure Bay Road which is on the back side of Brookes Landing and directly next door to Cilaire Elementary School.

I wasn't aware that an application was going forward to allow a cannabis retail location to open in the newly built commercial building at the front corner of Brookes Landing on the Highland Boulevard side. Being in such close proximity, I am a little confused why we weren't notified! I was contacted by a member of the neighbourhood association recently.

While I do recognize that cannabis retail is legal, we already have so many retail locations in the city of Nanaimo. I'm not in support of this proposed location. There are a few other dispensaries located close by and I don't feel there is a need for another within such a short distance.

While my childcare facility is located at the backside of Brookes Landing and out of direct sight, there is a family childcare facility located extremely close to the proposed location (Zigwids Family Childcare - 2230 Highland Boulevard) which I believe is within the City's requirement of 200 meters and direct sight line. Furthermore, Cilaire elementary school is located close by as well (on the backside of Brookes Landing) and the students frequently walk to Brookes Landing on their lunch break and after school. Students from the alternate program at Woodlands also walk to Brookes Landing through the tunnel. Even though the application assures ID's will be checked etc etc, proximity allows access for young people who could potentially convince someone (such as an older sibling of age) to purchase items for them. We all know this happens with liquor, tobacco and cannabis. While we can't control that, we can eliminate the proximity of such an establishment to places where children and youth gather. I believe a cannabis retail store doesn't fit the vibe of surrounding neighbourhood and perhaps a more family friendly business would be more appropriate as it is lacking in this area where so many young families reside.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Owner / Director
VI Kidz Kompany Childcare Group Ltd.
Tel. (250)618-9157
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: Public Hearing Submission – Opposition to RA000536 / 2180 Highland Boulevard Cannabis
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 2:10:06 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to respectfully oppose the proposed rezoning to permit an **adult-only cannabis retailer** at **2180 Highland Boulevard**.

My concern is not with cannabis retail itself. It is with the suitability of this particular location.

Council adopted Cannabis Retail Store Rezoning Criteria recommending a minimum **200-metre separation from schools and licensed daycare facilities** because it recognized that places where children regularly gather deserve additional planning consideration. This application asks Council to approve an exception to that guideline by permitting an adult-only cannabis retailer within the recommended separation distance of a licensed daycare.

More importantly, I ask Council to consider how this site actually functions within our community.

This is not simply another commercial building.

The proposed adult-only cannabis retailer would occupy the very first commercial unit encountered by pedestrians and cyclists emerging from the Highway 19 pedestrian underpass. This underpass serves as the primary gateway into Brooks Landing, connecting surrounding neighbourhoods with the shopping centre, the E&N Trail, transit, parks, schools, and the City's Primary Active Mobility Network.

The City intentionally invested in this pedestrian gateway through improved sidewalks, accessible crossings, lighting, landscaping and bicycle facilities to encourage walking and cycling. These improvements reflect the City's vision for connected, walkable neighbourhoods and stronger community access.

The surrounding area has become a true family and community hub. Within the immediate area are Cilaire Elementary School, Woodlands Commons Learning Alternatives, licensed childcare facilities (Kidz Kompany Children's Centre & Zigwid's Family Childcare), neighbourhood parks and Brooks Landing itself: a shopping centre that serves families, students and residents every day.

Brooks Landing is also evolving into a higher-density, walkable community. New restaurants are opening, additional residential development is planned, and the City's own vision is to create a complete community where residents can safely walk and cycle to everyday services. As this area grows, the pedestrian gateway and surrounding active transportation network will become even more important.

When I first learned about this exciting redevelopment, I envisioned businesses that would strengthen the community—a neighbourhood café, family-friendly restaurant, local services,

or other businesses that bring people together. An adult-only cannabis retailer is simply not the vision I had for the front door to one of Nanaimo's growing neighbourhood centres.

Finally, I question the planning need for another cannabis retailer at this location. Residents are already well served by nearby cannabis retailers, including Superbud Cannabis, Coast Salish Canna and Island Cannabis Company, all within a short drive of Brooks Landing. I have not seen evidence that another cannabis retailer is needed at one of Nanaimo's most prominent family-oriented pedestrian gateways.

This decision is not about whether cannabis retail has a place in Nanaimo. It is about whether Council should make an exception to its own planning guidelines to place an adult-only business at the front door of a growing family-oriented community, immediately adjacent to a primary pedestrian gateway serving schools, childcare facilities, neighbourhoods and the City's Active Mobility Network.

I respectfully ask Council to uphold the intent of its own planning policies and deny this rezoning application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

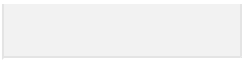
Departure Bay Resident

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 4:21:04 PM

[Public Hearing Submission](#)

Submitted on 13 July 2026, 04:20 PM

Your Name	[REDACTED]
Your Address	[REDACTED]
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	Zoning Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2026 No. 4500.256
Comments	Dear Mayor Krog and Members of Council, My name is [REDACTED], and I am the General Manager of Mood Cannabis Co. in Nanaimo. I am writing to respectfully oppose the proposed rezoning application for the Kaya Connection cannabis retail store. As someone who manages a licensed cannabis retailer every day, I can say with confidence that Nanaimo simply does not need another cannabis store in this area. Residents already have excellent access to legal cannabis through several existing retailers, including multiple stores within a short distance of the proposed location. Approving another licence would not improve consumer access or convenience. It would simply divide an already well-served market among more operators. I also believe it is important that Council continues to apply its Cannabis Retail Store Rezoning Criteria consistently. Existing businesses relied on those policies when making significant investment decisions, and consistency in their application is essential to maintaining confidence in the City's planning process. If one applicant is permitted to proceed despite not meeting the same criteria that previous applicants were expected to satisfy, it undermines confidence in the fairness and integrity of the City's planning process. The legal cannabis industry has matured significantly over the past several years. While customer demand has remained relatively stable, the number of retailers has continued to grow. Existing businesses are operating in an environment of declining margins, rising operating costs, and intense price competition. Every licensed retailer has invested substantial time, money, and effort into building compliant, professional businesses that serve our community responsibly. From my perspective, another cannabis retailer does not provide a meaningful public benefit. It does not create new demand, improve access, or fill an unmet need within the community. Instead, it places additional pressure on businesses that already employ local residents, contribute to the local economy, and have demonstrated a long-term commitment to serving Nanaimo. Ultimately, this application should be considered not only on whether another business wishes to enter the market, but whether approving another cannabis retailer genuinely benefits the residents of Nanaimo. In my opinion, the answer is no. Nanaimo already has a mature, competitive, and accessible legal cannabis market. I respectfully ask Council to uphold its adopted policies, apply them consistently, and deny this rezoning application. Thank you for your time, your consideration of my comments, and your continued service to our community. Respectfully,



