



October 24, 2025

City of Courtenay
830 Cliffe Avenue
Courtenay, BC
V9N 2J7

VIA EMAIL

RE: Support for Storefront Cannabis Retailer Fee Adjustment

Mayor Bob Wells and Council,

On behalf of British Columbia's Alliance of Beverage Licensees (ABLE BC), a non-profit industry association representing nearly 1000 private liquor and cannabis businesses in BC, we would like to commend the City of Courtenay for your recent decision to amend the annual business licence fee for cannabis retailers.

At the October 1, 2025, Council Meeting, the *Business Licence Amendment Bylaw No. 3199 – Storefront Cannabis Retailer* was adopted, amending the '**Next Year's Licence' annual fee** from the flat **Cannabis Retailer charge of \$2,500 per year** to the **retail price category, calculated based on square footage**.

This adjustment represents a fair and thoughtful step toward aligning cannabis retailer fees with those applied to other retail businesses in Courtenay. It also demonstrates the City's commitment to supporting a balanced, equitable, and sustainable regulatory environment for the local cannabis industry.

We sincerely thank Council and staff for your leadership and collaboration with industry. Policy changes like this make a tangible difference for small business operators and help strengthen the economic vitality of your community.

Thank you again for your support of Courtenay's licensed cannabis retailers. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at bo@ablebc.ca or (778) 387-3108.

Sincerely,

Bo Chen,
Executive Director (Interim)
Alliance of Beverage Licensees