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JOINT NEWS RELEASE

SUSPENSION OF CANNABIS STORE ON LONG PLAIN FIRST NATION

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Earlier today, Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries suspended its retailer agreement with NAC Long Plain Limited Partnership for the Meta Cannabis Supply Co. store located at 420 Madison Street on Long Plain First Nation's urban reserve in Winnipeg. This resulted in an immediate suspension of the store's licence by the Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba (LGCA). The store cannot sell cannabis until these suspensions are lifted.

Long Plain First Nation, which is the majority owner of NAC Long Plain Limited partnership, sanctioned and continues to participate in the sale of unregulated cannabis from an unlicensed store on the First Nation's Keeshkeemaquah reserve. Further, this store continues to sell cannabis manufactured in a facility without a federal production licence, which raises significant public safety concerns. Multiple requests to Long Plain First Nation to cease this illegal activity went unanswered.

"Public safety has been our primary concern since the legalization of cannabis was announced," said LGCA CEO Kristianne Dechant. "Manitoba's strict licensing framework for cannabis stores is designed to ensure that adults who choose to use cannabis have access to safe products from regulated retailers."

Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries CEO Manny Atwal added, "Protecting the interests of licensed cannabis entrepreneurs and the integrity of the supply chain are paramount to Manitoba's legal cannabis framework. More than 80 licensed cannabis stores are open for business in Manitoba, including stores located on and run by First Nations. Ignoring unlicensed operators selling unlicensed products jeopardizes licensed stores' success."

The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Act, Manitoba's legal framework for cannabis sales, requires all cannabis stores in the province to be licensed by the LGCA. Further, all cannabis sold at licensed stores must be purchased from Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries, the province's exclusive wholesaler, which in turn may only acquire cannabis from producers licensed by Health Canada. These requirements apply regardless of whether a store is located on First Nations land.

Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries and the LGCA continue to work with Health Canada and law enforcement on upholding Manitoba's legal cannabis framework.

A list of licensed cannabis stores is available at <https://LGCAMB.ca/cannabis/store-list/>.

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For information about licensed stores and regulatory requirements:

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