

Power, Tom B PSSG:EX

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 4:30 PM
To: Lewis, Glen PSSG:EX; Oberg, Meghan PSSG:EX
Subject: CSU activities - Nov 1, 2023

Hi Glen,

I'm writing to highlight two operations completed by CSU today:

Vancouver:

- CSU conducted an enforcement at "The Medicinal Cannabis Dispensary" which is believed to be associated to the "The Medicinal Cannabis Dispensary" located at 1182 Thurlow Street, Vancouver which has been subject of previous enforcement and recipient of a Notice of Administrative Monetary Penalty by CSU.
- The inspection action was coordinated with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) who simultaneously executed search warrants next door to a "mushroom dispensary" at 651 East Hastings Street, and other locations at 651 West Broadway, and 8480 Granville Street, Vancouver.
- VPD released a media statement this afternoon advising of the three search warrants and their ongoing investigation into the illegal sale of illicit psychedelic drugs from storefronts throughout the city.
- s.15; s.16
- The value of cannabis seized today will not be known until examined.

s.15; s.16

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown
Executive Director
Municipal Policing Governance and Community Safety Division
Policing and Security Branch
Direct: (778) 698-8432
Mobile: (250) 480-8865

Power, Tom B PSSG:EX

From: Donnelly, Chris R GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 4:49 PM
To: GCPE PSSG Media Wrap
Subject: PSSG Media Wrap: Thursday November 2, 2023

Underway:

Richard Zussman, Reporter, Global TV | BC
Ashley Joannou, Reporter, Canadian Press (BC Bureau)

Deadline: ASAP

Request:

CP looking to get the government's response to an ILO report that was just released:

<https://iiohc.ca/app/uploads/sites/472/2022/11/November-13-2022-Williams-Lake-Serious-Harm-2022-299.pdf>

Zussman looking for MMF

Status: With MO

Catherine Urquhart, Reporter, Global TV | BC
Jane Skrypnek, Reporter, Black Press Media

Deadline: Friday November 3, 2023 1:00PM

Request:

Can you please update me on where this investigation is at?

Status: With Program

Victor Kaiser, Reporter, CHNL Radio (Kamloops) AM 610

Deadline: Friday November 3, 2023 2:00PM

Request:

We've spoken to the people at the 70-Mile Fire Association who are essentially bringing in a fee for service model for residents there, after rejecting a proposal from the TNRD to bring in a regional district run fire hall.

Is that legal? Can they do that? If so, why? And if not, is there something the province can do to put an end to it?

Status: With Program

Chad Pawson, Reporter, CBC - Vancouver

Deadline: Friday November 3, 2023 3:00PM

Request:

An advocacy group is asking municipalities to pass resolutions to push the province to change the Funeral Services Act to allow for aqua-cremation (alkaline hydrolysis).

CBC News reported on this issue three years ago.

I'm interested to know if the province is still reviewing this potential change and if it could be coming?

Also can the ministry confirm how many resolutions, as in this example, it has received from municipalities?

Can the response please also list the municipalities which have submitted resolutions over this matter to the province?

Is it possible to receive a response by the end of the week?

Status: With Program

Completed:

Mike Hager, Reporter, Globe and Mail - BC Bureau

Request:

Reporter looking to speak to MMF before 3:30p today on mushroom store raids.

Status: Provided Statement

"Psilocybin is a controlled substance under the federal Controlled Drug and Substances Act. Any business selling illegal products should be denied a business license and not allowed to operate. Further questions about these enforcement actions should be directed to the VPD. The VPD operate at arms-length from government, and questions related to this recent activity would be best directed to them."

Rob Shaw, Reporter, CHEK TV - Victoria

Request:

Can I get an explanation why the minister stood down sections 3 and 4 of his public drug use bill due to concerns/questions by police. Who has questions? What happens to the bill now and those sections?

Status: With Program

- Committee debate on Bill 34 concluded yesterday evening including with respect to sections 3 and 4 as amended.
- The amendments do not change the policy intent of the Bill.
- The amendments provide clarity and transparency about the authority of police to act under section 3 and 4. When the police have reasonable grounds to believe that a person has recently consumed or is consuming an illegal substance listed in the act, even if the police officer has not directly observed the consumption of the illegal substance they may take progressive action outlined in the legislation.
- Government continues to talk to stakeholders even after the introduction of a Bill; PSSG is working with police to develop training materials and they raised a question about the clarity of those sections.

