

March 7, 2018

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Email: [Jody.Wilson-Raybould@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jody.Wilson-Raybould@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Raybould,

**Input to Legalization of Marijuana**

At a public meeting, the Board of Education (Richmond) discussed and strongly opposes the legalization of non-medical use of marijuana in order to protect the health and safety of our students.

As a Board, we have the duty to promote the health and safety of our students and protect them from the use of drugs. The legalization of non-medical use of marijuana sends the wrong message to youth that smoking marijuana is harmless and many professional reports from the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Mental Health Association and Canadian Paediatric Society agree that the brain development of youth will not be fully complete until the age of 25 and consuming cannabis prematurely will have detrimental effects on the brain development of young people.

If legalization is to proceed, our Board recommends:

- the prohibition of marijuana products made in the form of candies, cookies, cakes or any foods or drinks that children may accidentally consume.
- The cultivation, smoking, and use of cannabis and cannabis related products should be prohibited in any place, including residences, schools, parks, community centres and recreational facilities where children may reside or be around.
- Any products that contain marijuana must be clearly labelled and carry health warnings similar to cigarettes.
- There should be a low tolerance for drug impaired driving for it would definitely increase the risks to children on the road.

Sincerely,



Dr. Eric Yung, Chairperson  
On Behalf of the Board of Education (Richmond)

Board of Education (Richmond)  
Superintendent  
The Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia  
The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister  
of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Rich Coleman, Leader of the Official Opposition  
The Honourable Alice Wong, MP, Richmond Centre  
Joe Peschisolido, MP, Steveston-Richmond East  
Mayor Malcolm Brodie, City of Richmond

**Board of Education:**  
*Eric Yung - Chairperson*  
*Sandra Nixon - Vice Chairperson*  
*Ken Hamaguchi Jonathan Ho Donna Sargent*  
*Debbie Tablotney Alice Wong*