

GRASS ROOTS

Advocate

Issue 11
FREE



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If You Suffer from Eczema
CANNABIS HELPS

Medical Marijuana and
YOUR DOG

Keeping PACE with the
420 ROAD SHOW

The Good, The Bad & The Ugly:

THE CANADIAN CANNABIS TASK FORCE REPORT

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Who We Are ...

P.A.C.E. ---- medical and non-medical cannabis advocates who promote cannabis education by participating at non-cannabis public events, through the Grassroots Advocate magazine and a weekly LIVE online radio broadcast found at LifestyleRadio.ca. We focus on the Canadian cannabis community and Canada's cannabis news, but do occasionally go International.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Published January 2017

Cover Photo: Public Domain

Credits: Al Graham, Lisa Winegarden, georgiautoons.com, medicalmarijuana.ca
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Cultivating Compassion By Georgia

www.georgiautoons.com

EDITORIAL

By Al Graham

Where did he lie?



Today social media is full of fake news to fake allegations and some people who only read what they want to read. For some of them it's only the flashy headline they read and not the actual words that are spoken. This happens to all politicians no matter what party affiliation that they have.

Justin Trudeau, the Liberal party leader and Canada's Prime Minister is next to being accused by some cannabis advocates of being a liar. Many say that Justin promised that cannabis would be legalized right away and are upset that he hasn't done it yet. Because of this they say he lied. When in actuality what he said he was going to do was "to work "right away" on a policy to legalize and regulate the sale of marijuana,....."(cbc.ca) So has he?

Back in 2003 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the Canadian government is free to create laws for or against cannabis. Since then we've gotten nothing but more penalties and more non-violent cannabis consumers arrested or jailed. Not one government has decided to end this madness until now. Shortly after taking office he instructed in the mandate letters of three of his ministers to legalize and regulate cannabis. From there he had the Governor General tell Canadians in the throne speech that the government was going to legalize and regulate cannabis. Following this he had Health Minister Dr. Jane Philpott announced to the world at a United Nations conference that the Liberal government was going to legalize cannabis.

When they announced these things Trudeau said that he would form a task force that would travel across Canada. This was where advocates, organizations and groups could meet with them and get a word in about their concerns whether they were for it or against it. The Task Force has done this and has already released its findings, that he supports which include a minimum age of 18, home growing and store fronts. While this sounds good to many, not all advocates are happy with it. Unfortunately it's not about pleasing the advocates but about pleasing the citizens of the country.

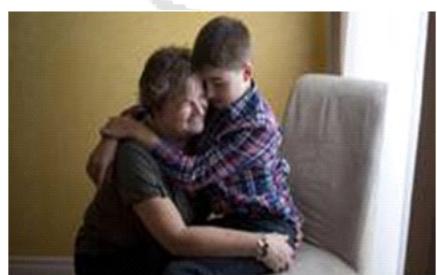


The next step that he has to do to show that he is getting on it "right away" is this coming Spring's anticipated announcement on how cannabis will be legalized. This is something that his Health Minister said at the UN meeting and the government has repeated since then.

While some people want him to remove it from the CDSA laws this will never happen. Why? Because there is a plan to still arrest people who go outside the system which he has repeated many, many times. Even though alcohol and tobacco are legal here there are still laws on the books that can get people arrested. Instead it has to go through the regular route of legislation. This includes reading it out in the House of Commons, debates will be held and committees will study it. From there it'll be voted on before being sent to the senate for approval or it will be sent back with suggested changes.



So has he got on it right away?.. Mandate letters, throne speech, UN announcement to the world, Cannabis Legalization Task Force completed plus we are seeing provinces start to design the system that they will put into place. Unfortunately it takes time to create and implement laws and to me it sounds like he has gotten on it "right away". So I ask when it comes to cannabis legalization, where did he lie?



A Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada

Government of Canada Nov 30/16 healthycanadians.gc.ca

Please find attached the final report of the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation. This report is the product of our consultations with Canadians, provincial, territorial and municipal governments, Indigenous governments and representative organizations, youth, patients and experts in relevant fields.

Police pilot project will test drug-detection systems by asking drivers for their saliva

The Canadian Press Dec 14/16 cbc.ca

Drivers in some Canadian jurisdictions may soon find themselves asked by police to volunteer for a saliva test, part of a pilot project aimed at detecting drug-impaired drivers. The federal government, the RCMP and a number of police departments across the country will conduct the experiment to see how well certain roadside testing devices work to detect drugs.

