

Hau, Lucy

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**Subject:** FW: Following up on my Injections Sites Roundtable

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**From:** Filipa Dias  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 27, 2016 5:09 PM  
**To:** Bob Saroya, MP  
**Cc:** Councillor, Amanda Collucci - Markham  
**Subject:** Re: Following up on my Injections Sites Roundtable

Dear Mr. Saroya,

As a resident of Markham-Unionville, I must inform you that I am in favour of safe injection sites. As you are likely aware, Toronto City Council recently voted in favour (36-3) of 3 new supervised injection sites for the downtown core. In fact, the City's Board of Health, Mayor, and Police Chief are all in favour of these sites. There is no evidence demonstrating that supervised injection sites make communities unsafe or normalize illegal behaviour. On the contrary, these sites are proven to save lives and build safer and healthier communities.

As a constituent, I ask that you make informed decisions based on credible, scientific data. Please do not send mass mailings appealing to the fear mongering ideologies of some of our community members.

I would appreciate you keeping me informed of any upcoming roundtables and feedback sessions.

By way of Cc to Councillor Amanda Yeung Collucci, please take note of my opposition to Mr. Saroya's stance on supervised injection sites. I would hope the City of Markham follow in the footsteps of the City of Toronto if ever presented with a proposal to bring such a site into our community.

Thank you,

Filipa Dias

Hau, Lucy

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**Subject:** FW: Following up on my Injections Sites Roundtable  
**Attachments:** Round Table; ATT00001.htm

**From:** Mike Gilmor  
**Date:** September 27, 2016 at 8:26:36 PM EDT  
**To:** <[Bob.saroya@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bob.saroya@parl.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** <[alan.ho@markham.ca](mailto:alan.ho@markham.ca)>, <[yburke@markham.ca](mailto:yburke@markham.ca)>, <[dhamilton@markham.ca](mailto:dhamilton@markham.ca)>, <[krea@markham.ca](mailto:krea@markham.ca)>, <[ccampbell@markham.ca](mailto:ccampbell@markham.ca)>, <[acollucci@markham.ca](mailto:acollucci@markham.ca)>, <[lkanapathi@markham.ca](mailto:lkanapathi@markham.ca)>, <[achiu@markham.ca](mailto:achiu@markham.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Following up on my Injections Sites Roundtable

Dear Sir:

I take issue with this email and the suggestion that you have heard "load and clear" on the issue of safe injection sites.

I recall that several people expressed a desire to help addicts kick their habit and that safe injection sites provide some measure of harm reduction, a right guaranteed them under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Clearly you did NOT hold a roundtable at which the various sides of this important issue were discussed but rather it was a means to provide you political cover for your own antiquated views on addiction treatment.

There was no one there with knowledge of the medical issues nor mental health or addictions treatments to speak to your audience.

Please refer to my email of 13 September 2016 to you about this "roundtable" attached.

I respect your right to hold your own personal views and that they may disagree with mine BUT as my elected member of this Parliament you have the duty to hear my views as well and to become informed on issues that you come before you in the House.

In this regard I find you singularly UNINFORMED and misguided.

I expect more from my MP than that which you have shown thus far.

Yours sincerely,

Michael I. Gilmor

Hau, Lucy

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Subject:

FW: Concern about injection sites

From: wu di

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Date: October 3, 2016 at 1:08:35 PM EDT

To: Vote Amanda <[vote@amandacollucci.com](mailto:vote@amandacollucci.com)>

Subject: Concern about injection sites

Hi Amanda,

I heard some concerns from the resident in ward 6 about injection sites. I think I should forward it to you for your reference.

Andi Wu

尊敬的杨怡清市议员您好！

最近华裔社区被一种令人不安的暗流所搅动,做为 ward6 的居民,我认为有必要像您咨询一下相关的问题！

我的微信朋友圈最近在流传万锦市马上要建毒品注射屋和合法种植大麻！我听到后觉得很奇怪,因为我并未从任何一级的政府听说过这个决定,无论是联邦政府还是市政府！后来我得知这个消息来自万锦市的一位国会议员蔡报国先生！

我要质疑的是联邦政府已经开始讨论在万锦市建立注射屋吗？万锦市现在有多少需求呢？现在万锦市有多少种植大麻的申请？另外我查了一下,建立注射屋好像是市议员提出申请！我们的市议员有提出过这样的申请吗？如果市政府没有这样的动议,国会议员蔡先生为何以此为议题无中生有,制造不必要的恐慌,浪费纳税人资源呢？

Dear Ms Yang,

I heard some disturbing news from my community. As a resident in ward 6, I think I should tell you what is my concern about it.

Some people are distributing message on my Wechat group informing me that injection sites will be settled in Markham. I was shocked, because I had never heard about this from our Federal Government, provincial Government, or even the municipal Government. Finally I found out that this message is coming from

our local MP, Mr. Bob Saroya. I am concerned if injection sites are really an issue for federal government. Is this plan already in the process? Does Markham require injection sites? Does Markham accept application of plant marijuana? Furthermore, I think it is a municipal issue. If so, Mr. Bob Saroya is using a fake message to lie to us, the residents. He uses Government resources to discuss a fake subject. He's simply trying to manipulate the fear of the public, and this is not something that he should be doing. It's a waste money, and time.

