



# **Specialist Support to Legitimate Cannabis Business Development Across the Kootenav's**



# Bio

- Retired Deputy Police Chief (Port Moody P.D.)
- Court-recognized expert in Organized Crime (Hells Angels)
- CEO of Spire Secure Logistics
- Consulting group – clients in high risk industries (90% of our work is in the global cannabis sector)

# Outline

- 1) Legal/Risk considerations for local governments who allow cannabis production, processing, and retail facilities:
- 2) Key compliance requirements that licensees and local governments need to know:
- 3) Myths/Facts/Informed Perspectives about cannabis and the BC black/grey market and the involvement of organized crime:
- 4) Experiences working with the local cannabis industry.
- 5) The Future

# Legal/Risk Considerations

## The Final Word – the Power of Local Authorities

- Assumption of risk?
- Enforcement?

Licit and Illicit

Sanitation/Air Quality/Environmental

By-Laws

- Training?
- Local Integrated Framework

# Key Compliance Pieces

## Licence Classes

ALL licenced facilities are subject to scheduled and/or unscheduled inspections by Health Canada

The expectation is that licensees remain compliant

Key areas:

Tracking and Security

Record Keeping

GPP

No diversion/inversion

# Illicit (Black and Grey) Market Myths and Regional Organized Crime

- Licit vs. Illicit (Regulated vs. Non-Regulated)
- Organized Crime – what is it?
- Organized Crime in the Kootenay's?
- LE Perspective
- Personal Perspective

## Organized Crime in B.C. (Police perspective)

- Category 1 – Upper Echelon (20%)
  - National/International
- Category 2 (68%)
  - National/Inter-Provincial
- Category 3 (12%)
  - Single Province, multiple areas
- Category 4
  - Confined to a single area

Only 20% of these groups operate outside of the Lower Mainland – Southeast District lowest representation

58% of these groups involved in illicit cannabis activities ||

# Personal Perspective

- OC groups and individuals typically act as financiers, brokers, and facilitators in large scale distribution and export
- A few individual OC members, acting alone, have likely had intermittent interest in the Kootenay's as a source of product
- Local involvement minimal
- Local Government has little to fear



# Working With Locals

- Several individual micro-licence applications for local farmers/growers
- “Micro-Cluster” concept
- Selkirk College – cannabis compliance course
- Meeting local leaders

Mayors and Regional District officials

Police

Established Local Entrepreneurs

Attended/Sponsored KUCA Symposium (Nelson, April)

# Micro-Clusters

- Multiple individual micro licences clustered together
- Land Use/Zoning – separate addresses
- The benefits:
  - sustainable and community oriented
  - lower capital requirements for farmers
  - boost local economy
  - the Kootenay cannabis legacy continues
  - infrastructure and industry add-ons (QA support, sales channels etc.)

# The Future

- Farm gate sales (cut out the middle person)
- Consumption lounges (tastings)
- Thriving local micro (craft) cannabis industry
- The evolution of a thriving Kootenay cannabis tourism industry (ala Napa Valley wine region)