

# GRASS ROOTS

*Advocate*

Issue 12  
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The Rise of Cannabis Suppositories  
**BREAKING TABOO**

Medical Marijuana Patient  
**JOHN PERCY**

Keeping PACE Flashback  
**THE HOME SHOW 2006**

The Good, The Bad & The Ugly: Part 2  
**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.

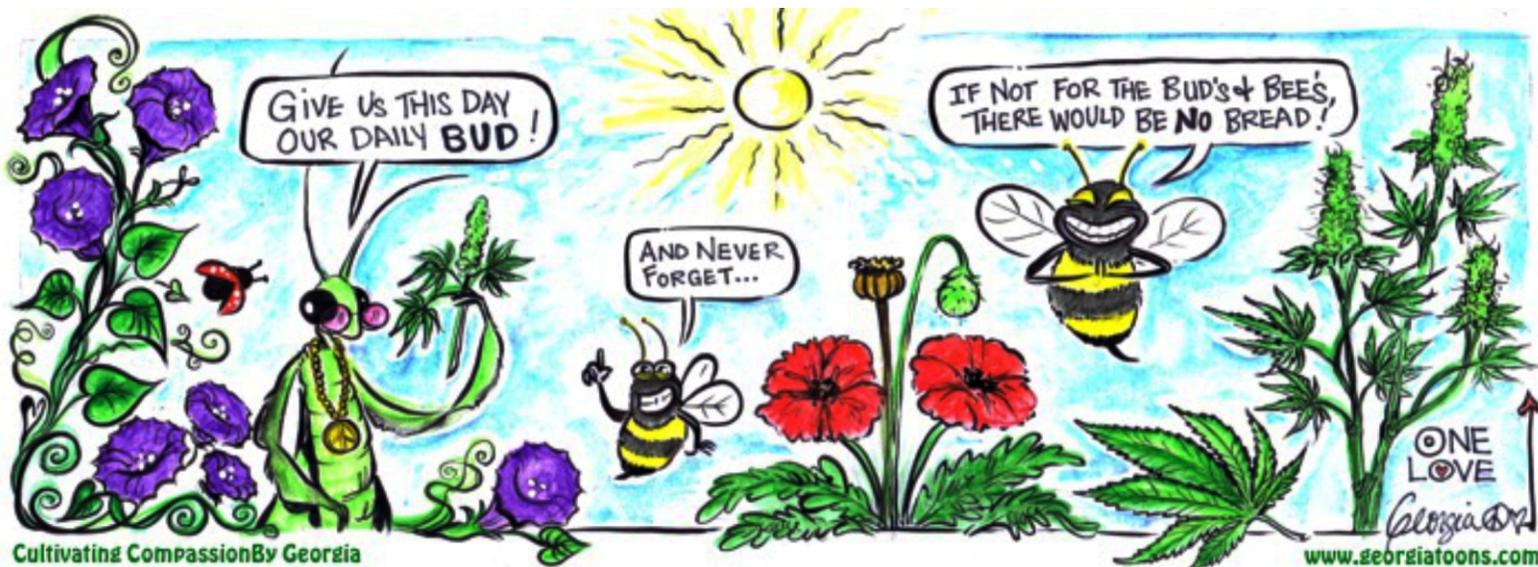
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## Can they be trusted?



Whether you're a medical cannabis patient or not we all have heard how politicians and people in authority positions take shots at cannabis. It didn't matter if these people were under oath before the courts or not, towing the prohibitionist message was required. That message would be that growing cannabis is dangerous to people's homes and if you're buying it off of the street you just don't know what's in it.

During the Allard case, the decision why MMAR patients are still allowed to grow under a court injunction, the expert police witness's testified about the dangers of growing in a home. They talked about the mold issues, pesticides being sprayed on plants within a house, electrical panels being bypassed and whatever other disaster you could think of.

Unfortunately for the crown their "expert" police witness was shot down by the patient's lawyers during the trial. It ended up being so bad that the judge in the case, Judge Phalen basically came out in his decision calling them liars by saying that their testimony was "inaccurate".

