



The Evolution of Cannabis in Canada

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SUBMISSION TO THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT REGARDING CANNABIS REGULATION

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Prepared by Debra Harper
dharper AT canevolve.ca

INTRO

Congratulations on the novel approach of receiving feedback and input from the public.

The intent of this submission is to offer links to a wealth of information and studies to broaden your range of knowledge as you begin the process of legalization. You will receive an abundance of information counselling you to use extreme caution in regards to legalization, whereas this submission urges a reasonable, measured approach.

Please review the studies and data included in this submission with an open mind, and regulate cannabis in the best possible way to enhance it's benefits, and minimize it's harms.

As a pediatrician, Dr. Larry Wolk was trained to treat marijuana as "bad" and "illegal" — and to counsel patients against using it.

And that his history shaped the way he approached the introduction of legal marijuana as Colorado's chief medical officer, he said.

"I think I came into this with some biases as a result of our culture, prior to legalization," he told CBC News.

But nearly three years after legalization in Colorado, he said his thinking changed at each turn.

Lessons learned about legalized marijuana from Colorado's chief medical officer

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/legalized-marijuana-lessons-learned-colorado-1.3806432>

CANNABIS TODAY

The amount of information pouring in daily about cannabis makes it a very difficult subject to keep up with, even for those of us who follow drug policy closely. There are new studies, polls, books and trend setting itineraries being announced every day and parsing the data can be perplexing.

The medical program in Canada has partially helped shape Canadian attitudes towards cannabis. The Licensed Producers have invested a great deal of money to get information to the public about cannabis and through their efforts, and the efforts of other companies and organizations via outreach at trade fairs, expo's, seminars, and other mainstream venues, people are becoming more educated and are beginning to see cannabis differently.

Differentiating the term marijuana from cannabis has helped remake a kinder, gentler image of the plant, despite the reefer madness that still permeates some politicians and the mainstream media. Many Canadians are now legal medical patients, and the number has grown substantially by 1,544 percent over the past two and a half years.

The sheer number of users and the overall changes have made cannabis more socially acceptable today than it has ever been since prohibition began in 1923. As we learn more about cannabis, including that our own bodies produce indigenous cannabinoids, complete with cannabinoid receptors, there is compelling evidence that the benefits of cannabis for the majority of the population, if used appropriately, far outweigh the risks.

More sophisticated growing techniques and products mean people have access to high CBD/low THC strains, which allows them to benefit from cannabis without the feeling of being "high".

Legalization will further normalize cannabis use and although there may be an increase in usage with the onset of legalization, the numbers should level out to those who consume regularly, once experimentation levels drop off. Also, a rise in the numbers of users could be the result of self-reporters being more comfortable admitting they use cannabis instead of denying use while it was illegal.

Canada's Medical Marijuana Program Soars, Now Almost 130,000 Patients

<http://www.medicalmarijuanainc.com/canadas-medical-marijuana-program-soars-now-almost-130000-patients/>

A report submitted to the Senate in 2002, that listened to average Canadians, concluded:

- *The recreational use of cannabis does not constitute an everyday concern for Canadians.*
- *The fact that cannabis is plant-based greatly influences the perception of Canadians when it comes to this substance.*
- *The recreational use of cannabis is generally well accepted.*
- *Moderate use of cannabis apparently does not have a harmful impact on human health, as opposed to tobacco.*
- *Disbelief upon hearing that 10 percent of Canadians use cannabis. According to participants, this figure is grossly underestimated. It is more likely to be 50 percent*

An Exploratory Study Among Canadians About the Use of Cannabis - Final Report (2002)

<https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/371/ille/library/leger-e.htm#1.%20The%20Main%20Concerns%20of%20Canadians>

ALBERTA'S CANNABIS POLICY OBJECTIVES

1. Limiting the Illegal Market for Cannabis

Curtailing the illegal market will be done through quality, price and accessibility. The better the quality, lower the price, and how readily accessible cannabis is to adults, will largely impact the illegal market. People will prefer to buy cannabis that is lab tested and labelled, but only if it is as convenient and cheap to buy as it currently is through the illegal market. The two market forces of supply and demand will influence the market in the long run.