ICBC Media:

Zak Vescera, Reporter, The Tyee

Deadline: Thursday November 2, 2023 12:00PM

Request:

I understand that under new BC law, Crown corporations including yours must publish a pay transparency report today, outlining the pay gap between men and women.

Out of all your employees who responded, how many opted not to disclose their gender?

Why did so many ICBC employees opt not to disclose this, compared to other crowns?

And -- based on the figures provided on page 4 -- do you believe this data is still meaningful in gauging the size of the gender wage gap, given the rate of people who didn't disclose their gender?

Status: With MO

BCCS Media:

Media Interviews:

- CBC/Charlie Cho (Charlie.cho@cbc.ca) – Arranged and conducted interviews between death review panel chair and regional radio hosts in Kelowna, Victoria and Vancouver. – COMPLETE
- CBC/Melissa Bennardo (melissa.bennardo@cbc.ca) – Arranged and conducted interview between chief coroner and Sarah Galashan regarding death review panel report. – COMPLETE

Media Requests:

- CKNW/Bianca Rego (bainca.rego@cosrusent.com) – Minister Whiteside is joining Mornings with Simi tomorrow at 7:05 am PT to discuss why she rejected the primary recommendation from the BC Coroners Service toxic drug

death review panel, and we are very interested in having Mr. Michael Egilson share his insights on the show in response to her claims. We were wondering if Mr. Egilson would be willing to participate in a live, 7-minute phone interview with Simi Sara tomorrow, November 3rd, at 7:20 am PT to discuss the reasons behind the panel's recommendations and how he believes the Ministry's decision will influence the number of toxic drug-related deaths in the province. **RESPONSE: Confirmed availability for interview at 7:20 on Friday, November 3.** – COMPLETE

- CBC/Andrew Kurjata (andrew.kurjata@cbc.ca) – We have a followup interview with the family of Carter Vigh, the boy from 100 Mile House who died after an asthma attack over the summer. At the time, the B.C. Coroners Service issued a public safety bulletin and said it was investigating the death. Are there any updates you can provide on this investigation at this time? Has a cause of death been confirmed? **RESPONSE: Our investigation into this death remains open, and as a consequence I have no additional information to offer at this time. Cause and manner of death will be determined at the conclusion of the investigation.** – COMPLETE
- CHNL/Victor Kaisar (vkaisar@stingray.com) – Hoping you can shed some light. I see zero toxic drug deaths in Kamloops last month, which while excellent news, it seems like a statistical anomaly more than a sudden improvement, especially considering the situation in the rest of B.C. Curious if you're able to say when Kamloops last had zero toxic drug deaths in a month. **RESPONSE: To clarify, the Coroners Service is investigating one death in Kamloops that took place in September and is suspected to have been caused by unregulated drugs. Our data is dynamic and, particularly in regards to more recent deaths, is subject to change as investigations and completed and causes of death confirmed. The last time there were zero reported deaths in Kamloops was in September 2019.** – COMPLETE
- CBC/Katie Sherwood (katie.sherwood@cbc.ca) – I am a producer with CBC's evening political tv program Power & Politics. We would like to speak with Chief Coroner Lapointe about the BC Coroners Service report on illicit drug toxicity deaths in September 2023 that was released this week as well as the government's response to the report. Would she have any availability tomorrow? – IN PROGRESS

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Neelam,

Les is Detective Les Weeks, OCS as well.

Everyone is talking about it in the office this morning. Such a great day. The amount of mushrooms, LSD, DMT and other hallucinogens was incredible. They didn't get done the three sites until about 7pm last night.

They'll be processing over the next week.

I gave Les the heads up that your team wants to do the Thurlow store in the next couple of weeks. Should be another great day.

Are you able to get me the information of the two found in's for my assist report. I never took their names down. I just found out that I have to include them in my report assisting your agency.

Many thanks.