Cannabis could help treat opioid addiction, study suggests

By Misha Gajewski Nov 18/16 CTVNews.ca

Medical cannabis may have the potential to help wean opioid users addicted to the deadly drugs, new research shows. The review of previous research found early evidence that medical marijuana might help with treatment for mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance abuse disorders.

SickKids to study oral cannabis treatment in kids with severe epilepsy

By Sheryl Ubelacker Nov 29/16 theglobeandmail.com

Researchers at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children are poised to begin a clinical trial using cannabis extracts to treat children with severe epilepsy whose seizures can't be controlled with existing medications. The trial is believed to be the first in Canada to test an oral preparation that contains both CBD and THC, compounds in marijuana that have been shown in the lab and through anecdotal reports to have anticonvulsant properties in children with treatment-resistant epilepsy.

There's Been No Bait-And-Switch On Cannabis Legalization

Jenna Valleriani Dec 09/16 huffingtonpost.ca

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently expressed frustration around the current cannabis landscape, explaining, "Until we have brought in the proposed system... the current prohibition stands," and encouraging police to enforce the law, particularly as it pertains to the continued expansion of medical cannabis dispensaries in major cities across Canada.

Don't hold your breath: fully legalized pot could still be years away

By Peter Zimonjic Dec 14/16 cbc.ca

Legislation to make pot legal will hit the House of Commons come spring, but the day when recreational marijuana becomes officially available to buy across the country could still be years away. "I think one of the things we were struck by was how complex this transition actually is, and not only in terms of drafting legislation at the federal and provincial levels and putting in place all the infrastructure and training, but the psychological transition," former deputy prime minister Anne McLellan told CBC News Network's Power & Politics host Rosemary Barton.



How many pot plants Canadians will be allowed to grow

By Patrick Cain Dec 13/16 globalnews.ca

Canadians who want to grow their own pot should only be allowed to harvest four small plants at home, according to experts studying how to legalize marijuana. "Few topics of discussion generated stronger views than the question of whether to allow Canadians to grow cannabis in their homes for their own consumption," according to the federal commission report released Tuesday.



Trudeau supports proposal to set legal age for smoking pot at 18 or 19

By Danielle LeBlanc Dec. 15/16 theglobeandmail.com

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau agrees the minimum age to smoke marijuana should be 18 or 19, in line with each province's drinking laws, endorsing one of the most controversial recommendations from a federal task force on legalization this week. Mr. Trudeau said the task force, which was chaired by former Liberal cabinet minister Anne McLellan, settled on the appropriate age to limit the role of the black market in Canada.



Green Market for pot edibles draws a crowd and no police — this time

By Hina Alam Dec. 19/16 thestar.com

There is more to weed than rolling a joint and smoking it. The various potions, potencies and procedures involved in preparing cannabis-infused wares and edibles might please any chemist, while the business aspect of it might make it seem like Christmas every day to many a manufacturer. This was demonstrated on a frosty Sunday evening as over 30 vendors set up stalls for a Green Market, "Nuit Verte," at a "secret location" to sell weed-infused products to more than 400 eager cannabis-pursuits.



Planning to grow legal pot? Check real estate rules first

By Patrick Cain Dec 1/16 globalnews.ca

If Canada follows the path of most U.S. states that have legalized marijuana, we'll be allowed to grow a moderate number of plants at home. The upside is a plentiful supply of cheap marijuana; the downsides are the space requirements, the plants' fussy need for just the right amount of light, water and fertilizer, higher power bills — and the strong, pervasive smell.



Nine questions Parliament will have to answer before we legalize marijuana

By Patrick Cain Dec 27/16 globalnews.ca

At some point in the New Year, the Liberals will unveil details of how recreational marijuana will be legalized. There will be a lot of moving parts, and not much to go on. Canada is the first industrialized country to completely legalize recreational marijuana (four U.S. states have, and four more will follow after referendum results in November). One thing it won't be, the government has made it clear, is a free-for-all.



Veterans who use medical marijuana outed by envelope

By AnjuliPati 1 Jan 01/17 cbc.ca

Canadian resident Kim Davis said she was surprised when she was sorting through her mail last week and saw in bold letters through an envelope window, "RE: Cannabis for Medical Purposes." The unopened letter was addressed to her husband, a veteran, who in September started taking edible cannabis to help cope with post-traumatic stress disorder.