The illegal market in cigarettes reveals that the market will remain strong if the price is too high.

A third of cigarettes sold in Ontario are contraband, study suggests

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/01/23/a-third-of-cigarettes-sold-in-ontario-are-contraband-study-suggests.html>

"In less than a year, we've seen wholesale prices drop to nearly half of their previous totals,"

The price of pot is tumbling in Colorado

<http://www.businessinsider.com/marijuanas-getting-cheaper-in-colorado-2016-9>

2. Keeping Cannabis Out of the Hands of Children and Youth

It is important to note that Canada currently has the highest youth usage rate of cannabis in the world, and to deter youth from using it will take a prolonged approach aimed at education. In the meantime, criminalizing youth and saddling them with a life long criminal record will cause much more harm to them than using cannabis.

It is strongly recommended to use education and harm reduction techniques to reduce usage and legally impose fines for infractions, rather than criminalization.

***Creating disrespect for law and law enforcement generally.** There is no doubt has created for a significant number of youth a disillusionment with law and legal institutions, as well as the processes of government generally. They have been disillusioned by the obstinacy in maintaining the present legal policy with respect to cannabis despite the evidence that it is not nearly as dangerous as the opiate narcotics and probably not as dangerous as alcohol. They believe that there must be something perverse and profoundly hostile in the official attitude towards cannabis*

The Report of the Canadian Government Commission of Inquiry into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs - 1972

<http://www.druglibrary.org/schaffer/library/studies/ledain/lcd6a.htm>

Based on this knowledge, harm reduction strategies could be developed for cannabis:

- *discourage use by youth under 16;*
- *detect at-risk users, especially among youth;*
- *provide information on the risks of inhaling and point out that deep inhalation is part of the folklore and is not necessary to obtain the effects;*
- *use strong measures to discourage impaired driving.*

The compendium of best practices published by Health Canada proposes the following:

- *Understand and involve young people*
- *Account for the implications of adolescent psychosocial development*
- *Recognize youth perceptions of substance use*
- *Involve youth in program design and implementation*

REPORT OF THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ILLEGAL DRUGS

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/371/ille/rep/repfinalvol2-e.pdf>

I am a youth substance-use researcher with a PhD in behavioural health sciences and addiction studies. I have studied adolescent cannabis and tobacco use for more than a decade, and currently co-lead the TRACE program to understand teen cannabis culture. Based on this, I believe a lower age is better for two key reasons: It will help to divert youth from illicit markets, and it will prompt an earlier start for cannabis prevention and education.

Marijuana age limit should be low - not high

<http://nationalpost.com/pmn/news-pmn/marijuana-age-limit-should-be-low-not-high/>

As we currently find ourselves in the middle of an overdose epidemic in Canada where young people are dying in unprecedented numbers, we need to critically assess our approach, face uncomfortable truths, and ask who we are actually protecting with the prohibition of drugs.

While it's easy to declare that young people simply shouldn't use cannabis, it is well documented that this isn't a realistic or successful approach to drug prevention. The logic is flawed when our answers point only to restrictions and abstinence, and leaves out evidence-based drug education that includes equipping adolescents with strategies to avoid harmful use, beyond a focus on abstinence-only.

"In most studies, the effects of cannabis use are almost always comorbid with alcohol and other drug use, and often related to differences in socioeconomic status – which have potential impacts on brain development in and of themselves."

Pot legislation does not fail Canada's youth. A criminal record does

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/pot-legislation-does-not-fail-canadas-youth-a-criminal-record-does/article35268868/>

"...youth think of the drug education they received, particularly around cannabis, as unmemorable, and want access to unbiased information about cannabis—particularly harm reduction. "

Youth perspectives on recent CCSA report

<https://news.lift.co/youth-perspectives-recent-ccsa-report/>

Preventing cannabis use probably requires a different approach than preventing the use of heroin or ecstasy. By the same token, prevention of use by students will not be handled the same way as prevention of use by street kids, and preventive measures aimed at Aboriginal youth will be different from those aimed at white youth.