Talking about pesticides and cannabis...we are seeing a lot of that in the news lately. The licensed producers for Canada's medical cannabis patients have been hit with a wave of recalls. Some of these have gone back to February 2016 which begs the question, who keeps their medication for a year? Now we are finding out that this could have been happened as far back as 2014. This isn't the first time that there have been recalls but it is the most serious one of them all. While the first ones were over labelling issues to possibly having bacteria, these more recent recalls have to do with pesticides.

While Health Canada does allow some pesticides to be used this recall is because companies have been using a product called myclobutanil. While its used on other products it that hasn't been approved for use on tobacco or cannabis. Part of this is because myclobutanil turns into hydrogen cyanide when it is burned and is listed as a carcinogen. When smoked, it can get into the bloodstream through our lungs. Then once inside our bodies it can interfere with how oxygen is used and may cause headaches, dizziness, nausea and vomiting. Larger amounts may cause gasping, irregular heartbeats, seizures, fainting and even possibly death. Some people are also reporting problems such as weight loss, nausea, vomiting, throat irritation and respiratory tract irritation.

Oddly some of these are similar symptoms to a health condition that many have never heard of called Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome. Could it be that this condition is actually being caused by the pesticides and not the cannabis plant?

When it comes to expert witnesses we expect the truth, but in Allard no one could believe the police experts who testified. With the government, authority positions and licensed producers always spreading fear about possible chemicals on "black market" cannabis, it's never good when the accuser end up being the fear that they themselves promoted.

Why it is those who are supposed to be protecting us seem to make life more difficult and one has to ask, can they be trusted?

☰  

In his decision, the judge noted that "many 'expert' witnesses were so imbued with a belief for or against marijuana — almost a religious fervour — that the court had to approach such evidence with a significant degree of caution and skepticism."

In particular, he called one RCMP witness for the Crown, Cpl. Shane Homequist, "the most egregious example of the so-called expert."

"He possessed none of the qualifications of usual expert witnesses. His assumptions and analysis were shown to be flawed. His methodologies were not shown to be accepted by those working in his field. The factual basis of his various opinions was uncovered as inaccurate," he wrote.

**THE GLOBE AND MAIL\***

NATIONAL

**Canadians not told about banned pesticide found in medical pot supply**

GRANT ROBERTSON  
The Globe and Mail  
Last updated Thursday, Dec. 29, 2016 6:40AM EST



### **Cannabinoids in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease**

By Peter Chen July 15, 2016 news.lift.co

A recent study published in *Aging and Mechanisms of Disease*, a partnering journal to the world's most cited scientific publication *Nature*, has found preliminary evidence that cannabinoids found in marijuana can promote the removal of a toxic protein involved in plaque formation leading to Alzheimer's disease.



### **New Montreal marijuana clinics turn to doctors outside of province for patients' prescriptions**

By Christopher Curtis Jan 11/17 montrealgazette.com

A new chain of Montreal-area medicinal marijuana clinics hasn't yet opened, but its methods are already being challenged by Quebec's college of physicians. And while the man behind these clinics says he's complying with the rules outlined by Health Canada's medicinal cannabis program, he also admits that some of the doctors he works with are based out of province and will prescribe the drug via Skype teleconference.



### **Report spurs call to study marijuana's potential in opioid-crisis fight**

By Mike Hager Jan 12/17 theglobeandmail.com

A new U.S. government-funded report showing clear evidence cannabis is an effective remedy for those with chronic pain underscores the need for more research into how marijuana can help fight the deadly opioid crisis ravaging North America, according to one of Canada's leading pain researchers.



### **Canada's medical cannabis system can't keep up with demand**

By David Brown Jan 4/17 news.lift.co

The availability of dried cannabis and cannabis oil in many of Health Canada's licensed producers has decreased dramatically in the past few weeks and even months. Increasingly, some patients are reporting a decrease in the availability of their preferred products.



### **NB Liquor ponders selling marijuana through separate outlets**

By Jacques Poitras Jan 20/17 cbc.ca

NB Liquor isn't going to be asking the provincial government for the power to sell legal marijuana in its liquor stores, says the corporation's CEO. But Brian Harriman told a committee of MLAs that the Crown corporation would still like to sell the product, which the federal government plans to legalize.