Tara

Det/Cst 2363 Tara Munro

Vancouver Police Department

Drug Expert Coordinator/Trainer

ORGANIZED CRIME SECTION

Desk: 604 717-9452

Cell: 778 836-4805

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[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Neelam,

I have confirmed with the lead investigator that they will be doing search warrants on DL's 3 mushroom stores. They are not doing anything with the cannabis stores.

s.15

Good luck and stay safe.

Tara

Det/Cst 2363 Tara Munro

Vancouver Police Department

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s.15; s.16

s.15; s.16

My understanding is that the other two mushroom stores open at that time, so they plan to hit all 3 at once. I will give you the lead investigator's contact information. s.15; s.16

s.15; s.16 If you have any questions regarding his file, you can ask him directly. Once your ops plan is approved, just let me know what the plan is (where and when to meet).

This is going to be a really good day.

Call me if you need anything else.

Tara

From: MUNRO, Tara

Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2023 11:35 AM

To: Safavian, Neelam PSSG:EX <Neelam.Safavian@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Dana Larsen Properties - update

Neelam,

I have confirmed with the lead investigator that they will be doing search warrants on DL's 3 mushroom stores. They are not doing anything with the cannabis stores.

s.15; s.16

Good luck and stay safe.

Tara

Det/Cst 2363 Tara Munro

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From: PSSG Community Safety Unit PSSG:EX (csu@gov.bc.ca)
To: Marpole Village (marpolebia@marpolevillage.ca)
Cc: LCRB Complaints LCRB:EX (LCRBComplaints@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: RE: Queries re: Mushroom Dispensaries + Transfer of cannabis permit to new vendor
Sent: 10/26/2023 16:24:04
Message Body:

Dear Claudia,

Thank you for contacting the Community Safety Unit (CSU). The CSU operates a regulatory compliance and enforcement program that is focused on the illegal sale of cannabis without a license and other related activities.

Mushrooms fall under the purview of the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) or local police due to their classification as controlled substances under the Federal Controlled Drug and Substances Act. Their regulation is not within the scope of provincial enforcement responsibilities. Inquiries about licensing should be directed to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) for licensed retail stores.

Here is a link of contacts for LCRB for follow up: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/liquor-regulation-licensing/about-lcrb/contact-lcrb>

I have cc'd your email to LCRB for review.

If you have any further questions, please email us again.

Regards,

Community Safety Unit

From: Marpole Village <marpolebia@marpolevillage.ca>
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2023 1:15 PM
To: PSSG Community Safety Unit PSSG:EX <CSU@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Queries re: Mushroom Dispensaries + Transfer of cannabis permit to new vendor
Importance: High

You don't often get email from marpolebia@marpolevillage.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hello,

I'm contacting your office on behalf of the Marpole BIA, regarding two inquiries per below:

1. I'm emailing to inquire about the legality of magic mushroom dispensaries in Vancouver. A new dispensary selling magic mushroom and other hallucinogenic products opened two months ago in Marpole, located at 8480 Granville St. Is the sale of such products illegal, and if so, does it fall under Provincial Jurisdiction for enforcement? We would prefer to see this dispensary closed as soon as possible if it is engaging in illegal commerce.

2. Does the process of changing the ownership/brand of a cannabis store involve the requirement to obtain a new permit from the City of Vancouver? This is related to dutch love selling its location/business at 8602 Granville St. to another store/brand. Apparently, the approval is sitting at the Provincial Government level, but we need to know what the Provincial requirements are. Is the provincial permit transferrable?

Thank you for your assistance in these important matters.

Best,

Claudia

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=====

Claudia M. Laroye

Executive Director, Marpole Business Association (BIA)

201 - 8623 Granville St | Vancouver, BC | V6P 5A2

tel. 604.418.8232 | fax 604.677.2750

e marpolebia@marpolevillage.ca

w www.marpolevillage.ca

t @marpolevillage

I ♥ Marpole

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From: Hall, Eric W PSSG:EX (Eric.Hall@gov.bc.ca)
To: McEwen, Sarah AG:EX (Sarah.McEwen@gov.bc.ca)
Cc: Skinner, Shera AG:EX (Shera.Skinner@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: Re: VDS Inspection
Sent: 11/02/2023 22:12:22
Message Body:

VPD did three mushroom sites and we did one cannabis. We don't do press releases, so media only had VPD. Dana Larsen tweeted that it was actually four and CSU searched the East Hastings cannabis store. No cannabis in the mushroom stores. Not a huge amount in the cannabis one. Maybe a day or two inventory. We are finding most places are keeping little on hand and replenish as needed. E.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: McEwen, Sarah AG:EX <Sarah.McEwen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:42:47 PM
To: Hall, Eric W PSSG:EX <Eric.Hall@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Skinner, Shera AG:EX <Shera.Skinner@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: VDS Inspection

Hello Eric,

Matt mentioned yesterday that the VDS inspection was completed. I was curious about Dana's reaction so I looked it up online and the articles refer to the VPD having targeted three storefronts for selling psilocybin. Is the media getting it wrong? I thought there were two with mushrooms that VPD had warrants and one that was CSU was inspecting for cannabis. Much cannabis? Any resistance?

Cheers, Sarah

Sarah McEwen, Legal Counsel

Justice, Health and Revenue Group

Ministry of Attorney General | Legal Services Branch

1001 Douglas Street | Victoria BC V8W 2G5

Phone: 250-953-3179 | Fax: 250-356-9264

Pronouns: she/her/hers

LF:

This communication (both the message and any attachments) may be confidential and protected by privilege. This communication is intended only for the use of the person(s) to whom it is addressed. If you received this communication in error, please destroy this communication immediately and notify me by telephone or by email.

For government recipients: prior to any disclosure of this communication outside of government, including in response to a request under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the individual in possession of this communication must consult with the lawyer responsible for the matter to determine whether it is subject to privilege.

I am grateful to live and work on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen speaking people and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historic relationships with the land and sea continue to this day.

From: Hall, Eric W PSSG:EX (Eric.Hall@gov.bc.ca)
To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX (Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca)
Cc: Oberg, Meghan PSSG:EX (Meghan.Oberg@gov.bc.ca); Murray, Brian G PSSG:EX (Brian.Murray@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: CSU Sec 89 Enforcement Nov 1st 2023
Sent: 11/01/2023 21:22:01
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.jpg
Message Body:

The Community Safety Unit (CSU) conduct a Section 89 CCLA Inspection November 1, 2023, at a provincially unlicensed cannabis retailer located at 649 East Hastings Street, Vancouver.

The business was identified as "The Medicinal Cannabis Dispensary" and is believed to be associated to the "The Medicinal Cannabis Dispensary" located at 1182 Thurlow Street, Vancouver. The Thurlow Street location was subject of previous Section 89 CCLA inspection and recipient of a Notice of Administrative Monetary Penalty by CSU.

The inspection action was coordinated with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) as the police force of jurisdiction, and is a standard safety procedure for all CSU inspections in the Province.

VPD also executed search warrants next door to the Medicinal Cannabis Dispensary, a "mushroom dispensary" at 651 East Hastings Street, and other locations at 651 West Broadway, and 8480 Granville Street, Vancouver, simultaneously to the inspection by CSU at 649 East Hastings.

s.15; s.16

s.15; s.16 CSU did not attend any other locations and is not aware of any cannabis removed from those locations.

No CSU staff attended any location other than 649 East Hastings for section 89 CCLA inspection, and removal of cannabis.

s.13

Submitted for your information.

Eric.

Eric W. HALL | Manager Investigations

Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

PO Box 9060 Surrey Stn Main Surrey BC V3T 0N4

office: 604 398-6159 | **mobile:** 236 858-4609

email: eric.hall@gov.bc.ca

web: www.gov.bc.ca/Community-Safety-Unit

From: Hall, Eric W PSSG:EX (Eric.Hall@gov.bc.ca)
To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX (Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: RE: Release: VPD executes drug warrants at illegal psilocybin stores
Sent: 11/01/2023 20:54:35
Message Body:

It will be with you shortly

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 1:48 PM
To: Hall, Eric W PSSG:EX <Eric.Hall@gov.bc.ca>; Murray, Brian G PSSG:EX <Brian.Murray@gov.bc.ca>; Oberg, Meghan PSSG:EX <Meghan.Oberg@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Release: VPD executes drug warrants at illegal psilocybin stores

FYI. If possible as I likely won't have an opportunity to get to it, could someone draw up some bullets outlining CSU's investigation today?