REPORT OF THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ILLEGAL DRUGS

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/371/ille/rep/repfinalvol2-e.pdf>

3. Protecting Public Health

Compared to tobacco and alcohol which both cause great harm to society, the emphasis on protecting public health should be directed into harm reduction rather than abstinence - vaping or eating instead of smoking, low dosages, THC/CBD balance and using edibles and concentrates safely. A large part of harm reduction should be directed at warning people not to mix cannabis and alcohol, as it tends to amplify the effects of both and can cause severe impairment, even if a modest amount is ingested.

By providing public consumption sites, similar to bars, and banning public smoking to only where tobacco smoke is allowed, will help protect public health, Much of the scientific data indicates cannabis is much less harmful to society than alcohol and tobacco, so following the alcohol model of regulation should be adequate in regard to public health.

Warning labels for cannabis require, "Keep out of reach of children", "Do not mix with alcohol or tobacco"

Experts are finally beginning to sound the alarm about the dangers of alcohol consumption, something that is kept under the radar because of its high rates of consumption, normalization, and acceptability. The truth is that alcohol is causing great harm to society, and cannabis is not. It would be a travesty to focus so much time, energy and resources in preventing people, especially youth, from consuming cannabis, when we have an ongoing alcohol and opioid crisis in our midst, and which cannabis can actually help mitigate.

"In 33 years of practice, I've never seen anyone come in with a pure problem from a marijuana overdose," he said. "I've worked in the ER enough, I've seen [more] people who need liver transplants from Tylenol overdose."

This doctor says Tylenol and aspirin far more dangerous than medical marijuana

<http://www.thecannabist.co/2017/07/11/medical-marijuana-painkiller-vs-tylenol/83165/>

That opioids overdoses caused an estimated 2,000 deaths in Canada last year is front-page news, and rightfully so. The spike in mortality is troubling.

But alcohol kills more than 5,000 people annually, year in and year out. (And, of course, there's tobacco, which kills 37,000 Canadians a year, but at least we discuss and act upon the health impacts of smoking.)

We need to stop romanticizing alcohol

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/we-need-to-stop-romanticizing-alcohol/article35463213/>

An average of 212 Canadians were admitted to hospital every day because of alcohol use between 2015 and 2016.

New research from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) found hospitals checked in 77,000 patients for medical issues that were caused by harmful booze consumption. That figure excludes patients who were treated by emergency departments and sent home.

She warns these findings are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Canadians' dangerously excessive thirst.

More than 200 Canadians hospitalized from booze every day: study

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/health/more-than-200-canadians-hospitalized-from-booze-every-day-study-1.3472551#>

It has been demonstrated as a historical fact that drug law is a rather lame follower of social, ethical and institutional realities, and often has to be 'coerced' or even ignored in order to make way for processes of reform.

Canadian Cannabis Policy:

The Impact Of Criminalization, The Current Reality And Future Policy Options

<https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/371/ille/presentation/erickson1-e.htm>

Marijuana may be even safer than previously thought, researchers say

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/02/23/marijuana-may-be-even-safer-than-previously-thought-researchers-say/>

In 2002 , 9,100 deaths were attributed to alcohol.

The Costs Of Substance Abuse In Canada 2002

<http://www.ccsa.ca/Resource%20Library/ccsa-011332-2006.pdf>

Despite being associated with levels of harm similar to those for tobacco (Rehm et al., 2006), beverage alcohol containers are not required to carry health warnings.

Cannabis Law Reform in Canada: Pretense & Perils

<http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/pbcar/documents/Pretense%20&%20Perils%20FINAL.PDF>

Could Legalized Marijuana Be Making Big Pharma Nervous?