### **Marijuana just one element of mental health treatment, users say**

By Jeremy Keefe Jan 23/17

Mental health sufferers touting the benefits of medical marijuana say the plant isn't the only treatment the government should provide for cases of anxiety, depression and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Federal government commitments to further research into the benefits and risks associated with marijuana are welcome news to advocates and users alike, but some are saying more avenues need to be looked at to properly address mental health issues.

### Can Cannabis Chewing Gum Treat Irritable Bowel Syndrome?

By Leafly Staff Jan 19/17 leafly.com

A biotech firm has launched clinical trials in the Netherlands to test whether its CBD chewing gum could help treat irritable bowel syndrome. Researchers will give a group of 40 adult patients CanChew Plus chewing gum, which contains 50 mg of hemp-derived cannabidiol per serving. Subjects will be able to take up to six servings per day under the study, which will record general relief of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) symptoms—most often stomach cramps, bloating, and lower abdominal pain—along with any “change in stool frequency,” according to a press release.



### LOYALIST EARNS ACCREDITATION TO STUDY MEDICAL MARIJUANA

By David Foot Jan 25/17 quintenews.com

In response to the growing upward trend of medical marijuana use, Loyalist College has been granted a license by Health Canada, to study the plant and its medical components. Loyalist's Supercritical CO2 Extraction Lab will study samples from various licensed producers, to analyze the chemical components of the plant and ensure that medical marijuana is adhering to Health Canada guidelines.

### Pot dispensaries demand to be licensed, city says it's not possible

By CBC News Jan 26/17 cbc.ca

A group representing pot dispensaries in Toronto is calling on the city to regulate their businesses, but city staff say that under current drug laws, "there is no authority for the city to implement a licensing regime" for the sale of pot products. The Cannabis Friendly Business Association and the Toronto Dispensary Coalition said Thursday they are facing "unhelpful stigmatization" in the wake of a series of police raids targeted at the storefront operations in recent months.



### Health Canada continues investigation of recent recalls

By David Brown Jan 26/17 news.lift.co

Health Canada says they are continuing to investigate the recent recalls from two licensed producers to determine how two unapproved pesticides entered the supply chain, while one testing lab says the regulatory agency needs to require testing for common pesticides.



### Indigenous Medical Cannabis Association holds inaugural meeting

By Tom Keefer Jan 29/17 realpeoples.media

Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory – Over 40 people attended the inaugural meeting of the Indigenous Medical Cannabis Association on Saturday, January 28th. Attendees came from a number of different communities including Tyendinaga, Kanehsatake, Kahnawake, Oneida, Alderville, Pikwakanagan, Golden Lake, Toronto, and from as far away as Calgary, Alberta. The meeting began with a workshop on traditional indigenous governance.



### Canada pressing forward with marijuana legalization amid U.S. uncertainty

By The Canadian Press Jan 31/17 thestar.com

OTTAWA—Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould says the Liberal government is determined to bring forward legislation to legalize and regulate the recreational use of pot this spring, despite the fact it is working overtime to manage many unknowns associated with U.S. President Donald Trump.



# CANNABIS & YOU

## What You Need to Know About Using Cannabis Suppositories

This article is condensed to fit.

Originally published at: [merryjane.com](http://merryjane.com)

Fifth generation Oregonian Dr. Paula-Noël Macfie is an indigenous science researcher, mother of two, and medical marijuana patient who, three years ago, started using cannabis suppositories religiously to navigate symptoms of multiple sclerosis (MS) as well as MTHFR genetic mutations, a frontal lobe brain injury, and PTSD.

Deeply inspired by her teachers and their non-Western ways, Macfie's organization Back Door Medicine is dedicated to providing access to cannabis suppository education, supplies, recipes and support with a focus on nutrition. Her “back-door” technique exploits an innate biological function in humans to be incredibly effective medicine, and for the most part, without any side effects or negative symptoms whatsoever.

*MERRY JANE: What's the history of cannabis suppositories?*

*Dr. Paula-Noël Macfie:* Suppositories and plant medicine have been documented in recorded history for thousands of years. Suppository molds are found in old apothecaries like Heidelberg Castle in the 12th century and cannabis as plant medicine has been documented in China for over 5,000 years. This is an ancient science bridged with modern innovative research. Cannabis and suppository plant medicine is nothing new.