CANNABIS & YOU

If You Suffer From Eczema, Cannabis Helps

By Delilah Butterfield

Originally published at herb.co

Chronic skin irritations like eczema can be infuriating. Not only does the condition visibly alter your appearance, but it creates a constant itchy and painful rash. Fortunately, cannabis may provide a safe and effective natural treatment. This next segment of our Skin Deep series goes over just how our favorite herb helps reduce inflammation and rehydrate the skin. Here's how cannabis treats eczema.

What is eczema?

The term "eczema" actually refers to several different types of skin irritations. All of which are characterized by dry, itchy skin. Rashes may occur in particular areas. Specifically, on the face, in the creases of elbows and knees, and on the hands and feet. In severe eczema, the dry, rashy patches can crack, blister, and bleed. This is quite painful.



Eczema



Eczema is also known as atopic dermatitis. This chronic skin condition affects about 10% of American adults. Both genetic and environmental factors are thought to play a role. The most commonly treated with steroids and light therapy, but many patients fail to find relief. If used for a long period of time, topical steroids can also have side effects such as acne, rosacea, hypopigmentation, skin atrophy and hyperglycemia.

Inflammation'

The skin is one of the primary forms of communication with the world around us. It tells us when we're too hot or cold, when we're being touched, and helps us understand our environment through sensation. It's also one of our first lines of defense from harmful pathogens and substances. So, it's no surprise that the skin actually contains a wealth of specialized immune cells to help us quickly heal wounds and protect us from harm.

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Cannabis interacts with these immune cells. When applied topically, compounds in the herb bind to cell receptors in the skin's immune cells. This is super handy when you have some type of allergic rash. Cannabinoids, the active compounds in cannabis, are **immuno-suppressant**. That is, they dampen the immune system. When you get a rash and your skin flares up, the immune cells in your skin trigger an inflammatory response.

When you get a rash and your skin flares up, the immune cells in your skin trigger an inflammatory response.

In those with eczema, this inflammatory response is a bit out of control. Your skin may be especially sensitive to different things like soaps, pollen, or cat and dog dander. Exposure to irritants or stress can cause a flare-up, and it can be difficult to calm your immune system down once a flare-up has started. Your immune system reacts more intensely to stimuli than it should.

Applying topical cannabis creams or oils to the agitated area reduces the inflammatory response. This cuts down on the irritation and allows your skin to heal and return to normal. As a bonus, **cannabis cream** is not associated with the negative side effects of steroids.

Hemp hydration

Cannabis balms and salves not only drastically reduce inflammation, but they also contain hydrating oils. Different canna-friendly states stock different local products in their dispensaries. Yet, because cannabis topicals are often made in smaller-scale, local batches, it's fairly easy to find products that do not contain many of the harsh additives you would find in a traditional store.



If possible, aim for products that contain hemp seed oil along with activated cannabis. Hempseed oil contains a healthy balance of omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids for our bodies. Omega fatty acids are vital for cell production and are great for overall skin health. Some skin care businesses are using this knowledge to their advantage. One such business is Washington State's Cannabis Basics. Cannabis Basics has a couple wonderful skin care lines. The Hemp Body Care line contains nourishing organic hemp seed oil, and Cannabis Health and Beauty Aids contains both or hempseed oil and cannabis flower.

But, if you can't access cannabis topicals in your region, don't worry! Applying hempseed oil topically isn't the only way to find eczema relief. A study conducted back in 2005 found that dietary hempseed oil effectively reduced the inflammation, dryness, and itchiness in a 20-week randomized and double-blind trial of eczema patients. Patients who consumed dietary hempseed oil also decreased their use of other topical medications.

DIY Skin Care

Cannabis skin care products are powerful medicines. Spread on a salve or rub in some hempseed oil at the beginning signs of a flare-up. In severe cases, you might want to make sure you have some activated cannabis in your balm.

Activated cannabis is plant material that has been heated and transformed to an acid form to its psychoactive form. Topicals containing the raw form of THC and CBD, the two most common compounds in cannabis, also work well. Those compounds are known as THCa and CBDa. Of course, topicals won't get you high. They'll just provide much needed inflammation, pain, and itch relief.

PATIENT IN THE NEWS

Cannabis for canines?