General Manager Mood Cannabis Co.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 6:05:04 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 13 July 2026, 06:04 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	Zoning Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2026 - Kaya Connection
Comments	Dear Mayor Krog and Members of Council, I am writing to respectfully oppose the proposed rezoning application for the Kaya Connection cannabis retail store. I have worked in Nanaimo's legal cannabis industry for several years and have seen firsthand the challenges facing existing retailers. We are proud to provide a safe, compliant, and welcoming environment for our customers while operating within the City's established policies and expectations. I believe it is important that the City's Cannabis Retail Store Rezoning Criteria be applied consistently to every applicant. Existing businesses made significant investments based on the understanding that these criteria, including the 200-metre separation from licensed daycares, would be applied fairly and equally. Allowing an exception now would create uncertainty for businesses that relied on those standards when choosing where to invest. I also believe Nanaimo is already well served by existing cannabis retailers. Residents have several convenient options to access legal cannabis in this area, and another store would not improve accessibility. Instead, it would further divide an already competitive market that many local businesses are working hard to sustain. I respectfully ask Council to uphold its established policies and deny this rezoning application. Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your continued service to our community.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: RE Cannabis Rezoning Application Brooks Landing Mall Nanaimo
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 2:01:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mayor and Council,

I live a few houses outside of Brooks Landing on Highland Blvd. A long time ago I was called and asked how I felt about a Cannabis store opening at Brooks Landing because I have a Family Child Care. I stated I was strongly against it then, and my views have not changed.

The following letter was drafted by another concerned citizen yet conveys my sentiments exactly. Thus I am submitting this letter with permission, strongly opposing the rezoning permit for reasons stated below.

I am writing to respectfully oppose the proposed rezoning to permit an **adult-only cannabis retailer at 2180 Highland Boulevard**.

My concern is not with cannabis retail itself. It is with the suitability of this particular location.

Council adopted Cannabis Retail Store Rezoning Criteria recommending a minimum **200-metre separation from schools and licensed daycare facilities** because it recognized that places where children regularly gather deserve additional planning consideration. This application asks Council to approve an exception to that guideline by permitting an adult-only cannabis retailer within the recommended separation distance of a licensed daycare.

More importantly, I ask the Council to consider how this site actually functions within our community.

This is not simply another commercial building.

The proposed adult-only cannabis retailer would occupy the very first commercial unit encountered by pedestrians and cyclists emerging from the Highway 19 pedestrian underpass. This underpass serves as the primary gateway into Brooks Landing, connecting surrounding neighbourhoods with the shopping centre, the E&N Trail, transit, parks, schools, and the City's Primary Active Mobility Network.

The City intentionally invested in this pedestrian gateway through improved sidewalks, accessible crossings, lighting, landscaping and bicycle facilities to encourage walking and cycling. These improvements reflect the City's vision for connected, walkable neighbourhoods and stronger community access.

The surrounding area has become a true family and community hub. Within the immediate area are Cilaire Elementary School, Woodlands Commons Learning Alternatives, licensed childcare facilities (Kidz Kompany Children's Centre & Zigwid's Family Childcare), neighbourhood parks and Brooks Landing itself: a shopping centre that serves families, students and residents every day.

Brooks Landing is also evolving into a higher-density, walkable community. New restaurants are opening, additional residential development is planned, and the City's own vision is to create a complete community where residents can safely walk and cycle to everyday services. As this area grows, the pedestrian gateway and surrounding active transportation network will become even more important.

When I first learned about this exciting redevelopment, I envisioned businesses that would strengthen the community—a neighbourhood café, family-friendly restaurant, local services, or other businesses that bring people together. An adult-only cannabis retailer is simply not the vision I had for the front door to one of Nanaimo's growing neighbourhood centres.

Finally, I question the planning need for another cannabis retailer at this location. Residents are already well served by nearby cannabis retailers, including Superbud Cannabis, Coast Salish Canna and Island Cannabis Company, all within a short drive of Brooks Landing. I have not seen evidence that another cannabis retailer is needed at one of Nanaimo's most prominent family-oriented pedestrian gateways.

This decision is not about whether cannabis retail has a place in Nanaimo. It is about whether Council should make an exception to its own planning guidelines to place an adult-only business at the front door of a growing family-oriented community, immediately adjacent to a primary pedestrian gateway serving schools, childcare facilities, neighbourhoods and the City's Active Mobility Network.

I respectfully ask Council to uphold the intent of its own planning policies and deny this rezoning application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Owner of Zigwids Family Child Care

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Mayor&Council](#)
Cc: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: Public hearing July 16th
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 2:53:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

July 15, 2026

Mayor Leonard Krog and Members of Nanaimo City Council
City of Nanaimo

Re: Public Hearing – July 16, 2026
Rezoning Application – Kaya Connection Cannabis Retail Store (2180 Highland Boulevard)

Dear Mayor Krog and Members of Council,

I am writing to respectfully oppose the proposed rezoning application to permit a cannabis retail store at 2180 Highland Boulevard.

I am the co-owner of Island Cannabis Co., a locally owned and operated cannabis retailer that has proudly served Nanaimo since 2021. As both a business owner and someone familiar with the City's cannabis retail rezoning process, I believe this application raises significant concerns regarding the consistent application of Council's own Cannabis Retail Store Rezoning Criteria.

This submission is not intended to oppose competition. Rather, it is about ensuring that Council applies its established policies fairly, consistently, and transparently.

The City's Cannabis Retail Store Rezoning Criteria states in Section 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 200 metres from these facilities is considered necessary, as measured from the front door of the CRS to the school or daycare property line."

1. Failure to Meet the City's Minimum Separation Requirement

The proposed location at **2180 Highland Boulevard** is **approximately 120 metres from Zidwigs Family Childcare**, roughly three doors away. This is approximately **40% short of the City's stated 200-metre minimum separation requirement**.

While I recognize that every application has unique circumstances, previous applications have been evaluated against this same policy. In cases where variances have been considered appropriate, there were mitigating factors such as major arterial roads or significant physical barriers separating the proposed store from the daycare or school.

Those circumstances do not exist here.

The proposed location and the daycare are separated only by a local frontage road and remain in immediate proximity to one another. Approving this application despite clearly falling short of Council's own guideline would undermine the consistency and credibility of the rezoning process.

If Council established a 200-metre standard to protect sensitive land uses, that standard should be upheld unless there are compelling planning reasons to depart from it. None appear to exist in this case.

2. The Area Is Already Well Served

The surrounding area is already adequately served by licensed cannabis retailers.

Within approximately **1.6 kilometres** are:

- Island Cannabis Co.
- Trees Cannabis
- Coast Salish Canna

Within approximately **3.7 kilometres** are an additional three retailers:

- Super Buds
- BC Cannabis Country Club
- Mood Cannabis Co.

Approval of this application would result in **seven licensed cannabis retailers within a 3.7-kilometre radius**.

This level of concentration does little to improve consumer access to legal cannabis. Instead, it contributes to market saturation in an industry already experiencing declining margins, significant regulatory costs, and intense price competition.

