

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

Date: 9/20/2024 3:31:24 PM

Subject: FW: CDSA Section 56(1) Exemption Request

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

I am forwarding for your information the following message from Health Canada regarding the disposition of City's request for an exemption to subsection 56(1) of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. As you will recall, the City applied to Health Canada in May 2021 for an exemption from the CDSA; the requested exemption would have had the effect of decriminalizing personal possession of specified controlled drugs. The Province of BC subsequently requested a similar exemption which was granted by Health Canada and then rescinded earlier this year.

The City's request for a subsection 56(1) exemption has been in abeyance since June 2022. Per the following note, Health Canada has now closed the file.

Please let me or Sandra know if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Best,  
Paul

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From: Roberts, Anna (HC/SC) <anna.roberts@hc-sc.gc.ca> On Behalf Of EXEMPTION (HC/SC)  
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 10:51 AM  
To: Mochrie, Paul <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>  
Subject: CDSA Section 56(1) Exemption Request

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Dear Paul Mochrie,

This letter is being sent as a follow-up to the City of Vancouver's request for a subsection 56(1) exemption under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) related to personal possession of illegal drugs. In June 2022, the City requested that Health Canada suspend the assessment of their application until after the October 2022 municipal election in anticipation that a newly formed council would provide direction by early 2023. Health Canada agreed to this request and the file has been suspended since June 2022. Given the exemption granted to adults in the province of British Columbia applies in the City of Vancouver and since no new information has been submitted to Health Canada in relation to this request, Health Canada is closing this file as of September 20, 2024.

If further direction is received from the Vancouver City Council to proceed with an exemption request in the future, the City may submit a new request, which Health Canada would then consider.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Controlled Substances.

Sincerely,

12/3/2024

Exemptions Division  
Office of Controlled Substances / Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch  
Health Canada / Government of Canada  
[exemption@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:exemption@hc-sc.gc.ca)

Division des exemptions  
Bureau des substances contrôlées / Direction générale des substances contrôlées et du cannabis  
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