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/could-legalized-marijuana-be-making-big-pharma-nervous-cm804826>

Legal Marijuana Linked to Fewer Opioid Prescriptions

<http://time.com/4404697/marijuana-opioid-epidemic/>

Overdoses Fell with Medical Marijuana Legalization

<https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2016/04/26/is-marijuana-a-gateway-drug/overdoses-fell-with-medical-marijuana-legalization>

In States With Medical Marijuana, Painkiller Deaths Drop By 25 Percent

<http://www.newsweek.com/states-medical-marijuana-painkiller-deaths-drop-25-266577>

Study Finds Drop In Prescription Drugs In Medical Marijuana States

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/medical-pot-slashed-medicare-spending_us_5794dfc0e4b0d3568f8395de

The acute effects of cannabis use are an altered state of consciousness characterized by mild euphoria and relaxation, perceptual alterations, including time distortion, and the intensification of ordinary sensory experiences, such as those associated with eating, watching films and listening to music[32].

Physiological And Psychological Effects Of Cannabis : Review Of The Research Findings
<https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/371/ille/library/wheelock-e.htm>

So we set out to unpack three of the most common claims heard in House of Commons about the health and social impacts of cannabis legalization in other jurisdictions — and test them against current scientific evidence.

Blowing smoke: What many MPs keep getting wrong about marijuana
<http://ipolitics.ca/2017/07/01/blowing-smoke-what-many-mps-keep-getting-wrong-about-marijuana/>

4. Promoting Safety on Roads, in Workplaces, and in Public Spaces

Despite much study and testing of cannabis impairment devices, due to its unique properties, there are no testing devices that can accurately measure cannabis impairment. A recent report from Public Safety Canada concluded, "The report notes that presence of a drug in the oral fluid does not imply impairment." Nor does it prove it. <https://news.lift.co/public-safety-canada-releases-oral-fluid-drug-screening-test-results/>

Cannabis has been legal in Colorado and Washington for four years, and there has been no noticeable impact on public health and safety in those jurisdictions over the course of time. Considering they were the very first to legalize, with no data or guidance to draw on, they have been refining their legislation as they go along, which provides wonderful guidelines for other jurisdictions, including Canada, to learn from. Colorado adopted a much more open approach, allowing people to grow 99 plants at home, edibles, and retail outlets in abundance. Washington was much more restrictive, controlling it through the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board - no home growing and only available in retail outlets. Colorado eventually regulated edibles more closely with limits and labels, and reduced the number of homegrown plants to 6 plants.

It is understandable that every government wishes to be cautious, but when so much risk taking involves legal activities such as consuming alcohol, pharmaceuticals, tobacco, and activities such as sky diving, mountain climbing, extreme sports, it will be easier to have a compliant population if the law makes sense in proportion to the harm, than if it is overly restrictive.

Any law that governs alcohol in the workplace and public spaces can be applied to cannabis. In terms of driving, a field sobriety test would probably produce the most accurate results until a reliable instrument to measure cannabis impairment is introduced.



Legal Marijuana Hasn't Caused Any Of The Problems Opponents Said It Would

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/marijuana-legalization-report_us_57ffb6eae4b0e8c198a6a09f

PURCHASING CANNABIS IN ALBERTA

1. How cannabis will be sold

Establishing a not-for-profit cannabis authority which would be exclusively concerned with the protection of public health, with no priority for revenue generation would be a solid first step for ensuring public health and safety as it takes the profit motive away.

Private distribution is another alternative method, as it could create more innovative approaches than public distribution. If streamlining operations by using the alcohol distribution framework will save a significant amount of cash, then it should be considered.

Cannabis regulations will be overly restrictive with a 30 gram limit on possession in public, where there is no limit on alcohol, resulting in a failure of public policy.

Cannabis needs to be sold in stand alone retail outlets to provide accessibility and help educate consumers. Private outlets would foster more creativity and innovation, but public retail outlets will work, with the right elements of good quality product, educated and knowledgeable staff, and competitive pricing. Additionally, a partitioned off, smoke free area where patrons can consume edibles, oils or vape, and avoid the smoke, would be a responsible approach. Similar to bars, products should be sold onsite, but with the option of bringing your own. Alcohol should not be sold in the same establishments as cannabis to avoid mixing the two together, which promotes public safety risks. Extra onerous rules dealing with security and restricted locations, will prevent many establishments from opening up.

People with cannabis criminal records should not be excluded from the labour market, as they could provide much needed knowledge and experience.

