



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **ALSA MEMBERS REMAIN BEST OPTION FOR SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE CANNABIS RETAILING**

**EDMONTON, AB (November 16, 2017):** Alberta Liquor Store Association President Ivonne Martinez released the following statement today in response to the Alberta government’s tabling of *Bill 26 - An Act to Control and Regulate Cannabis*:

“ALSA is looking forward to participating in the debate on this important legislation and further demonstrating to all Albertans that private liquor retailers are best suited to safely and responsibly sell legalized cannabis products.

“Since day one, the Alberta government has said its number one priority in cannabis retailing is keeping it out of the hands of minors. Our member stores have an exemplary 25-year track record of responsibly retailing a controlled substance by keeping away from underage consumers. Thanks to rigorous and ongoing training, we are prepared to handle the serious responsibility of safely retailing cannabis to Albertans.

“We have always strongly supported the government’s position that alcohol and cannabis cannot be cross-marketed or co-located. That’s why we have proposed standalone adjacent stores with separate entrances. This approach eliminates the need for costly rezoning while keeping the two substances apart. However, if the legislation calls for specific distances between the substances, our members should still be able to open up offsite cannabis stores that adhere to the highest standards of socially responsible retailing.

“We appreciate the government’s effective consultations on this matter and we look forward to working with them and the AGLC to further demonstrate that allowing private liquor stores to retail cannabis in a separate business would provide the best option for the government could make to protect underage Albertans.”

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