Nanaimo currently has approximately **17 licensed cannabis retailers serving a population of roughly 100,000 residents**, one of the highest concentrations of cannabis retailers relative to population in British Columbia.

Council should consider whether approving another retail location genuinely advances the public interest or merely increases market saturation without providing a meaningful benefit to residents.

Conclusion

This application presents two clear concerns.

First, it does not satisfy the City's established minimum separation guideline from a licensed daycare.

Second, it proposes another cannabis retail store in an area that is already well served by

existing licensed businesses.

Council created the Cannabis Retail Store Rezoning Criteria to ensure thoughtful, consistent, and transparent decision-making. Upholding those standards is essential to maintaining confidence in the City's planning process.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that Council deny the proposed rezoning application.

Thank you for your time, your consideration of this submission, and your continued service to the residents and businesses of Nanaimo.

Respectfully submitted,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Co-Owner
Island Cannabis Co.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 3:28:52 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 03:28 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Boulevard
Comments	1. Failure to Meet the City's Minimum Separation Requirement The proposed location at 2180 Highland Boulevard is approximately 120 metres from Zidwigs Family Childcare, roughly three doors away. This is approximately 40% short of the City's stated 200-metre minimum separation requirement. 2. The Area Is Already Well Served The surrounding area is already adequately served by licensed cannabis retailers. Within approximately 1.6 kilometres are: * Island Cannabis Co. * Trees Cannabis * Coast Salish Canna Within approximately 3.7 kilometres are an additional three retailers: * Super Buds * BC Cannabis Country Club * Mood Cannabis Co. Approval of this application would result in seven licensed cannabis retailers within a 3.7-kilometre radius. This level of concentration does little to improve consumer access to legal cannabis. Instead, it contributes to market saturation in an industry already experiencing declining margins, significant regulatory costs, and intense price competition. For these reasons, I respectfully request that Council deny the proposed rezoning application.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 3:31:57 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 03:31 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Boulevard
Comments	1. Failure to Meet the City's Minimum Separation Requirement The proposed location at 2180 Highland Boulevard is approximately 120 metres from Zidwigs Family Childcare, roughly three doors away. This is approximately 40% short of the City's stated 200-metre minimum separation requirement. 2. The Area Is Already Well Served The surrounding area is already adequately served by licensed cannabis retailers. Within approximately 1.6 kilometres are: * Island Cannabis Co. * Trees Cannabis * Coast Salish Canna Within approximately 3.7 kilometres are an additional three retailers: * Super Buds * BC Cannabis Country Club * Mood Cannabis Co. Approval of this application would result in seven licensed cannabis retailers within a 3.7-kilometre radius. This level of concentration does little to improve consumer access to legal cannabis. Instead, it contributes to market saturation in an industry already experiencing declining margins, significant regulatory costs, and intense price competition. For these reasons, I respectfully request that Council deny the proposed rezoning application.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 3:55:49 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 03:55 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2810 Highland Boulevard
Comments	1) Failure to Meet the City's Minimum Separation Requirement The proposed location at 2180 Highland Boulevard is approximately 120 metres from Zidwigs Family Childcare, roughly three doors away. This is approximately 40% short of the City's stated 200-metre minimum separation requirement. 2. The Area Is Already Well Served The surrounding area is already adequately served by licensed cannabis retailers. Within approximately 1.6 kilometres are: * Island Cannabis Co. * Trees Cannabis * Coast Salish Canna Within approximately 3.7 kilometres are an additional three retailers: * Super Buds * BC Cannabis Country Club * Mood Cannabis Co. Approval of this application would result in seven licensed cannabis retailers within a 3.7-kilometre radius. This level of concentration does little to improve consumer access to legal cannabis. Instead, it contributes to market saturation in an industry already experiencing declining margins, significant regulatory costs, and intense price competition. For these reasons, I respectfully request that Council deny the proposed rezoning application.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 4:09:33 PM

[Public Hearing Submission](#)

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 04:09 PM

Your Name	[REDACTED]
Your Address	[REDACTED]
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	Zoning Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2026 No. 4500.255
Comments	Dear Mayor and Council, I am writing to express my concerns in regards to the proposed cannabis shop at Brooks Landing. With the number of cannabis stores in Nanaimo rivaling the number of liquor stores, how many more can this community sustain? It would be terrible to see an existing business forced to lay off staff or even close if there's too much competition. Considering there are already three stores within three kilometers of the proposed new location, one less than a kilometer away, I fear this could be a real risk. Another concern I have is the nearby pedestrian underpass. I walk through it regularly to shop at Brooks Landing, and have often found it stinking of urine, littered with drug paraphernalia, empty alcohol bottles, and the remains of fires. What measures will be implemented by the city and/or the proposed store to ensure there will not be increased drug use in the tunnel and, preferably, make the public walkway safer? Thank you for your attention and consideration to this matter, [REDACTED]

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 4:57:18 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 04:57 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Boulevard
Comments	1. Failure to Meet the City's Minimum Separation Requirement The proposed location at 2180 Highland Boulevard is approximately 120 metres from Zidwigs Family Childcare, roughly three doors away. This is approximately 40% short of the City's stated 200-metre minimum separation requirement. 2. The Area Is Already Well Served The surrounding area is already adequately served by licensed cannabis retailers. Within approximately 1.6 kilometres are: Island Cannabis Co. Trees Cannabis Coast Salish Canna Within approximately 3.7 kilometres are an additional three retailers: Super Buds BC Cannabis Country Club Mood Cannabis Co. Approval of this application would result in seven licensed cannabis retailers within a 3.7-kilometre radius. This level of concentration does little to improve consumer access to legal cannabis. Instead, it contributes to market saturation in an industry already experiencing declining margins, significant regulatory costs, and intense price competition. For these reasons, I respectfully request that Council deny the proposed rezoning application.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 5:42:18 PM

[Public Hearing Submission](#)

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 05:42 PM

Your Name	██████████
Your Address	██
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	D3 RA000536 Kaya Connection
Comments	I think Kaya Connection would be a good addition to our local mall and would fit in with having a devitalized and compact city