By Laura DaSilva

Originally published at cbc.ca

Cannabis-based products for pets are a growing trend in Toronto where owners are seeking out alternatives to help their ailing animals. A sign saying "New Tricks for Old Dogs" lures curious dog walkers into the Pacifico medical marijuana dispensary on Bloor Street. They sell tinctures and treats that contain cannabidiol (CBD), a chemical compound in marijuana. Operations manager Ken Abell says they're so popular he can't keep them on the shelves. "We've had a lot of people asking for their pets," he said. "I've actually got a disappointed lady today because we're all sold out of the dog treats. They're very popular." CBC Toronto spoke to three companies in Vancouver making these CBD-based products for pets. They say there is a lot of demand from people looking to move away from traditional medications.



But even though the main ingredient is derived from pot, it won't get dogs high. "We sell straight CBD tinctures with absolutely zero THC. There are no psychotropic effects, only the medicinal benefits of CBD," Abell said. He explained CBD oil can be used to treat inflammation, mood disorders, seizures and chronic pain in humans, and can help pets with the same problems without the

intoxicating effects of THC. The pet tinctures made by Vancouver-based Apawthecary are the same as the ones sold to people with medical marijuana licences, just flavoured with bacon or seafood to make them more appealing to pets. A spokesperson said they work with vets to determine recommended dosage amounts and guidelines.



Are they legal?

Right now, Cannabis-based CBD oil is a controlled substance in Canada and can only be purchased for medicinal purposes with a prescription through the mail from a licensed distributor. It's illegal for dispensaries like Pacifico to sell medicinal marijuana and over the past year police raids on dispensaries in Toronto have made plenty of headlines. Some pet products that use CBD derived from industrial hemp plants are being sold as supplements, but the regulations surrounding those products are murky.

CBC Toronto spoke to dispensaries in Toronto and Vancouver about how they go about selling CBD products for pets. All of their protocols were different, as there are no set rules or policy laid out by Ottawa yet. At Pacifico, if people want to purchase CBD for their pets, they can bring in proper documentation of their pet's ailments and be sold the products under a "caregiver clause." Owners are not able to purchase products for themselves without a medical marijuana card.

Not enough research

The jury is still out when it comes to medicinal benefits of cannabis for humans, and when it comes to using cannabis-based products for animals, there is very little research." At some point in time they may be useful, but I would only recommend them once they've been studied appropriately and we know for sure what the safety profile of these kinds of things are in pets," said Shane Bateman, associate professor at the University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College. Bateman said there are similarities in the pain pathways and the biochemistries in animals and humans, but it's too soon to draw any conclusions."Obviously we wouldn't want to use an untested substance in ourselves," he said. "We want to hold the same standards for our pets as well."

Until the legislation around cannabis changes in Canada, it will be difficult for veterinarians to get access to cannabinoid products to even start a clinical trial, Bateman said. "Because there's no regulation of these products, it's really 'buyer beware,'" he said. "We really don't know what's in them."

RECIPES

CANNALOTION

By medicalmarijuana.ca

Ingredients:

1/2 cup canna olive oil
1/4 cup coconut oil
1/4 cup beeswax
1 tsp Vitamin E oil
2 tbsp shea butter
Essential oils (Eg..Tea Tree, Wintergreen, Frankincense +)

Directions:

Combine ingredients in a pint sized or larger glass jar.
Fill a medium saucepan with a couple inches of water and place over medium heat.
Put a lid on the jar loosely and place in the pan with the water.

As the water heats, the ingredients in the jar will start to melt. Shake or stir occasionally to incorporate. When all ingredients are completely melted, pour into whatever jar or tin you will use for storage.

Use as you would regular lotion. This has a longer shelf life than some homemade lotion recipes since all ingredients are already shelf stable and not water is added. Use within 6 months for best moisturizing benefits.



CANNABIS SALVE

By medicalmarijuana.ca

Ingredients:

2 cups of cannabis
2 cups of coconut oil
2 oz of beeswax
Essential oil of your choice
Mason Jar
Cheesecloth

Directions:

Decarboxylate your cannabis by putting it onto a baking sheet and baking for 15 minutes at 250 degrees Fahrenheit. While your cannabis is decarboxylating, pour the 2 cups of coconut oil into the saucepan.