*When did you discover the wonders of cannabis suppositories?*

A few years ago, my brother was diagnosed with rectal and liver cancer. I had a deep feeling there was something to medical marijuana activist Rick Simpson's full extract oil [RSO] that could not only benefit people with cancer, but those suffering from MS and other conditions, too. Unfortunately, without strict nutritional protocols, proper medical support and a community of cannabis healers, my brother did not live. From his passing, I was empowered to continue my research.

Then, I manifested a rectal fissure. The pain and suffering drove me mad. After using everything allopathic, alternative, and naturopathic, nothing worked. Out of desperation, I turned to the Internet—I normally do not use the Internet to do research—and intuitively found a website with an image of Tommy Chong holding a suppository mold. Looking at the molds, a light bulb turned on and I thought to myself, “Make a suppository with the oil [RSO] and use it rectally for the fissure.” So I did. Within two days, I was fully healed. It was my “a-ha” moment: “If this can heal me, imagine what it can do for others.”

*Who would you recommend this method to?*

This medicine is for everyone, for anyone and for all of us. It prevents and relieves the pain and suffering of hundreds of illnesses, diseases, and diagnoses. I have educated patients, caregivers, and families that come from naturopaths, medical doctors, and acupuncturists with conditions such as lyme, colon/liver/breast/bone cancer, fibromyalgia, hemorrhoids, fissures, brain injury, seizures, and so on. I have personally used cannabis suppositories for MS nerve pain, spasticity, restless legs, menstrual cramps, anxiety, insomnia, and when I need to sit for a long period of time and don't want to end up in pain.

*What can someone expect to feel after administering a dose?*

Cannabis suppositories deliver around 80 percent of the plant medicine, while taking cannabis orally delivers around 35 percent and smoking around 15 percent. For serious conditions rectal delivery of cannabis, provides the greatest amount of plant medicine delivered with zero head high. This provides maximum medicine with maximum relief and no known side-effects. Within 10 to 15 minutes, I notice I feel uplifted and better, simply because I am not focusing on my pain and discomfort.

Cannabis suppository plant medicine allows the body to activate its own endocannabinoid system and relieve its own pain, allowing the body an opportunity to heal itself. Everybody is different. Intuition and listening to one's own body is a big key to this. Finding the right dose can take some time and patience. Our western minds want a “quick fix” and this approach to plant medicine can inhibit the body from figuring out what dose it needs to effectively activate the endocannabinoid system. Communication with our body and with our caregiver is important. Navigating through the pain and increasing dosages one step at a time allows us to find the sweet spot.



**BREAKING  
TABOO** THE RISE OF CANNABIS  
SUPPOSITORIES

### *Why don't cannabis suppositories give you a head high?*

When administered rectally, the plant medicine directly enters the bloodstream through the cell walls and goes directly into the body, which is quickly distributed through the vascular system. It is a direct application to the bloodstream, bypassing the liver. The liver is a key to getting high. THC travels through the liver to the brain to induce a head high. When smoked, it travels through the lungs to the villi, then on to the liver. When taking it orally, it makes its way to the liver through digestion. This method takes the longest because of the digestive process and the amount of travel it takes to get to the brain. In the brain, THC interacts with nerve receptors, causing euphoria. The bottom line: Cannabis suppositories allow for larger doses of plant medicine without the head high versus smoking and ingesting orally.

### *How do you make cannabis suppositories?*

The most important ingredient is full cannabis extract oil [RSO]. I use food-grade oil that is processed with ethyl alcohol. It's very important to research the ingredients and process. The medicinal availability of cannabis varies greatly, depending on the process used to make the oil. I prefer and recommend a 1:1 ratio—one part THC to one part CBD. Due to ever-changing rules and regulations, medical patients and/or their caregivers may need to make their own full extract oil. Reliable, affordable, and clean sources are hard to come by in some areas.



### *Tips:*

Some recipes call for coconut oil. However, coconut oil can induce diarrhea. Use cacao butter instead.

Keep them in a freezer-safe plastic container, wrapped in parchment paper for extra protection, until you need to use one.

The finished suppositories melt quickly with warm hands, so learn to be comfortable with your body when quickly inserting.