Consumers entering a cannabis premise could look at products, read labels, ask questions and be properly educated. Initially, only flowers and oils will be available, with edibles and concentrates possibly in the future. Consumers will have to make their own edibles and concentrates until they become legal, so education about safe baking and concentrate production is a must in regards to public safety. Optional on-line sales with home delivery will ensure accessibility and will serve as a default where no provincial distribution is in place. The delivery system is not ideal except where people don't normally have access.

Requirements that should be considered in the development of rules and regulations for cannabis retailers include lab-tested source products which were grown with GMP's, and contents packaging labelled indicating the percentage of THC and CBD, lot numbers, and the terpene profile of each strain. Retail locations can follow the same model that alcohol outlets follow in terms of where and how they can be operated.

The provincial government must bear in mind that municipalities will be regulating locations, hours and other significant segments of the cannabis industry, so a broader platform of regulation will allow some wiggle room for municipalities.

Why More Americans in Their 50s and 60s Are Smoking Pot

<https://www.livescience.com/57504-why-more-older-americans-smoking-marijuana.html>

Proposed Denver social marijuana use rules so restrictive “99 percent” of business owners “no longer interested”

<http://www.thecannabist.co/2017/06/14/denver-social-marijuana-use-business-rules/81538/>

Callard recommended that responsibility for tobacco production and sale be moved to a not-for-profit organization with a public health mandate to decrease demand for smoking

Cannabis Law Reform in Canada: Pretense & Perils

<https://fhs.mcmaster.ca/pbcar/documents/Pretense%20&%20Perils%20FINAL.PDF>

Cannabis price estimates showed that cannabis prices are relatively low across Canada, ranging from an average of \$7.26 to \$7.69 per gram from 2011 to 2015.

The Price of Cannabis in Canada

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/2017-r005/index-en.aspx>

Provinces should seek a balance between effective retail distribution with appropriate product choice and ensuring safe and responsible consumption. We should expect differences of approach among provinces – a model that works well in Ontario might be different from one that works well in Prince Edward Island. In terms of retail delivery, there have been recommendations that government-owned liquor stores and/or independent pharmacies be permitted to sell marijuana. While these are familiar and established systems, stand-alone privately owned stores in Colorado, many of which resemble high-end boutiques with knowledgeable customer service and considerable product variety, seem to be successful.

CD Howe Institute: A Blueprint for Federal and Provincial Marijuana Policy

https://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/attachments/research_papers/mixed/e-brief_235.pdf

Another lesson learned from research on the alcohol market is that consumption is directly related to availability. Some stakeholders expressed concern with the density of retail sales outlets, particularly in Denver, and with the location of some outlets relatively close to schools. Washington state has taken measures to prevent this problem from developing by applying caps on the number of licenses and developing regulations on location, including density and proximity to certain venues frequented by youth (e.g., schools). Some stakeholders remarked that these regulations drive locations to industrial and other areas that are inconvenient for customers to access.

CCSA: Cannabis Regulation: Lessons Learned in Colorado and Washington State

<http://www.cclt.ca/Resource%20Library/CCSA-Cannabis-Regulation-Lessons-Learned-Report-2015-en.pdf>

New poll says Canadians support the idea of independent pot retailers; few support liquor store sales of cannabis

- 36 per cent of all Canadians say they're cool with pot being sold in stand-alone stores set up for the purpose of selling cannabis products versus 29 per cent who think it should be sold in drugstores or pharmacies, while 16 per cent think selling pot products is a job best left to liquor stores or other outlets where alcoholic beverages are sold.
- Most current and regular marijuana users say they get what they need "from a friend" (51 per cent) while 14 per cent of regular users get it from a dispensary.
- A significant majority (57%) of current regular marijuana users say they will abandon the way they get their pot now and buy it from a licensed store if and when that becomes legal.
-

New poll says Canadians support the idea of independent pot retailers; few support liquor store sales of cannabis

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/politics/new-poll-says-canadians-support-the-idea-of-independent-pot-retailers-few-support-liquor-store-sales-of-cannabis>

The alcohol retail outlet model would allow stores to be accessible, and public consumption places to exist. The largest number of Canadians prefer a dispensary model for cannabis.