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 7:15:52 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 07:15 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd D3 RA000536 Kaya Connection
Comments	To the Mayor and Members of Nanaimo City Council, I am writing in strong support of the owners of Kaya Connections and their proposed business. I have known the owners of Kaya Connections since I was 18 years old. We attended school together, became close friends, and over the years I have had the opportunity to see the kind of people they truly are. They are honest, hardworking, and people of exceptional integrity. They have always conducted themselves with respect for others and have earned the trust of those around them. One of the things I admire most about them is the way they treat their employees. Rather than paying only minimum wage, they believe in providing a livable wage because they genuinely care about the people who work for them. That speaks volumes about their character and the values they bring to every business they operate. The owners of Kaya Connections have also demonstrated a consistent commitment to giving back to the community. I recently participated in a charity golf tournament that they supported, and over the years I have also known them to make private donations to charitable causes and quietly help others without seeking recognition. Their generosity and community spirit are genuine. I understand there have been concerns regarding the proposed location of Kaya Connections because it is across the highway from a high school and in proximity to an elementary school and daycares. While I appreciate that Council must carefully consider these concerns, I believe it is equally important to consider the character and integrity of the people behind the business. They are responsible, ethical business owners who understand the importance of complying with regulations and operating in a manner that respects the community. I have complete confidence that Kaya Connections will be operated professionally, responsibly, and with the same integrity that its owners have demonstrated throughout their lives. They are exactly the kind of business owners who contribute positively to a community, not only through economic investment and employment but also through their generosity and commitment to helping others. I respectfully ask Council to give thoughtful consideration to the character of the owners of Kaya Connections and the positive impact they will continue to have on the City of Nanaimo. Thank you for your time and consideration.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 7:22:33 PM

[Public Hearing Submission](#)

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 07:22 PM

Your Name	██████████
Your Address	██████████
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 highland BLVD
Comments	I think this location is a great fit for the shop, it's a great one stop shop location. It's a great spot for me it's close to home and I shop at there other store.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 7:26:14 PM

[Public Hearing Submission](#)

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 07:26 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	6
Comments	With the finding of Kaya Connection in Parksville in the past, I am more than pleased to learn of the new proposed location in Nanaimo. To find a reputable, trustworthy,, affordable, business to adhere to my needs is a privilege to support and how fortunate it would be to have them here in town. With other similar businesses in Nanaimo, I trust that Kaya Connection would be a perfect fit for their new upcoming location to assist with specific needs in central Nanaimo and area. Almost 8 years in business, Kaya is definitely the real deal.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 7:58:18 PM

[Public Hearing Submission](#)

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 07:58 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd D3 RA000536 Kaya Connection
Comments	I support the proposed Kaya Connection location. Kaya Connection is a family-owned business with many years of responsible operation in Parksville and a strong record of compliance and community involvement. If approved, this location will create local jobs and continue that commitment here in Nanaimo. I understand some residents have concerns about the location. Those concerns deserve consideration. However, this is already a commercial area with other age-restricted businesses, including a liquor store. Kaya Connection has a proven history of operating safely, following regulations, and being a good neighbour. Supporting experienced, responsible local businesses strengthens our community and keeps cannabis sales in the regulated market. I respectfully ask Council to approve this application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 9:02:18 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 09:02 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2810 Highland Boulevard
Comments	1.Failure to Meet the City's Minimum Separation Requirement The proposed location at 2180 Highland Boulevard is approximately 120 meters from Zidwigs Family Childcare, roughly three doors away. This is approximately 40% short of the City's stated 200-metre minimum separation requirement. 2.The Area Is Already Well Served The surrounding area is already adequately served by licensed cannabis retailers. Within approximately 1.6 kilometers are: Island Cannabis Co. Trees Cannabis Coast Salish Canna Within approximately 3.7 kilometers are an additional three retailers: Super Buds BC Cannabis Country Club Mood Cannabis Co. Approval of this application would result in seven licensed cannabis retailers within a 3.7-kilometre radius. This level of concentration does little to improve consumer access to legal cannabis. Instead, it contributes to market saturation in an industry already experiencing declining margins, significant regulatory costs, and intense price competition. For these reasons, I respectfully request that Council deny the proposed rezoning application.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 10:23:55 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 10:23 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd, Nanaimo This is the property address 2180 Highland Blvd D3 RA000536 Kaya Connection
Comments	I am writing to show my support for the proposed cannabis store at 2180 Highland Blvd. As a long-time resident of Nanaimo, a parent, and someone who has been actively involved in community organizations and local volunteer groups over the years, I care deeply about the well-being and safety of our community. Because of that, I believe decisions like this should be based on facts and evidence rather than assumptions. Since cannabis became legal in Canada, there has not been evidence showing that licensed cannabis stores negatively impact neighbourhood safety or increase crime. Licensed stores are regulated, require age verification, sell tested products, and help move consumers away from the illegal market. Cannabis has also helped many people improve their quality of life. Many Canadians use it to help manage chronic pain, anxiety, sleep issues, nausea from cancer treatments, multiple sclerosis symptoms, and other medical conditions. For many individuals, it has become an alternative to stronger prescription medications and has made a meaningful difference in their daily lives. Like alcohol or prescription medications, cannabis should be used responsibly. However, I do not believe responsible adults who choose to purchase cannabis legally should be viewed differently than anyone else. Having a licensed, professionally operated store provides a safe and regulated place for consumers to access legal products. I believe this business would be a positive addition to the community by creating local jobs, contributing to the economy, generating tax revenue, and providing a safe and legal retail option for residents. For these reasons, I respectfully ask Council to support the application for the cannabis store at 2180 Highland Blvd. Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 11:10:28 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 11:10 PM

Your Name	[REDACTED]
Your Address	[REDACTED]
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	Zoning Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2026 No. 4500.255
Comments	Letter of support: Zoning Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2026 No. 4500.255, (File RA000536) Proposed CRS at 2180 Highland Boulevard Attn: Current Planning To Whom It May Concern, I am writing in support of Kaya Connection's proposed rezoning application for a new cannabis retail location proposed at 2180 Highland Boulevard in Nanaimo. I have been a customer of Kaya Connection since they opened their Parksville location in 2019. The owners and staff have consistently been knowledgeable, professional, and welcoming. They take the time to answer questions, provide informed recommendations, and genuinely care about their customers. Their integrity and commitment to responsible retailing are why I continue to visit whenever I travel to Vancouver Island. As a professional planner, I understand that zoning bylaws are intended to guide appropriate land use and community development. However, planning decisions should also recognize businesses with a proven record of operating responsibly and contributing positively to their community. The support shown by the daycare located next to Kaya Connection's Parksville store speaks volumes about the positive relationships they have built within the community. I can also speak from personal experience. For the past three years, my child has attended a daycare located directly across the street from a licensed cannabis store (and liquor store in the same plaza) and I never had any safety concerns or observed any negative impacts related to its proximity. The proposed Nanaimo location is also appropriate, as it would provide convenient access for customers in an area that already includes a liquor store and other adult-oriented amenities, making it a compatible commercial use. The staff report to Council also notes that the siting of the proposed store and orientation of the storefront is such that the signage would not be visible from the daycare. Based on my experience as both a customer and a planning professional, I strongly support this rezoning application and respectfully encourage Council to approve it. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 11:22:46 PM

[Public Hearing Submission](#)

