

# PRESS RELEASE

## *BMCLA announces its first nine (9) approved licenses for the Medicinal Cannabis Industry*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bridgetown, Barbados July 14, 2022** – The Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (BMCLA) has announced that two (2) licensees with a combined nine (9) licenses have been approved to enter the cannabis businesses. Both licensees are Barbadian owners.

Chief Executive Officer (Ag.), Senator Shanika Roberts-Odle stated: “We are excited and very happy to have the Board approve these licenses, with Cabinet’s approval. Barbados is moving towards an ambitious new industry and our strategic plan clearly sets out bold targets to fully realise the potential of this market. This first set of licenses represents a new economic sector under the medicinal cannabis industry, which will drive economic diversification across existing local sectors, stimulate job and training opportunities and encourage local, regional and international investment and entrepreneurship.”

She noted that in her previous role as the Programme Administrator with responsibility for licensing and applications, that the team had worked diligently with applicants since the application portal opened on January 18, 2021. She added that the approval of the nine (9) licenses was a great step for the island’s entrance into the medicinal cannabis sector.

The nine (9) licenses that were approved by the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Board are as follows:

1. Best Buds – Cultivator – Tier 1
2. Best Buds – Import
3. Cleland Organics Inc. – Cultivator – Tier 2
4. Cleland Organics Inc. – Processor – Tier 1
5. Cleland Organics Inc. – Transport
6. Cleland Organics Inc. – Research & Development
7. Cleland Organics Inc. – Retail Distributor
8. Cleland Organics Inc. – Import
9. Cleland Organics Inc. – Export



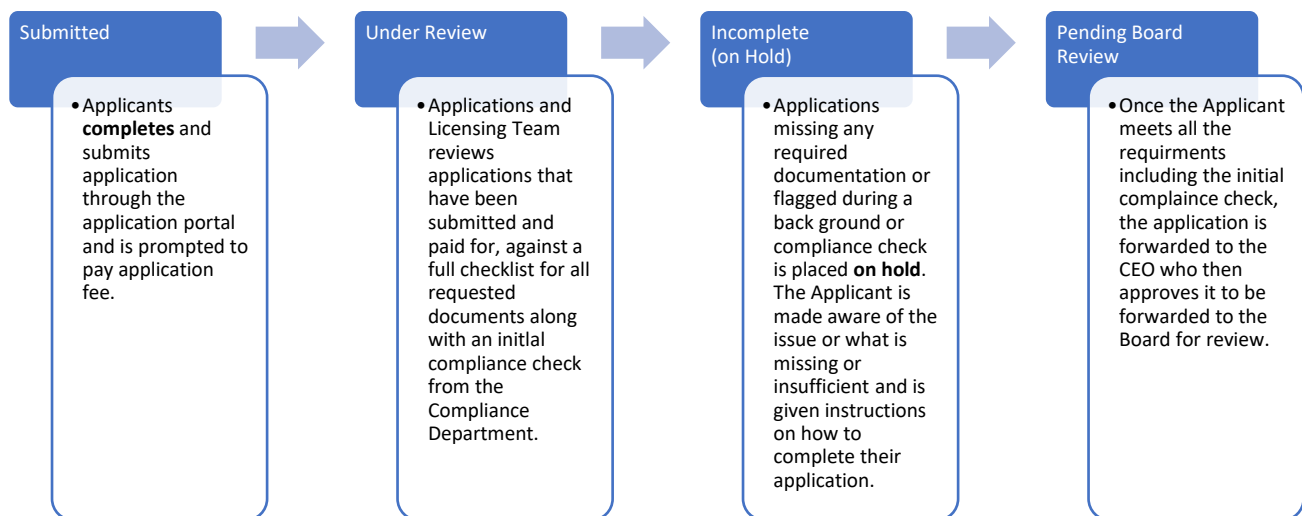
All businesses must first pay 60 percent of their total license fees before their five-year license is issued.

“The BMCLA has allowed for the payment plan for all applicants who are approved which includes a 60% upfront payment of the total fees and then the option to pay the remaining 40% of the total costs either monthly, quarterly, or annual. However, the total payment must be completed in the first three (3) years of their five-year license. We did this to assist the licensees in their ability to pay for their license(s) while they attend to other business costs to get their operations off the ground,” said Senator Roberts-Odle.

To date, there are more than 100 users registered at various stages with the BMCLA’s online system, with close to 20 applicants requesting 38 licenses.

Senator Roberts-Odle advised that while the BMCLA worked assiduously to submit applications to the Board for approval in the four month time-frame, that it was important for people to understand the “life cycle” of applications so that they can appreciate the time it took to process and what sometimes can cause a hold-up at various stages.

### Life Cycle of the Application Process



“While the application process is very intuitive, still many of the applications submitted thus far have been incomplete in some form or another. This trend has led the BMCLA Applications and Licensing team to place a number of applicants on hold, while the

Communications and Public Education Department conducts educational events like the recent Open House and the Facebook Live events, alongside Application Clinics in order to pinpoint what is needed and to assist applicants”, she added.

As of June, applications going through the Life Cycle are as follows:

Application Type	Submitted	Under Review	Incomplete (On Hold)	Pending Board Review	Total
Cultivator Tier 1 – 4	3	4	2	1	10
Processor Tier 1 – 3	1	1	1	0	3
Import	1	2	3	0	6
Export	2	2	2	0	6
Retail Distributor	1	1	3	1	6
Research & Development	1	1	1	0	3
Laboratory	0	0	0	0	0
Transport	2	1	1	0	4

Those interested in applying for any of the eight (8) medicinal cannabis licenses to enter the industry can access the BMCLA online licensing system at <https://portal.bmcla.bb/Apply/>

For more information on the medicinal cannabis industry or the BMCLA, visit [www.bmcla.bb](http://www.bmcla.bb)

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**Note to Editors:**

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**About the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority:**

The BMCLA, which was established via the *Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2019*, regulates the handling of the medicinal cannabis industry. The BMCLA is responsible for developing policies, procedures and guidelines to establish the medicinal cannabis industry and to ensure the medicinal cannabis is available to patients in a safe and efficient manner.

The BMCLA is responsible for the issuance of licenses for cultivation, processing, distribution, sale, transportation, import and export, laboratory as well as the research and development of cannabis for medical, scientific, and therapeutic purposes.

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**Interviews:** n/a

**Image(s):** n/a

**Website:** [www.bmcla.bb](http://www.bmcla.bb)