Poll Finds Largest Group Of Canadians In Favour Of Dispensaries For Legal Sales

<https://cannabislifenetwork.com/poll-finds-largest-group-of-canadians-in-favour-of-dispensaries-for-legal-sales/>

Ground-breaking cannabis policy: Marijuana permits set aside for those previously convicted of pot crimes

<http://www.thecannifornian.com/cannabis-news/law/ground-breaking-cannabis-policy-marijuana-permits-set-aside-previously-convicted-pot-crimes/>

2. How cannabis will be stored and distributed to stores

The government has two models that encompass the public and private distribution systems - private for tobacco and pharmaceuticals and public for alcohol. Cannabis can be somewhat streamlined into either model without inventing a totally new framework.

3. How to ensure responsible marketing and safe production

Production will be regulated by the federal government and ground rules for marketing will also be implemented by the federal government. No foreseeable further action by the provincial government is necessary in this regard.

USING CANNABIS IN PUBLIC

Using edibles, tinctures and drinking cannabis should be allowed anywhere where people can consume similar products, as these do not involve public risk if no impairment is present if operating a vehicle. Smoking should be regulated to places where tobacco smoking is permitted.

To avoid class discrimination, people should be allowed to consume cannabis in their homes if tobacco smoking is allowed, including multi-family units. If tobacco smoking is prohibited, then people can consume edibles, vaping, tinctures and drinks. If it is medically prescribed than compromises must be reached as they are today.

GROWING CANNABIS AT HOME

The legislation must be inclusive as possible so as many people as possible have the opportunity to grow some plants. People can make as much wine or beer as they desire, so a four plant limit is already overly restrictive, but better than no opportunity to grow. People will naturally want to protect their cannabis plants from theft and will take steps to protect them from intruders. Provided it's cultivated in a locked area and isn't visible from outside your property, no other security requirements are recommended for medical patients who grow their own. Many strains will naturally grow taller than 1 meter, especially if grown outdoors, so educating the public about how to manipulate the plant to comply with regulations will be extremely useful, though it is federal regulation which oversees production.

Education about growing indoors will eliminate mold and mildew and unsafe electrical wiring.

Information bulletin: safety and security considerations when producing cannabis for your own medical purposes

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/information-bulletin-safety-security-considerations-producing-cannabis-for-own-medical-purposes.html>

SETTING THE LEGAL AGE

The federal government determined the age of 18 to lawfully access cannabis and the provincial government would be advised to comply with that age since that is the age that alcohol can be consumed. Studies have shown that alcohol is far worse for the developing brain than cannabis and cause much of society's risks, yet it is legal for people 18 and over to access. It is strongly recommended to set the age limit at 18.

PROMOTING SAFETY ON ROADS AND IN WORKPLACES

Due to it's unique properties, it will be very difficult to accurately measure cannabis impairment. A percentage of the population have been driving for decades with cannabis in their system, but there has been no acknowledgement from ER rooms or doctors that this is a major public health or safety concern, as was the case with alcohol in the 1970's.

If someone was impaired by cannabis, within two to three hours the intense impairing effects of THC have worn off, but they could still test positive for impairment. There is also a big difference between people who smoke daily versus an occasional or first time user, and that has to be taken into consideration.

Impairment laws put in place by the federal government will be subjected to court challenges, so the provincial government would be advised to not implement any further driving impairment laws until a reliable and accurate test is first invented.

The same impairment laws that govern alcohol impairment in the workplace should suffice for cannabis as well. An exception to this is medical use, which must be accommodated to some extent as to not interfere with Human Rights legislation.