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 11:22 PM

Your Name	██████████
Your Address	████████████████████
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	RA000536
Comments	Approval for Kaya Cannabis, The highway industrial area is designed to accommodate commercial uses that generate vehicle traffic and destination shopping. Locating a cannabis retailer in this area minimizes impacts on residential neighbourhoods while providing convenient access for adults already travelling along the major transportation route. After reading the oppositions for rezoning this area for Kaya Connection, I'm choosing to be an advocate. Existing businesses don't have a right to be protected from competition. The purpose of rezoning is to determine whether a land use is appropriate, not to protect existing businesses from new competitors. Healthy competition encourages better pricing, improved customer service, greater product selection and innovation, all of which benefit consumers. Even if several stores exist, they may not meet the needs of all residents. While there are existing cannabis retailers in Nanaimo, geographic distribution, traffic, hours of operation, parking availability and customer preferences all influence whether residents have meaningful access. An additional location can improve convenience without creating negative community space. This highway industrial shopping area is already home to businesses people intentionally drive to, such as Staples, Tim Horton, Coop Gas Station, liquor store, grocery store, insurance, bank and building supply store. A cannabis retailer fits this model. Customers visit intentionally rather than generating unnecessary neighbourhood traffic. A new business creates economic benefits regardless of existing competitors. Approval would create employment opportunities, generate municipal tax revenue, support local suppliers and contribute to economic activity. Competition should not be viewed as a negative outcome but as part of a healthy economy. Municipal land use decisions should be based on planning principles and public interest, not on limiting competition. Existing businesses understandably wish to protect their market share, however, the purpose of rezoning is to determine whether a proposed land use is appropriate for the site and consistent with community planning objectives. Each proposal should be evaluated on it's own merits, including site characteristics, compatibility with surrounding land uses and overall public benefit. I understand Council has lawful discretion to approve the rezoning despite the guideline of 300 meters within daycare, provided it gives appropriate planning reasons.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 11:28:45 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 15 July 2026, 11:28 PM

Your Name	[REDACTED]
Your Address	[REDACTED]
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	RA000536
Comments	I am a 23 year old Nanaimo resident living with epilepsy, chronic pain and depression. I am writing I support of the proposed Kaya Connection cannabis retail store. Because of my epilepsy, I am unable to drive and rely on walking, public transportation or family members to access essential services. Having a cannabis retailer within walking distance would make a significant difference in my daily life by allowing me to access products that I have personally found helpful in managing my symptoms and improving my overall quality of life. Living with chronic health conditions can be isolating and I value being able to access a business where I feel respected and understood. The staff at Kaya Connection have taken the time to answer my questions, educate me about their products and create an environment where I feel comfortable and supported. That relationship of trust is important to me, particularly as someone living with ongoing medical challenges. This store has made me feel valued and not just another profit score. This application is about accessibility as much as convenience as well. The location of essential services matters. Being able to safely walk to a trusted retailer would increase my independence and reduce my reliance on others for transportation. I understand that there are important considerations and factors when making planning decisions. I simply ask that you consider the perspective of residents like me who live with disabilities and mobility limitations. There are many other resourceful stores located in close proximity, making the location increasingly appealing as well. Thankyou for taking the time to consider my perspective.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 1:56:09 AM

[Public Hearing Submission](#)

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 01:55 AM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd D3 RA000536 Kaya Connection
Comments	I currently buy my groceries, gas and alcohol from brooks landing and I was happily surprised to learn Kaya connection was moving in to the complex. I can't wait to check it out and welcome them to the neighborhood.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 8:10:53 AM

[Public Hearing Submission](#)

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 08:10 AM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 highland blvd
Comments	Kaya has shown professionalism and proper business practice at the parksville loaction.. Locally owned and customer service driven. If there can be liquor stores on every corner why can't there be a cannabis store added? Too many liquor stores. More cannabis stores needed as it's even a tool to help curb alcoholism. I know from experience. Been using cannabis for 30 years with no issues. Many have alcohol issues but this isn't discussed? Cannabis is medicinal for many. Physically and mentally. Shame on whoever is trying to restrict another cannabis store from opening. If the government didn't want cannabis signage for kids. They should stop signage for alcohol as it destroys lives. Cannabis does not. Proven fact. The government has legalized it. If alcohol is normalized. Cannabis should be too.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 9:31:14 AM

[Public Hearing Submission](#)

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 09:30 AM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd D3 RA000536 Kaya Connection
Comments	Hello Nanaimo City Council, I would like to submit my approval of the New Cannabis store location at Brooks landing for Kaya Connection. This company always has great product and customer service. I live in Nanaimo and drive out of my way to Parksville to purchase my Cannabis products. Having a new store location in Nanaimo at Brooks Landing would be an ideal addition for me and others I know. Thank you for hearing my approval

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 10:15:58 AM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 10:15 AM

Your Name	[REDACTED]
Your Address	[REDACTED]
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	RA000536
Comments	To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to express my support for the proposed cannabis retail business in our neighbourhood. I want to be clear that I am not a cannabis user, nor am I writing to promote or endorse cannabis use. My support is based on the principle that a legal, regulated business should be considered fairly and evaluated according to the same standards as other businesses operating in the area. I understand that some residents have raised concerns because the proposed location is near a school and daycare. These concerns deserve to be heard and addressed through appropriate licensing, security, signage, operating procedures, and compliance requirements. However, proximity alone should not automatically prevent a responsible business owner from having the opportunity to operate, particularly when other age-restricted businesses, including a liquor store, are already located within the same commercial area. As a local business owner, I understand how much commitment, financial risk, planning, and perseverance are involved in opening and operating a business. Local entrepreneurs contribute to neighbourhood vitality, employment, commercial occupancy, and the local economy. I believe business owners who are prepared to follow all applicable regulations and operate responsibly should be given a fair opportunity to do so. My support is not an endorsement of cannabis as a product. Rather, it is support for a fair and consistent decision-making process that does not stigmatize a legal business or its owner. I encourage decision-makers to assess the application based on regulatory compliance, community safety, responsible management, and the applicant's proposed operating practices. Thank you for considering my perspective. Sincerely, [REDACTED] Local Resident and Business Owner

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 10:20:10 AM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 10:19 AM

Your Name	██████████
Your Address	████████████████████
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Boulevard
Comments	1. Failure to Meet the City's Minimum Separation Requirement The proposed location at 2180 Highland Boulevard is approximately 120 metres from Zidwigs Family Childcare, roughly three doors away. This is approximately 40% short of the City's stated 200-metre minimum separation requirement. 2. The Area Is Already Well Served The surrounding area is already adequately served by licensed cannabis retailers. Within approximately 1.6 kilometres are: Island Cannabis Co. Trees Cannabis Coast Salish Canna Within approximately 3.7 kilometres are an additional three retailers: Super Buds BC Cannabis Country Club Mood Cannabis Co. Approval of this application would result in seven licensed cannabis retailers within a 3.7-kilometre radius. This level of concentration does little to improve consumer access to legal cannabis. Instead, it contributes to market saturation in an industry already experiencing declining margins, significant regulatory costs, and intense price competition. For these reasons, I respectfully request that Council deny the proposed rezoning application.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 11:11:17 AM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 11:11 AM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd
Comments	I am writing you to point out issues regarding the meeting today. The new business that's been approved fails to meet the cities minimum requirements. The new store is 120 metres from Zidwigs family chuld care which is roughly 3 doors down. This is short of city policy. The surrounding area is already adequately service by licensed vendors. Within 3.7 kms there are currently 6 stores. This concentration of stores impedes customer experience due to market saturation. It also hurts locally owned businesses. I respectfully ask the rezoning application to be denied.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 11:21:47 AM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 11:21 AM