Once your cannabis is done decarboxylating, add it to the coconut oil in the saucepan, mix together on low heat for 20 minutes. After 20 minutes, remove the oil and cannabis from the saucepan and strain it into your mason jar through the cheesecloth and set aside. Melt the beeswax in a saucepan, once it is fully melted, add the cannabis infused coconut oil and mix well with a spatula. Take the saucepan off of heat and add your essential oil. Stir well and add back to mason jar. Let the oil set until hard.



KEEPING PACE

The 420 Road Show

By Al Graham

When I was younger as in singular digits, I can remember watching Get Smart, the spy comedy featuring Maxwell Smart and his trusted assistant Agent 99. The TV series ran from 1965-70 and ended up winning six Emmy Awards during that time. But the one thing that always stuck out for me was his shoe phone. Back then it was only a TV fantasy, today it's a reality. The real version is much nicer than Max's phone and they're a lot smarter to. They work great to educate the masses.

What got it started

A year ago The PACE Radio show joined Lifestyle Radio. During our talk Al Rapp and I discussed the possibility of doing something live on location. He had mentioned it was something that he liked to do and it was something that I had sort of done before. At that time I got to do a report on the Toronto GMM for Rock 107 (Belleville) but with LifestyleRadio.ca / www.420Radio.ca there was an opportunity to do much more.



In order to do this we had to come up with some equipment. Since I had some hardware from doing the Cannabis Educational Series at the cafes I had access to some cords and things already at my disposal. I think the only thing I had to buy were a couple of back up batteries. After several tests we were set and The 420 Road show became a reality as we awaited our first event.

Last year

With everything set we decided that our first live broadcast of The 420 Road Show would be the Toronto Global Marijuana March. The plan was for me to spend the day walking around Queens Park talking to the people in attendance as well as to the pop up vendors. Joining me from his "studio" in these conversations would be Al and if they wanted to participate the hosts from our programs. For our first time doing something like this we were very happy with the results. We learned somethings and we will keep learning things.



Following the GMM we set our eyes on the Lift Expo. We applied and received some press passes for the weekend that would allow us to do the same thing as at the GMM but inside. We did have some concerns with using the wifi(would be slowed by the numbers on it?)so we didn't use it. After all we have to do that at places where no wifi even exists such as at the GMM. This time Al did everything remotely and joined me at Lift as did my joint host Kim Cooper. This allowed the three of us to walkabout the expo interviewing people including Franco Loja of Green House Seeds and one of the Strain Hunters. I knew Franco from the TY Expo days and when I saw him at the Lift event I knew we had to have a gab. Due to his recent sudden passing I'm so happy that I was able

to share our interview with our listeners.

We followed that up with some live coverage of the Peterborough Cannabis Day event. Once again we enjoyed some great conversations with the vendors plus we talked to the volunteers and those attending, such as Michael "Puff Dogg" Thomas, Jason Wilcox and Steve Biggs. With this being a smaller event than the GMM it allowed us time to even air what happens when people come to the PACE booth and we had some great conversations with the guys at the Dab tent as they educated everyone about the benefits of dabbing and enails.

Next up was a trip to the Northern Ontario Hempfest event but this time things were different. Al and I stayed home and Kim did the Road part of the show on her own. We talked to several people who made the trek to the north and this included people who flew in from British Columbia. Hempfest is an event that has been running for about 20yrs and was at one time the main outdoor cannabis celebrations. The bands, the games, the vendors, the camping and that 420 am air raid siren alarm all had their own story that travelled across the country.



We wrapped up the year with a trip to the Karma Cup in Toronto. This was quite the event and something that was good to see. This year was a trying year and those who needed to get it done, did. Whether it was a 24-36 hour day or getting people to help out, it got done. While their plans had to change at the last minute they still got it done. Sometimes the best things aren't planned and they just happen. The parking lot on Church St. was full of 30 sun shelters all housing a vendor and Al, Kim and I were there. It was great to talk to some of the leading people in the concentrate industry to artisans and the patient advocates all three of us knew. This event was packed and other getting some cords caught it was probably a good thing as it may have helped keep everyone warm on the windy cool day.

The idea of a road show was something that we discussed not knowing if it would turn into anything. At our first event it was an experiment, now it's something that will continue. During 2016 it was an enjoyable and exciting experience. A year ago some of us hadn't even met or knew each other but Al, Kim our hosts who join us and myself all have something in common, the desire to educate and inform others.

