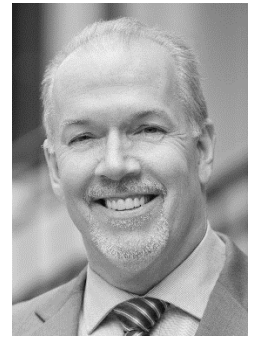


John Horgan, Leader
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**Province of
British Columbia**
Legislative Assembly



John Horgan, MLA
(Juan de Fuca)

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February 23, 2016

Mike Farnworth
MLA for Port Coquitlam
and
Carole James
MLA for Victoria-Beacon Hill
Room 201, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Mike Farnworth and Carole James,

As the Official Opposition spokespersons on Public Safety and Finance, I am writing to ask that you undertake, early this year, a fact-finding tour to the United States to get a first-hand look at jurisdictions that have legalized marijuana.

The current proliferation of marijuana dispensaries has raised the issue of regulatory and statutory authority over this substance in BC. The recent election of a federal government committed to the legalization and regulation of marijuana means British Columbians expect an informed and thoughtful approach from their representatives.

The United States has taken the lead on this issue: the use of both recreational and medicinal marijuana has been entirely legalized in the states of Alaska, Colorado, Oregon and Washington, as well as the District of Columbia.

While Colorado was the first US state to legalize marijuana, Washington and Oregon are our close neighbours and most similar to British Columbia. All three have taken somewhat different approaches to legalization and are at different stages of implementation, and therefore a review would be very instructive for our purposes.



Mike Farnworth and Carole James
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In particular, I would like you to review these elements:

- Rules regarding cultivation, public consumption, distribution, advertising and retail, including any specific provisions related to medicinal vs. recreational usage
- Regulations concerning potency and allowable forms of marijuana
- Age limits and measures to protect children and youth from harm
- Road safety initiatives, DUI standards and fines
- Health initiatives
- Municipal zoning issues
- Models for distribution of revenues for public good

I expect that you will compile a report of your findings on your return and share this with our Caucus.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Horgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Horgan, Leader
New Democrat Official Opposition