Hau, Lucy

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**Subject:** FW: Letter about Marijuana in Markham  
**Attachments:** FFeather-Ltr-Marijuana.pdf; ATT00001.htm

**From:** "Frank Feather"  
**To:** "Councillor, Amanda Collucci - Markham" <[ACollucci@markham.ca](mailto:ACollucci@markham.ca)>  
**Subject:** Letter about Marijuana in Markham

Dear Councillor Collucci,

I attach for your review and consideration, a letter I have written outlining my thoughts on marijuana legislation, its impact on Markham, and also addressing concerns expressed recently by MP Saroya.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss, I will make myself available at your convenience,

Best Regards,

Frank Feather

## Frank Feather

To: Councillor Amanda Collucci,

September 30, 2016

Dear Councillor Collucci,

**Re: Letter from MP Saroya about Marijuana in Markham**

I have become aware of a letter from MP Saroya expressing some concerns relative to marijuana in Markham. Please allow me to share my personal and professional views to you as my Councillor on this issue, which will counteract most of what he says. I do so in three capacities: as a citizen of Markham and of Ward 6; as the parent of two teenagers; and as a strategy consultant to corporations and governments.

I did not attend the event which MP Saroya held as mentioned in the letter I saw. But it is clear that he is striving to politicize and distort this matter, when in fact it is a legitimate and much-needed healthcare issue that impacts all Canadians, no matter where we live, regardless of politics.

Besides, the federal legislation has not yet been tabled, and so the manner in which marijuana will be legalized and distributed is still to be decided and brought into law.

In any event, decisions for the City of Markham cannot be made based on a handful of misinformed views obtained at a political meeting by a candidate who, to be frank and objective, vociferously and grossly misrepresented the issue during the last federal election campaign. He obviously continues to do so by referring to medical treatment facilities as "injection" sites. This is absurd incendiary language which totally distorts reality. It is not objective or helpful. It leads to citizen concerns which are falsely based on blatant misinformation and political bias, not on objective consideration as to our best interests.

Let's be honest, these centres will no more be "injection" sites than are flu shot clinics. Besides, marijuana is prescribed by entirely different methods, not injection. To all intents and purposes, they will be health centres of some kind.

The big advantage of marijuana legislation and controlled distribution is that it gets marijuana out of the hands of the criminal elements and off the streets. Indeed, rather than putting our youth at risk, it protects our young people by making it more difficult to obtain marijuana. And by making communities safer, it enhances rather than reduces property values, as he suggests.

Surely MP Saroya does not prefer to have marijuana to continue to be readily available on the streets of Markham, as it is today? Surely he and the constituents he quotes would rather have marijuana legally controlled, in much the same way as tobacco and alcohol are distributed and controlled? That way, we will all be in a much safer and controlled environment; one much safer for our children than street corner and park gangs pushing drugs. The situation will be the exact opposite of what his scare tactics imply. To do nothing will foster ongoing crime and exposure to our people. If that is what MP Saroya advocates, then it is grossly irresponsible, in my opinion, and not helpful to local strategy and decision-making.

Let us also remember that responsible members of the healthcare community have called for this legislation. Two years ago, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) advocated that marijuana should be "legalized with strict controls to curb its use and social harms." At that time, CAMH advocated a government monopoly on sales, a minimum age for purchase and consumption, controls on availability, and a ban on marketing, advertising and promotion, as well as plain packaging.

(continued) ...

By contrast, anyone who obtains marijuana in criminal markets doesn't know about its potency or harmful effects. They receive zero medical guidance or counseling. They are merely exploited for cash, by crooks. Is that what MP Saroya prefers for the City of Markham?

As the Canadian Public Health Association also has stated, "Canada needs a public health approach to managing illegal psychoactive substances that de-emphasizes criminalization and stigma in favor of evidence-based strategies to reduce harm." The proposed legislation, with licensed treatment and distribution centres, would ensure this for our citizens.

Moreover, medical marijuana has been legal in Canada since 2001, approved by Health Canada. There are some 25 Health Canada regulated licensed producers. The prevailing guidelines of Health Canada's MMPR (Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations) already help Canadians to have informed, legal, safe and responsible access to marijuana. Under these guidelines, medical marijuana can be recommended as treatment for almost any condition or ailment, and properly and safely administered.

The proposed legislation will expand this framework nationally, and strengthen it. Therefore, setting up such clinics in Markham, as needed, will not be anything new, and certainly not risky. Rather they will provide greater security to the community and our youth. The clinics might even save numerous lives through timely treatment, as marijuana is now being prescribed for a number of ailments, and shows great promise as a treatment and cure for cancer, as just one example.

Lastly, let us remember that the Minister of Health is Dr. Jane Philpott, who previously was head of family medicine at Markham-Stouffville Hospital. As the MP in our adjacent Riding, and the mother of four children, I feel sure she is fully qualified to oversee this legislation in the best interests of the health and safety of all of Markham and all of Canada.

In sum, again speaking as a parent of teenagers, I truly hope that once the federal legislation is established, that Markham will approve marijuana distribution and the establishment of properly licensed healthcare centres or clinics.

In other words, if MP Saroya truly cares about this issue and the safety of our community, he should better inform himself as to the preferred safe use and health benefits of marijuana, and also to educate his constituents properly instead of misleading them with distorted information.

I trust that when the time comes, that Markham Council will act in the most appropriate manner, in comport with the federal legislation and the health and safety needs of the community, to establish such facilities for our collective benefit.

On the contrary, should Markham not wish to have such clinics, then that will keep drug use unregulated in Markham. That also would be an open invitation for drug gangs from other communities to come into our community, making it even less safe than now.

By the way, this legalization also will significantly reduce policing budgets for substance trafficking and abuse, and may well contribute significant tax dollars to the overall municipal accounts.

In sum, this legislation will benefit all Canadians, in many ways, and the City of Markham ought to be fully supportive of it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Feather", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank Feather