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**MINISTER
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Room 317
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CANADA

MAR 23 2018

Mr. Ken Cameron
President
Manitoba School Boards Association
191 Provencher Boulevard
Winnipeg, MB R2H 0G4

Dear Mr. Cameron:

Thank you for your recent letter, on behalf of Manitoba School Boards Association, setting out your organization's views on the "Zoning for Cannabis: A Guide for Municipalities" resource document. We appreciate your perspective on the issue of placement of cannabis retail locations in relation to schools. We, too, share your concerns regarding student access to cannabis, and are confident that the licensing regime being established will restrict access by minors to this soon to be legal product.

Staff with Municipal Relations would welcome a meeting with your officials to further discuss the question of buffering schools. The cross-jurisdictional scan conducted in developing the Guide indicated that many municipal jurisdictions in Canada and the United States have established school buffer zones, for the concerns you raise in your letter related to accessibility by students. The example of 300 meters is consistent within the range established elsewhere, and seems a reasonable recommendation for Manitoba municipalities to consider without treating this product any differently from the current standards applicable to other retail outlets dispensing legally available products (tobacconists, beer vendors, etc.).

We appreciate your thoughtful comments and for taking the time to share your views, and extend again an invitation for you to meet with staff from Municipal Relations to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Honourable Ian Wishart
Minister
Education and Training

Honourable Heather Stefanson
Minister
Justice and Attorney General

Honourable Jeff Wharton
Minister
Municipal Relations