Matt Brown

Executive Director

Municipal Policing Governance and Community Safety Division

Policing and Security Branch

Direct: (778) 698-8432

Mobile: (250) 480-8865

From: Covic, Vedrana PSSG:EX <Vedrana.Covic@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 1:01 PM
To: Tally, Holly PSSG:EX <Holly.Tally@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Sutherland, Wendy PSSG:EX <Wendy.Sutherland@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Release: VPD executes drug warrants at illegal psilocybin stores

FYI

From: ADDISON, Steve <Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 12:59 PM
Subject: Release: VPD executes drug warrants at illegal psilocybin stores

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

****Sergeant Steve Addison will be available for media at 2:30 p.m. in the media room at 2120 Cambie Street.****

VPD executes drug warrants at illegal psilocybin stores

Copyright

SERGEANT STEVE ADDISON

MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER | PUBLIC AFFAIRS

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

604.717.3679

steve.addison@vpd.ca | vpd.ca

From: Hall, Eric W PSSG:EX (Eric.Hall@gov.bc.ca)
To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX (Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca)
Cc: Oberg, Meghan PSSG:EX (Meghan.Oberg@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: RE: Section 89 Operational Plan for Review and Approval
Sent: 10/30/2023 18:15:55
Attachments: image001.png, image003.jpg, image004.png
Message Body:

Thanks Matt. s.15; s.16

s.15; s.16

From: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 11:00 AM
To: Hall, Eric W PSSG:EX <Eric.Hall@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Oberg, Meghan PSSG:EX <Meghan.Oberg@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Section 89 Operational Plan for Review and Approval

Morning Eric,

Thank you for sending this. Approved. s.15

s.15

Thanks, Matt

Matt Brown

Executive Director

Municipal Policing Governance and Community Safety Division

Policing and Security Branch

Direct: (778) 698-8432

Mobile: (250) 480-8865

From: Hall, Eric W PSSG:EX <Eric.Hall@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2023 8:09 AM

To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Oberg, Meghan PSSG:EX <Meghan.Oberg@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Section 89 Operational Plan for Review and Approval

Hello Matt,

Please see attached Ops Plan for an unlicensed cannabis retailer. It is scheduled for 11am November 1st, 2023 to coincide with VPD search warrants. We will likely be requesting a couple of Victoria office investigators to assist. It is "Bring your Kid to Work Day" so Nidhan can not go into the scene and participate. He may watch from afar. I think Victoria could attend without staying overnight (first ferry, one car, afternoon or early evening ferry back).

If you have any questions, let me know.

Eric.

Eric W. HALL | Manager Investigations

Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

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office: 604 398-6159 | **mobile:** 236 858-4609

email: eric.hall@gov.bc.ca

web: www.gov.bc.ca/Community-Safety-Unit

From: Hall, Eric W PSSG:EX (Eric.Hall@gov.bc.ca)
To: Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX (Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca)
Cc: Oberg, Meghan PSSG:EX (Meghan.Oberg@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: Section 89 Operational Plan for Review and Approval
Sent: 10/27/2023 15:09:10
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.jpg, 2023_000514_Investigational Planning and Report The Medicinal Cannabis Store_231025_Solo.docx
Message Body:

Hello Matt,

Please see attached Ops Plan for an unlicensed cannabis retailer. It is scheduled for 11am November 1st, 2023 to coincide with VPD search warrants. We will likely be requesting a couple of Victoria office investigators to assist. It is "Bring your Kid to Work Day" so Nidhan can not go into the scene and participate. He may watch from afar. I think Victoria could attend without staying overnight (first ferry, one car, afternoon or early evening ferry back).

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Eric W. HALL | Manager Investigations

Policing and Security Branch

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Senior Investigator

Policing and Security Branch

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

PO Box 9060 Surrey, Station Main Surrey BC V3T 0N4

Neelam.Safavian@gov.bc.ca | Phone: 778-572-1804 |

From: MUNRO, Tara <tara.munro@vpd.ca>

Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2023 11:35 AM

To: Safavian, Neelam PSSG:EX <Neelam.Safavian@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Dana Larsen Properties - update

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Neelam,

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Good luck and stay safe.

Tara

Det/Cst 2363 Tara Munro

Vancouver Police Department

Drug Expert Coordinator/Trainer

ORGANIZED CRIME SECTION

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