DRIVING

Public Safety Canada releases oral fluid drug screening test results

<https://news.lift.co/public-safety-canada-releases-oral-fluid-drug-screening-test-results/>

Scrap unreliable tests for driving on marijuana, AAA tells six U.S. states

<https://www.thestar.com/news/world/2016/05/10/scrap-unreliable-tests-for-driving-on-marijuana-aaa-tells-six-us-states.html>

Why a 5 ng/ml THC limit is bad public policy - and the case for Tandem per se DUID legislation

<http://www.globaldrugpolicy.org/Issues/Vol%2010%20Issue%203/Articles/Why%20a%205%20ng%20limit%20is%20bad%20public%20policy%20092616.pdf>

Motor Vehicle Stops and the Charter: Points to Consider and Some Interesting Cases

<http://www.cle.bc.ca/PracticePoints/CRIM/MotorVehicleStops.pdf>

CANNABIS USE AND DRIVING: Evidence Review

http://drugpolicy.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/CDPC_Cannabis-and-Driving_Evidence-Review_FINALV2_March27-2017.pdf

New Research Sheds Light On Inaccuracy Of Legal Limits For Cannabis Intoxication

<http://www.crescolabs.com/new-research-cannabis-legal-limits-inaccurate/>

It Turns Out That Smoking Marijuana May Actually Make You A Safer Driver

<http://www.businessinsider.com/it-turns-out-that-smoking-marijuana-may-actually-make-you-a-better-driver-2011-12>

Court Rules Medical Marijuana Users Cannot Be Charged With DUI

<https://www.greenrushdaily.com/court-rules-medical-marijuana-users-cannot-charged-dui/>

Medical Cannabis and Impaired Driving: A Preliminary Report

<http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/medical-cannabis-and-impaired-driving-a-preliminary-report-631041933.html>

Marijuana's Impact on Driving Over Exaggerated Says New Study

<https://www.greenrushdaily.com/marijuanas-impact-driving-exaggerated-says-new-study/>

Police opinion deemed expert evidence in drug-impairment trials, SCC rules

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/police-opinion-deemed-expert-evidence-in-drug-impairment-trials-scc-rules-1.3297748>

Where is the science behind new bill to allow the use of drug detection devices on the road?

<https://news.lift.co/wheres-the-science-behind-new-bill-to-allow-the-use-of-drugs-detection-devices-on-the-road/>

Pot-smoking driver in Saskatoon deemed not impaired

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/pot-smoking-driver-in-saskatoon-deemed-not-impaired-1.1209370>

The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) Cannabis & Road Safety: Policy Challenges

http://tirf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/TIRF_DruggedDriving_Policy-Challenges_13_published.pdf

How To Beat A Marijuana DUI

<http://hightimes.com/news/how-to-beat-a-marijuana-dui/>

Study: Fatal Car Crashes Declined After Oregon Legalized Cannabis

<http://www.wweek.com/news/state/2016/12/30/study-fatal-car-crashes-declined-after-oregon-legalized-cannabis/>

States Allowing Medical Cannabis See Huge Drop In Traffic Deaths

<https://cannabislifenetwork.com/states-allowing-medical-cannabis-see-huge-drop-in-traffic-deaths/>

Marijuana legalization: Just because motorist looks stoned doesn't mean they're impaired, Mass. judge says

http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/11/sticky_subject_mass_judge_comp.html

Don't Hold Your Breath for a Marijuana "Breathalyzer" Test

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/don-t-hold-your-breath-for-a-marijuana-breathalyzer-test/?WT.mc_id=SA_FB_POLE_NEWS

Get science right before implementing different DUI law for marijuana

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/get-science-right-implementing-different-dui-law-marijuana/>

Pot ban on drivers won't work, health experts say

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/pot-ban-on-drivers-wont-work-health-experts-say/article32740639/>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - Drug and Alcohol Crash Risk

https://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/812117-Drug_and_Alcohol_Crash_Risk.pdf

Clearing the Smoke on Cannabis: Cannabis Use and Driving – An Update

<http://www.ccsa.ca/Resource%20Library/CCSA-Cannabis-Use-and-Driving-Report-2015-en.pdf>

ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPLICATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Alberta should pursue all aspects of the cannabis industry, including educational certification for various positions. This could range from a one day course ticket, to a diploma, or degree. Diversifying the economy is crucial to economic development and the relative safety of cannabis can enable the government to promote value-added products, growth of ancillary industries, production and retail opportunities to increase employment and economic opportunities without fatal repercussions.

Don't reinvent the wheel and wrack up unnecessary costs - use existing frameworks for alcohol and tobacco to streamline cannabis legalization.