If you need assistance, use a suppository applicator.

Keep a journal. Write down your recipe so you can adjust as necessary and keep track of how you feel.

Do you have any life hacks you can share with fellow medical marijuana patients using cannabis to mitigate symptoms of chronic illness?

Number one: Always be willing to confront discomfort and deal with medical issues before they exacerbate. Many of us with medical cards are dealing with really awful conditions that make having any quality of life extremely challenging. Having a person around you who can share your healing journey with is key. Many people flee a sick person, so isolation and aloneness can be a real big problem. Having some level of personal support with openness to cannabis suppositories is essential.

Number two: Proper nutrition, rest, and daily movement to help inspire crucial oxygen are necessary for the plant medicine to fully activate the body's endocannabinoid system and ignite a regenerative healing process.

This article is condensed to fit.

Originally published at: [merryjane.com/health/what-you-need-to-know-about-using-cannabis-suppositories](https://merryjane.com/health/what-you-need-to-know-about-using-cannabis-suppositories)

# PATIENT IN THE NEWS

## Medical marijuana user 'shocked' by recall over hydrogen cyanide risk

By Elizabeth Chiu Jan 28/17 cbc.ca

A medical marijuana patient in Lower Sackville, N.S., said he's worried after the marijuana he consumed for nearly a year was recalled by Health Canada because it was grown with two pesticides that, if heated, can emit hydrogen cyanide. John Percy, 67, smokes, vapes and bakes his cannabis to control pain in his hip caused by osteoarthritis. The former Green Party leader had been ordering his medical marijuana from OrganiGram in Moncton, N.B., the only licensed producer in Atlantic Canada. He said his pain was an "eight out of 10."



"I was shocked," said Percy, when he first learned of the voluntary recall in late December. The letter said the marijuana he consumed "tested positive for bifentazate and/or myclobutanol, both unapproved pesticides and not registered for use on marijuana."



*Percy assumed the product was organic. (CBC)*

"I assumed like most patients that the product would be organic," he said.

According to Health Canada hydrogen cyanide interferes with how oxygen is used in the body and may cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, and vomiting. Larger concentrations may cause gasping, irregular heartbeats, seizures, fainting, and even death.

### 'I got angry'

He said he was willing to take a wait-and-see approach. But less than two weeks later, there was another, higher-level recall notice from OrganiGram saying all products manufactured since February had been recalled.

"That's when I got angry and I started to consider what the effects on me have been," said Percy, who also sits on the board of Maritimers Unite for Medical Marijuana. He said he plans to talk to his doctor about whether the recalled medical marijuana he'd been consuming, about three grams a day, has adversely affected his health.

### 'Patient safety at risk'

Percy said he's upset that Health Canada did not issue a mandatory recall. Health Canada said no cases of adverse reactions have been reported. "Putting patient safety at risk is unacceptable, and for a government department that is supposed to take care of people's safety, I think they've fallen down on the job," said Percy. He said he's written to the health minister and to members of Parliament. He believes Health Canada should test marijuana for more than 13 compounds to ensure it's safe for consumption.

Percy said he and other licensed medical marijuana patients have discussed starting a class-action lawsuit. Without a licensed producer, he's going to an illegal dispensary — and paying 30 per cent more for his medication. There's no compassionate pricing at the illegal spot, so his monthly marijuana budget has shot up to about \$850 from \$600. "It hurts, it hurts," he said.

He said getting a prescription filled for another one of the 30-plus licensed producers in Canada would take months, but didn't want to wait in pain.

## ALMOND MILK

medicalmarijuana.ca

### *Ingredients:*

1/2 cup raw almonds  
3 cups water  
1-4 grams of ground cannabis  
(depends on how potent you want the end product)  
cheesecloth or strainer

### *Directions:*

Blend the almonds and water in a food processor until it resembles milk.

Strain the almond milk through a cheesecloth or strainer

Add the ground cannabis and reduce heat. Simmer for 2 hours, stirring frequently.

Remove from heat. Chill and serve, or use as a replacement for milk in any recipe.

*GA Ed Note:* Don't like almond milk? You can also combine cannabis with some fatty dairy milk, heat it as instructed and then strain through the cheesecloth/strainer.