Your Name	[REDACTED]
Your Address	[REDACTED]
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd D3 RA000536 Kaya Connection
Comments	July 16, 2026 Mayor Leonard Krog and Members of Nanaimo City Council Re: Rezoning Application RA000536 – Kaya Connection, 2180 Highland Boulevard Dear Mayor Krog and Members of Council, I'm writing to share my support for the rezoning application for Kaya Connection at 2180 Highland Boulevard. As someone who lives in Nanaimo, I appreciate having access to safe, legal, and regulated businesses in our community. Licensed cannabis retailers provide adults with a responsible place to purchase cannabis and operate under strict provincial rules, including mandatory ID checks, restrictions on advertising, and absolutely no access for anyone under the age of 19. The proposed location makes sense to me. It's in an established commercial shopping centre that's already home to a variety of businesses, including a provincially regulated liquor store. Both liquor and cannabis retailers are age-restricted and held to high regulatory standards, so I believe this is an appropriate and compatible location for another regulated business. I understand why some residents have raised concerns about the nearby schools and daycare, and I think it's important those concerns are heard. At the same time, licensed cannabis stores are not allowed to admit minors or market to youth. The regulations in place are specifically designed to prevent youth access, and I have every confidence that Kaya Connection will continue to operate responsibly and be a good neighbour. I also believe that consumers—not the City—should decide where they choose to shop. Healthy competition benefits everyone, and businesses should earn customers by providing great service, quality products, and a positive experience. Council's role is to determine whether this is an appropriate land use, and in my view, a licensed cannabis retailer is a good fit for this commercial centre. Approving this application would give residents more choice, support local business, encourage healthy competition, and allow another provincially regulated retailer to contribute to Nanaimo's economy. Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments. I respectfully ask that you approve this rezoning application. Sincerely,

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 11:24:19 AM

[Public Hearing Submission](#)

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 11:24 AM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd D3
Comments	I read with care the application. Thank you Mayor and Council for your time to review this Letter of support for Kaya Connections. Below is my experience and why I support this application to rezone. I am a researcher... I look into things. It was decided to support my situation and try the product offered, I went shopping. Kaya Parksville has a good reputation and was eventually where I landed. Products offered in these LCRB are the similar, yet Kaya stood out. Here is some of the why...Kaya is discreet. No Neon signs, only a creative name. I didn't feel like I was entering a "drug den".The facility in Parksville is clean, bright, open and felt fresh. I was comfortable when I walked in. I was met with a friendly face and at no time did I feel pressured for making a decision so the attendee could get back to their cell phone. The staff was the best resource for knowledge of product, respectful, non pushy, there was time allotted for decision; and no claims of transformation. I felt safe and made choice from an empowered position. Kaya stood head and shoulders above the other establishments I visited. *The owners of Kaya have been vetted by LCRB, the ridged Government process. *The RCMP reviewed the proposal and indicated they have no concerns. Kaya is time tested and true. I have no doubt the high government standards will be maintained. The thoughtful consideration given to this application jumps off the page when read through. Volumes are spoken to Kaya Connections and the way the owners conduct themselves. They cherish our community and want to make it better. To address the distance from daycare point seems mute as: There is No consumption on site. Only daycare questionable close (see discrepancies of measure) had no response to Kaya owners. Licensed daycare does not mean it is a vital active operating daycare. A Letter of Support from the daycare in close proximity to Kaya in Parksville. Opposition, is from competitors that know already how Kaya operates. Concerns about competition. We all know and have experienced in life; competition raises the bar to do better. Considered Kaya, this company is a leading, time tested and safe local company that has worked hard to be where it sits today. When you read this application with an openness to improve our community you too will see what I see. Thoughtful professional applicants that are doing so much to improve the industry. Kaya creates a welcome space to provide legal access to product extremely beneficial in life. Kaya will be a welcome addition to the new look of Brooks landing and will add to the "one stop shop" for the many things offered in the mall. When I noticed this

application I was happy to see the city's opportunity to embrace the expansion of Kaya's small business. My hope: the voters on this application will take the time to weigh all things and tip the scale in favour of support for Kaya and welcome them to our city. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 11:49:22 AM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 11:49 AM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd D3 RA000536 Kaya Connection
Comments	TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF NANIMO CITY COUNCIL PLEASE ACCEPT MY FORMAL EMAIL AS SUPPORT FOR CANNABIS RETAIL STORE PROPOSED AT 2180 HIGHLAND BLVD D3 RA000536. WE WOULD LIKE TO PRONOUNCE OUR APPROVAL AND SUPPORT FOR THIS APPLICATION. THE OWNERS OF THE PROPOSED LOCATION NOT ONLY HAVE SUPPORTED ITS COMMUNITY BUT ALSO IT SUPPORTS ITS CANNABIS INDUSTRY PARTNERS. WE ARE ONE EXAMPLE OF THEIR SUPPORT THROUGH LEGALLY PURCHASED PRODUCTS AND DIRECT DELIVERY PROGRAM. MY BUSINESS IS LOCATED IN THE FRASER VALLEY OF BC HAS 4 FEDERALLY LICENSED LOCATIONS, IT EMPLOYS IN UPWAYS OF 60 INDIVIDUALS AND MANY OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY. AS A SMALL/MEDIUM BUSINESS WE TRULY COUNT ON KAYA'S SUPPORT TO ENSURE WE ARE ABLE TO MAINTAIN BUSINESS OPERATIONS. ALTHOUGH OTHERS SEE CONCERN WITH EXPOSURE TO YOUTH IN THE PROPOSED LOCATION I WOULD ASSURE YOU THAT THE FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN WRITTEN TO ENSURE THAT THE SALES OF FEDERALLY LICENSES CANNABIS PROTECTS OUR CHILDREN FROM THESE CONCERNS. DUNN CANNABIS CHOOSES ITS PARTNERS CAREFULLY IN THE INDUSTRY TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE NOT ONLY FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS BUT EXCEEDING THEM BY ADDRESSING PRIVATE CONCERNS OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE COMMUNITY. I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY THROUGH PREVIOUS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THAT THE STAKEHOLDERS OF KAYA CANNABIS HAVE DISPLAYED WITH ACTIONS THAT ANY AND ALL LOCATION CONCERNS BEING ADDRESSED ARE ACHIEVABLE TO ENSURE THE SAFTY AND OUR YOUTH ALL WHILE FOLLOWING THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. ADDITIONALLY, AS LEGAL CANNABIS LOCATIONS ARE APPROVED THROUGH COMMUNITIES IT HAS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE BLACKMARKET SALE OF CANNABIS ENSURING THE SAFTY OF OUR COMMUNITY DOCUMENTED IN THIS RCMP REPORT : https://www.rcmp.ca/en/federal-policing/serious-and-organized-crime/blunt-truth-organized-crime-taking-root-cannabis-market AGAIN I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS TIME TO EXPRESS OUR APPROVAL AND SUPPORT OF THIS APPLICATION. BEST , DUNN CANNABIS INC