Future

In store for 2017 I'm sure The 420 Road Show will be returning to some if not all of the same events that we attended in 2016 plus I can see us adding events to it. There may be some smaller events where we'll broadcast live for about 3hrs plus I can see us adding some larger weekend long events. An example of these would be our plans to attend the one of the monthly pop up Green Market in Toronto and an educational weekend event planned for the Freedom Festival located at Freedom Fields Naturist Ranch during the August long weekend. So don't forget to tune us in at <http://www.420radio.ca/> or at <http://www.lifestyleradio.ca> and



As with Max's phone, at one time it was someone's dream and it became a reality, sort of like our thoughts, one time the idea was in our only in our heads but now also a reality.

If you missed the events that we attended to this year, you can listen to the podcasts at the LifeStyle Radio Interviews and Specials page found at <https://www.spreaker.com/show/interviews-and-specials>

The Good, The Bad and the Ugly: Dissecting the Canadian Cannabis Task Force Report

By Ted Smith

Note: condensed to fit & originally published at CannabisDigest.ca

In a comprehensive final report by the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation, released to the public on Tues Dec 13, 2016, recommendations covering a broad range of areas of public policy have attempted to nurture the development of a robust industry, while addressing potential problems. Some recommendations appear very favourable to established cannabis advocates, while others are far too restrictive and bound to be struck down in court. Overall, these proposed regulations are a positive step forward and will give the federal government a solid base upon which to frame the actual laws, which are expected to be introduced Parliament in the spring of 2017. With so many opposing forces demanding extreme positions, it was impossible for the task force to please everyone and this document seems to be a genuine attempt to strike a balance between conservative parents and a free society. Acknowledging this report as a beginning framework upon which to regulate cannabis, the task force has done a decent job setting the stage, though there are some serious flaws that will no doubt be improved upon over time. For now advocates have their work cut out for them to make sure those improvements happen sooner than later.

"For millennia, people have found ways to interact with cannabis for a range of medical, industrial, spiritual and social reasons, and modern science is only just beginning to unpack the intricacies of cannabinoid pharmacology. We are now shaping a new phase in this relationship and, as we do so, we recognize our stewardship not just of this unique plant but also of our fragile environment, our social and corporate responsibilities, and our health and humanity."



The Good:

Allowing provinces to determine distribution systems and encouraging intensive consultation with municipalities bodes well for established dispensaries in cities that have started to issue licenses to them. Suggesting that the security requirements for become a Licensed Producers need to be reduced so as to allow for smaller craft growers, there even appears to be hope that the current suppliers of dispensaries could also merge into the new legal system.

In the Introduction, the task force makes it clear not everyone involved in the cannabis industry is in it for money. "A network of cannabis growers, consumers and advocates who engage in an underground economy of

cannabis cultivation and sale for compassionate reasons also exists. While these activities are in violation of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA), some cannabis stores ("dispensaries") and wellness clinics ("compassion clubs") have nevertheless been in operation for many years in parts of the country. The Task Force heard from several members of, and advocates for, this community who report developing and adhering to a strict internal code of standards, closely resembling self-regulation, and who wish to differentiate themselves from solely profit-driven, illicit enterprises." In Chapter 2, Minimizing Harms of Use, they go further, to say, "At the same time, the framework should reconsider existing security requirements that are in place under the *Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations*. We acknowledge that security requirements should not be so strict that they are prohibitively expensive or difficult to implement, thus creating unnecessary barriers to entry into the regulated marketplace."

A FRAMEWORK FOR THE LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION OF CANNABIS IN CANADA

THE FINAL REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON CANNABIS LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION





Setting the minimum age at 18 was an unexpected surprise, especially given the pressure the Canadian Medical Association applied to have the limit set at 25. In the second chapter the task force explains their wisdom in this decision.

“Research suggests that cannabis use during adolescence may be associated with effects on the development of the brain. Use before a certain age comes with increased risk. Yet current science is not definitive on a safe age for cannabis use, so science alone cannot be relied upon to determine the age of lawful purchase. Recognizing that persons under the age of 25 represent the segment of the population most likely to consume cannabis and to be charged with a cannabis possession offence, and in view of the Government’s intention

to move away from a system that criminalizes the use of cannabis, it is important in setting a minimum age that we do not disadvantage this population.

