

ADAMS LAKE INDIAN BAND

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Chief & Council Pause New Cannabis Businesses

Press Release

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Adams Lake Indian Band Council have PAUSED any NEW Cannabis Businesses on their reserves.

On January 25, 2022, Chief & Council passed a Band Council Resolution (BCR) to endorse a moratorium on any 'new' Cannabis retail operations on Adams Lake lands for a period of one year. This pause will enable the research, collation & presentation of a Cannabis governance model that will address public health, safety & environmental concerns.

When Cannabis became legal in 2017, it opened the opportunity for retail under a Provincial license, but First Nations were not included in the development of this legislation. The Federal Government left it up to each First Nation to initiate their own Governance model to regulate the industry within their own territorial boundaries. The situation gave opportunity for First Nations people to enter this market, exercising their own rights, within their own lands.

Some ALIB community members have taken advantage of the opportunity to enter the Cannabis market initiating retail businesses on IR4 & IR6 reserves despite the absence of ALIB regulations, guidelines, or bylaws. This lack of guidance has caused confusion and concerns around potential health, public safety, and environmental waste implications, in addition to creating over-saturation, congestion and traffic concerns. Band members who choose to enter this industry must exercise caution in their partnership selections, as any partnerships can affect fellow Band members and businesses on a greater level.

Key considerations moving forward:

- ALIB must develop a Cannabis Bylaw & operational procedures to assist in management of new businesses post-moratorium.
- Public Safety is an important aspect for any business. Proper guidelines will be researched & options presented to Chief & Council at a future date.
- Depending on the Governance model, a compliance component will be required.

Thus, further Cannabis Meetings will be forth coming for further community input. In consultation with membership, residents, businesses, First Nations groups and others.

Band Council supports the BC Assembly of First Nations and First Nations Leadership Council representatives on the Joint Working Group on the development of a BC First Nations Cannabis strategy and to advocate for the provincial and federal governments to recognize First Nations jurisdiction with respect to cannabis on-reserve and within First Nations respective territories, whether implemented through inherent rights and laws, First Nations land management laws, government to government agreements, or any other self-determining means.

A coordinated and strategic approach to the development and implementation of a BC First Nations Cannabis Strategy which should address the topics of jurisdiction, law making and regulations, enforcement, economic development, taxation, revenues, health, safety, and education, among others, as they relate to cannabis.

Taking this pause will give ALIB the opportunity to address and manage the Cannabis industry to ensure we operate in the best way possible.

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