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 12:19:40 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 12:19 PM

Your Name	[REDACTED]
Your Address	[REDACTED]
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd
Comments	Dear Mayor Krog and Members of Council, I am writing in support of the proposed rezoning application to permit Kaya Connection to open a cannabis retail store at 2180 Highland Boulevard, Unit D3, in Brooks Landing. As a resident of the area, and fellow cannabis business operator in the area, I want Council to hear that not everyone in the community opposes this application. I understand Council has received a number of submissions in opposition, several of them from owners and staff of a competing businesses. I would ask Council to weigh that context carefully: businesses raising concerns about "market saturation" and competitive pressure have an obvious commercial interest in keeping a new competitor out, and that self-interest doesn't necessarily reflect the interests of residents or the broader public. A few points I'd ask Council to consider: Consumer choice benefits residents. Cannabis retail is a legal, licensed industry in British Columbia. More licensed options in a growing neighbourhood like Brooks Landing give residents more convenient access, competitive pricing, and choice — the same market dynamics we'd want in any other retail sector. Competition concerns are not a valid planning basis. Whether an area can "support" another retailer is a market question for businesses to sort out themselves, not something the City's zoning process should be deciding on behalf of incumbent operators. Brooks Landing is a growing commercial hub. New commercial space in a developing area should be welcomed by responsible, licensed businesses that bring foot traffic and economic activity, rather than treated as a threat to existing operators. The application should be assessed on its own merits. I'd encourage Council to evaluate this application against the City's actual adopted siting criteria and the specifics of this site, rather than being swayed by submissions focused primarily on protecting an existing competitor's market share. I respectfully ask Council to give this application fair consideration and to approve the rezoning. Thank you for your time and for your service to the Nanaimo community. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 1:00:11 PM

[Public Hearing Submission](#)

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 12:59 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd D3
Comments	Hello, I just want to show my support for the cannabis store being proposed for 2180 Highland Blvd D3. As a life long resident of Brechin Hill community (44 years) I would encourage the city to allow all locally owned and operated businesses to have the opportunity to establish roots in our community. From what I've read of this business from Parksville, they're the type of business that cares about their local neighbourhood and surrounding businesses. As a parent of two Cilaire students I have no concerns of the proximity of this store to the school. I hope the city continues to support local business and makes the appropriate accommodations so that we can continue to grow and develop economic opportunities for all local business owners. Thank you for your time.

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 1:08:27 PM

[Public Hearing Submission](#)

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 01:07 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	RA000536
Comments	To Whom It May Concern, I am writing as the Manager of Kaya Connection in Parksville and as someone who was born and raised in Nanaimo, with deep roots in the Woodlands neighbourhood. I am also a frequent customer of cannabis retailers throughout Nanaimo, which gives me a unique perspective on the local industry and the needs of our community. I have been genuinely disappointed by the level of opposition surrounding Kaya Connection's proposed second location in Nanaimo. Much of the feedback submitted appears to be driven by concerns over increased competition rather than by evidence of any meaningful impact on the public interest. The opposing submissions speak about serving the community while opposing a legal cannabis retailer in an area that is currently underserved. For many residents living around Brooks Landing, accessing a licensed cannabis store requires a lengthy trip by foot or additional transportation costs. Allowing another regulated retailer in this area would improve accessibility, convenience, and consumer choice while encouraging residents to continue purchasing through the legal market. What has been most difficult for me personally is seeing such strong resistance directed toward a company that genuinely wants to invest in Nanaimo. Although our existing store is located in Parksville, Kaya Connection has always viewed itself as part of the broader central Vancouver Island community. We regularly sponsor community events, support local charities, and contribute to fundraisers throughout the region. Community involvement is not something we do for publicity—it's a core part of who we are. As someone who grew up in the Woodlands neighbourhood, it is especially meaningful to know that Kaya Connection has already expressed interest in contributing to local beautification initiatives, including improvements to the Woodlands Tunnel area. It would be incredibly rewarding to give back to a neighbourhood that helped shape both myself and the owner. Ultimately, I believe this decision should be based on what benefits the people of Nanaimo—not on protecting existing businesses from competition. Approving this application would mean supporting: • Greater access to safe, regulated cannabis for residents in an underserved area. • Consumer choice in a competitive marketplace. • A locally owned Vancouver Island business committed to reinvesting in its communities. • An employer that prioritizes paying a living wage and creating quality local jobs. • Continued investment in charitable initiatives, community events, and neighbourhood improvement projects. Declining the application would not

eliminate demand for cannabis. It would simply preserve the status quo by limiting consumer choice and protecting existing market share. I respectfully encourage Council to evaluate this application on its merits, the facts before it, and the long-term interests of the community. I believe Kaya Connection has demonstrated that it is committed not only to operating a successful business but also to being a responsible and active community partner. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, [REDACTED] Manager Kaya Connection

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 1:31:58 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 01:31 PM

Your Name	[REDACTED]
Your Address	[REDACTED]
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd D3 RA000536 Kaya Connection
Comments	Public Hearing – RA000536 2180 Highland Boulevard – Kaya Connection Mayor Krog and Members of Council, Thank you for considering our rezoning application. My name is [REDACTED] owner of Kaya Connection, a family-owned cannabis retailer that has proudly operated in Parksville since 2019. I was born and raised in Nanaimo, attended Cilaire Elementary and Woodlands School, and continue to call Nanaimo home. Bringing Kaya Connection to Brooks Landing represents an opportunity to invest in the community where I grew up. During the past six years, Kaya Connection has built a reputation for responsible operation, regulatory compliance, and community involvement. We proudly sponsor the Parksville Beach Festival and International Sand Sculpting Competition, support the Errington Farmers' Market, participate in the Tuesday Night Market, and contribute to numerous charities, local events, and community organizations. We believe successful businesses should actively contribute to the communities they serve. A number of submissions have focused on the nearby daycare. While I appreciate those concerns, I respectfully ask Council to consider the actual layout of the site. The daycare is located behind Brooks Landing, separated from the proposed store by a busy roadway and commercial buildings. There is no direct line of sight between the daycare and our storefront. We also accepted the City's request that all signage face into Brooks Landing and away from the daycare. More importantly, Kaya Connection has real-world experience operating beside a daycare. Our Parksville location has successfully operated beside West Oak Child Care for several years. The daycare has provided a letter supporting Kaya Connection and confirming that we have always been responsible neighbours and that no issues have arisen from our operation. Several submissions also suggest that another cannabis retailer is unnecessary. Respectfully, I believe this application should be evaluated on land-use planning principles rather than market competition. Brooks Landing is one of Nanaimo's primary commercial centres, offering groceries, pharmacies, restaurants, banking, liquor retail, and many other daily services. Allowing a regulated cannabis retailer within that existing shopping centre simply allows residents to complete all of their errands in one location rather than requiring an additional vehicle trip. This is particularly beneficial for transit users, seniors, pedestrians, cyclists, and residents seeking convenient access to legal retail services. Throughout this application, we have worked cooperatively with City staff, accepted additional conditions, completed