For these reasons, the Task Force is of the view that the federal government should set a minimum age of 18 for the legal sale of cannabis, leaving it to provinces and territories to set a higher minimum age should they wish to do so.”

Another pleasant surprise came when the task force refused to place limits on THC content or try to stop edible cannabis products from entering the market, as the city of Vancouver has done in its licensing of dispensaries. With so many fear mongers out there, it seemed unlikely the task force would have such an open position but in chapter 2 they do their best to explain why THC limits and similar measures would have counter-productive impacts.

“In weighing the arguments for and against limitations on edibles, the majority of the Task Force concluded that allowing these products offers an opportunity to better address other health risks. Edible cannabis products offer the possibility of shifting consumers away from smoked cannabis and any associated lung-related harms. This is of benefit not just to the user but also to those around them who would otherwise be subject to second-hand smoke.

This position comes with caveats. To protect the most vulnerable, any products that are “appealing to children,” such as candies and other sweets, should be prohibited. We acknowledge that there is considerable discretion in what constitutes “appealing to children.”

...While there may be risks of consuming high-potency concentrates, the dangers inherent in their production strongly suggest that they be included as a part of the regulated industry, subject to effective safety and quality-control restrictions. The harms associated with high THC potency remain a concern, and should be minimized. However, we do not believe that limiting THC content in concentrates is the most effective way to do so, based on current information. We agree that, due to a lack of evidence, any chosen threshold would be arbitrary and a challenge to enforce. Even the standard THC content of today's dried cannabis is considered high by historical standards.”

Instead of creating arbitrary limits, the task force wants the government to use taxes to curb excessive use of potent cannabis products, as also outlined in chapter 2. “We suggest that variable tax rates or minimum prices linked to THC level (potency), similar to the pricing models used by several provinces and territories for beer, wine and spirits, should be applied to encourage consumers to purchase less-potent products.”

As for advertising, it seems the proposals are relatively fair, though likely to change over time as the public loses its fear of the herb. Details on permitted advertising are also in chapter 2, and are very similar to how advertising for alcohol and tobacco are managed.

“Comprehensive advertising restrictions should cover any medium, including print, broadcast, social media, branded merchandise, etc., and should apply to all cannabis products, including related accessories. Such restrictions could still leave room for promotion at the point of sale, which would answer industry concerns about allowing information to be provided to consumers and some branding to differentiate their products from the illicit market and other producers.”

Next blog we get to the bad.



DIRECTORY

Signing Clinics

Alberta

Oasis Medical Centre
Natural Health Services

British Columbia

Medicinal Cannabis Resource Centre Inc.
Greenleaf Medical Clinic

Ontario

CTCP (Grow or LP)
Marijuana For Trauma
Body Stream
Cannabinoid Medical Clinic

New Brunswick

Marijuana For Trauma Inc

Nova Scotia

Trauma Healing Centers

Quebec

Sante Cannabis

Canada Wide Listing

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<http://naturalhealthservices.ca/> (844) 262-0942

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Accessing Cannabis Medical Purposes Regulations - ACMPR

Regulations: <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2016/2016-08-24/html/sor-dors230-eng.php>

Application - Doctor Form – Guide – Security – Testing:

<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/drugs-products-medicaments-produits/buying-using-achat-utilisation/cannabis-medical/access-acces/personal-production-personnelle/index-eng.php>

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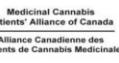
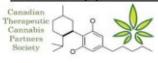
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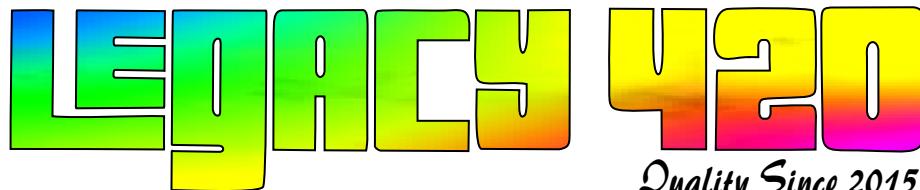


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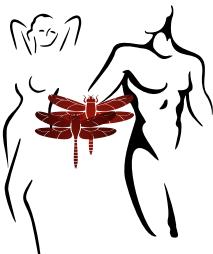


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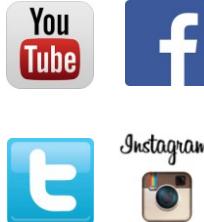
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