As people consume cannabis there could also be positive unintended consequences, such as, significant savings to the health care system as patients cut down or stop using costly pharmaceuticals, therapies, and hospital visits. People substitute cannabis for alcohol which is another way to reduce harm. With resources focused in the right direction, the population, both youth and adults, will understand harm reduction techniques, proper and safe consumption and growing techniques, and the relatively small 'at-risk' segment of the population will be identified.

It is advisable not to ban people with cannabis convictions of any sort, from employment opportunities. You are excluding genuine experience and practical knowledge when it is needed the most.

We urge the government to look at how it distributes and sells alcohol. Cannabis is scientifically proven to be safer than alcohol, so the alcohol model of distribution should withstand the initial phase until results are available.

There have been 0 deaths from thousands of years of cannabis use, so any reasonable policy should withstand scrutiny.

Until it is determined how much tax revenue the provincial government will receive, it is best to put the revenue into education and the cost of running the cannabis regulatory system, including distribution, licensing, and retail. It can not be stressed enough that good education is the key to a successful strategy to reduce public health and safety risks.

New Brunswick college to launch marijuana cultivation course

<http://business.financialpost.com/commodities/agriculture/new-brunswick-college-to-launch-marijuana-cultivation-course/wcm/7f9e657f-b4f9-4ab8-b633-60777e1af5fe>

Cannabis Professional Series - Kwantlen Polytechnic University

<http://www.kpu.ca/cps/medical-cannabis>

Higher education: Learn to be a pot grower, vendor or 'cannabis sommelier'

<http://globalnews.ca/news/3506345/higher-education-learn-to-be-a-pot-grower-vendor-or-cannabis-sommelier/>

Marijuana occupational safety and health

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/marijuana-occupational-safety-and-health>

In terms of costs per user: tobacco-related health costs are over \$800 per user, alcohol-related health costs are much lower at \$165 per user, and cannabis-related health costs are the lowest at \$20 per user. On the enforcement side, costs for cannabis are the highest at \$328 per user—94% of social costs for cannabis are linked to enforcement. Enforcement costs per user for alcohol are about half those for cannabis (\$153), while enforcement costs for tobacco are very low.

Cannabis, Tobacco and Alcohol Use in Canada, Comparing risks of harm and costs to society

<http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/visions/cannabis-vol5/cannabis-tobacco-and-alcohol-use-in-canada>

BILL C-45 DEBATE Reality Check

<https://www.nichecanada.com/single-post/2017/06/21/BILL-C-45-DEBATE-Reality-Check>

NEW RELEASE: Canada's Drug Futures Forum: Summary of proceedings and Final recommendations

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/573a874cf85082b32ba55c15/t/59686921d482e947979d4695/1500014889362/Canada's+Drug+Futures+Forum_Summary+of+Proceedings+and+Final+Recommendations+%28FULL+REPORT%29_July14.pdf

Given what we know about cannabis, it is our desire to see a rational, forward thinking regulatory policy enacted within the same context as alcohol regulation, given the disparity in harm levels between the two substances. The over-the-top approach that dogs cannabis regulation is unwarranted.

The benefits to society of reducing alcohol, tobacco and pharmaceutical use because more people are using cannabis, will reduce costs and allow people to live healthier lives with a greater quality of life. The relatively small number of the population who suffer from cannabis misuse can be afforded prompt therapy.

A huge social experiment with a substance that has never caused a death in thousands and thousands of years of use, should not even be labelled as bold or innovative, but that is the best case scenario. Words like foolish, dangerous and careless will most likely dominant any discussion where cannabis laws are progressive.

This government has seemed determined to blaze trails, despite the unpopularity of some of these decisions, when it made sense, to correct an imbalance, or apply fairness to systems that had been neglected. It has proven it can make difficult choices when reasonable facts are present, and we implore you to look at regulating cannabis in a rational, logical and progressive way.

CanEvolve

<http://canevolve.ca>

CanEvolve is a multi-faceted think tank that produces media, analysis, and provides consulting services. We are on the forefront of "The Evolution of Cannabis in Canada". We are dedicated to educating the public, business and government about current and future cannabis metrics.