the required public consultation, and responded respectfully to every concern raised. Our goal has always been to become another responsible business serving the Nanaimo community. I respectfully ask Council to consider our proven operating history, our commitment to being good neighbours, and the planning merits of this application. Thank you for your consideration. [REDACTED]
Owner, Kaya Connection Ltd. Tim Austin 250-586-6640 101-124 Craig St PO
Box 207 Parksville, BC V9P 2G4 www.kaya-connection.com

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 1:35:35 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 01:35 PM

Your Name	[REDACTED]
Your Address	[REDACTED]
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	2180 Highland Blvd
Comments	uly 16, 2026 Mayor Leonard Krog and Members of Nanaimo City Council Re: Rezoning Application RA000536 – Kaya Connection, 2180 Highland Boulevard Dear Mayor Krog and Members of Council, I am writing in support of the proposed rezoning application for Kaya Connection at 2180 Highland Boulevard. As a resident of Nanaimo, I believe licensed cannabis retailers provide an important service by offering adults a safe, legal, and highly regulated place to purchase cannabis products. These businesses operate under strict provincial regulations, including mandatory age verification, restrictions on advertising and product display, and prohibitions on access by anyone under the age of 19. The proposed location is within an established commercial centre that already accommodates a wide range of retail businesses serving the surrounding neighbourhood. Importantly, the shopping centre already contains a provincially regulated liquor store that operates responsibly alongside other commercial uses. Like liquor retailers, licensed cannabis stores are age-restricted businesses with stringent operating requirements. The presence of another regulated adult-oriented retail use demonstrates that this commercial centre is an appropriate location for businesses that require responsible access controls. I understand that concerns have been expressed regarding nearby schools and daycare facilities. Those concerns deserve thoughtful consideration. However, the proposed business is not directed toward youth and cannot legally admit minors. The safeguards governing licensed cannabis retailers are specifically designed to prevent youth access, and I am confident that Kaya Connection will continue to operate responsibly within those regulations. I also do not believe the City should determine whether there are already "enough" businesses of a particular type. Existing businesses should compete by providing excellent products and service, while consumers should decide where they choose to shop. Council's role is to determine whether the proposed land use is appropriate for the location, and in my opinion, a licensed cannabis retailer is a reasonable and compatible commercial use within this established shopping centre. Approving this application would support consumer choice, encourage healthy business competition, and allow another provincially regulated business to contribute to the local economy while operating under one of the strictest retail regulatory frameworks in British Columbia. I respectfully ask Council to approve the rezoning application. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely,

From: [City of Nanaimo](#)
To: [Public Hearing](#)
Subject: New form entry is submitted - Public Hearing Submission
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 1:45:09 PM

Public Hearing Submission

Submitted on 16 July 2026, 01:44 PM

Your Name	
Your Address	
Bylaw Number or Subject Property Address Which You Are Addressing Your Comments	RA000536
Comments	July 16, 2026 Mayor Leonard Krog and Members of Nanaimo City Council Re: Rezoning Application RA000536 – Kaya Connection, Unit D3, Brooks Landing Dear Mayor Krog and Members of Council, My name is Keene Anderson, and I have had the privilege of acting as the planning consultant and authorized agent for this rezoning application. Having guided this application through the City's review process, reviewed the applicable planning policies, and considered the public submissions received, I would like to offer a few observations for Council's consideration. From a planning perspective, I believe this proposal represents an appropriate commercial use within an established neighbourhood shopping centre. Brooks Landing is a purpose-built commercial development containing a grocery store, restaurants, financial services, a liquor store, health services, and numerous other retail and commercial uses. The proposed tenant is consistent with the commercial function of the site and will occupy an existing retail unit without altering the character or operation of the shopping centre. A number of submissions have focused on the proximity of the proposed store to nearby schools and childcare facilities. Those comments are understandable and reflect a genuine interest in protecting places where children gather. However, it is also important to consider the specific context of this site. The nearby childcare facility is separated from the proposed location by the commercial development and a major roadway, with no shared access or direct line of sight between the uses. In addition, cannabis retail stores are among the most highly regulated retail businesses in British Columbia. Access is restricted to adults aged 19 and over, identification is mandatory, advertising is tightly controlled, and products are not openly displayed. It is also worth recognizing that Brooks Landing already accommodates a provincially regulated liquor store. Both liquor and cannabis retailers are adult-oriented commercial uses operating under comprehensive provincial legislation. From a land use perspective, this demonstrates that the shopping centre is capable of accommodating regulated age-restricted businesses while continuing to function as a successful neighbourhood commercial centre. During my review of the application, I also considered how similar applications have been addressed elsewhere in Nanaimo. Existing licensed cannabis retailers have been approved in locations that are also situated near schools and licensed childcare facilities. This demonstrates that Council has historically considered each application on its individual planning merits rather than applying

separation distances as absolute prohibitions. Equally important is the applicant's operating history. Kaya Connection has successfully operated a licensed cannabis retail store in Parksville, including several years directly across from a licensed childcare facility, without complaints or operational issues. That history demonstrates a commitment to responsible management and respectful integration within the surrounding community. Some submissions have also questioned whether Nanaimo requires another cannabis retailer. In my opinion, that is not the central planning consideration before Council. Rezoning decisions are intended to evaluate whether a proposed land use is appropriate for a specific location and compatible with surrounding development. Questions of market demand and business competition are generally determined by consumers rather than through the land use planning process. Finally, I would note that this proposal provides tangible community benefits beyond the retail use itself. The business will create local employment opportunities, invest in improvements to the commercial centre, participate in community sponsorships, and operate under rigorous provincial licensing, security, and compliance requirements. After reviewing the proposal against the City's policies, the surrounding land uses, and the comments received through the public process, it remains my professional opinion that this rezoning represents appropriate planning and is compatible with the existing commercial context of Brooks Landing. Thank you for your consideration of this application and for the thoughtful deliberation you bring to these decisions. Respectfully submitted, Keene Anderson Planning Consultant and Authorized Agent
Anderson Greenplan