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## Peanut Butter Banana Smoothie

medicalmarijuan.ca

### *Ingredients:*

2 cups canna milk  
1/4 cup peanut butter  
1/4 cup oatmeal  
1 tsp vanilla  
2 bananas, sliced

### *Directions:*

Add all ingredients to a food processor or blender and blend until smooth.

Pour into glasses and serve.

Enjoy!



## Flashback – October 2006 Treating Yourself @ The International Home Show

By Al Graham Originally published in Treating Yourself Issue 7

This year Thanksgiving got a new meaning for me. Not only did I get to spend time with my family but I also got to spend some time with my extended family. My extended family would be those of you, like myself, who are sick and use cannabis as a way to treat your ailment.

I also spent a lot of Thanksgiving helping out Marco and Treating Yourself Magazine at their information booth held at the Toronto Home Show. The Home Show was held at the International Center in Mississauga Ontario. A home show and marijuana, how do they mix? Actually very nice I must say.

It all got started when a great friend of many medical marijuana people by the name of Lady Di asked if I was interested in going to Mississauga to help out at the Treating Yourself booth. Help? How would I help a booth at a home show? Never mind helping out, I was worried if I could take a day of standing? Could I make it throughout the day before my energy can out? As a person who suffers from Crohn's, I then add on bathroom and eating concerns and would we be allowed to medicate even though we had exemptions?

On the Friday of the show, Lady Di and I met up and made our way to the show. We were also meeting up with Sonnyboy for the day. We were hoping for a good reception to the booth for all involved. When we arrived Marco and Soulmate were already at it hard and it looked like they needed some help. The booth was covered with people looking for and getting much needed information.



*Hash plants @ The Home Show*

When we got in and settled down I quickly learned how I was going to help and help I did. Marco had 20,000 copies of Frank Discussions Top 10 Cannabis Facts that all Canadians need to know. Also spread out on the 2 tables in the booth, was every issue of Treating Yourself Magazine, 2 Volcano's, volcano information and the TY Stinky Pumpkin.

The two most attention drawing items were in the middle of the booth, their base all wrapped up in a decorative blanket and sitting high for all to see. The fully into bloom, big cola'd Hash plants drew the biggest gasps and awe's while I was there. People even screamed in excitement and then yell gleefully "is that a pot plant?" Of course we got to answer this with a big smile on our face "yes, would you like a closer look?" The people who had never seen a marijuana plant before were really eager to take a look and even have a smell. Then to hear them say "what's all the fuss about. It looks pretty harmless to me" was nice to hear.

As Soulmate and I handed out brochure's it was almost comical to see people as they walked by. You could watch them walking the aisle as they made their way along, reading all the banners over the booths. Then they got to TY's booth and read the banner stating **"Promoting the Respectable and Responsible use of Medical Marijuana"** and huge smiles would quickly appear on many faces. The people were also very receptive to our handouts. Many would read the heading on it and stop, turn and take a look. Then walk over for more information. While others read the heading, folded it over and put it away to read later. There was even one guy I handed it to and he said "you don't need to sell me

While Soulmate and I were busy handing out the brochures Marco, Lady Di and Sonnyboy were busy teaching people the medical benefits of the Volcano. Explaining how a vaporizer works was non-stop occurrence. Sonnyboy and Marco would each put on their own demo as one did it with medical marijuana and the other with plant matter removed. The people were very interested as they watched the bags fill up with vapors. Some people would question the appearance but once you explained the process again and compare it to steam in a bag, they understood better. With the booth being so busy there were several demonstrations and a lot of medicating going on, which to me was very beneficial. There was no way that I could keep up with everything without medication.

We were told “I heard about you guys and I had to come check it out” by so many people. This made me aware that we were making an impact. People were talking and spreading the word about the booth and its whereabouts. I couldn't tell you how many people come out of their closets to talk to us because it was uncountable. There were young people questioning us but I'd say our crowd was more middle aged to older people and not the criminal element that it's so much associated with in the media. People wanted to know more and more information so we gave them what they asked for. We talked education, we talked health but most of all we talked the truth.

When people would bring up the concern about smoking not only did we give them a demo on the Volcano but we also told them about butter. As it turns out not many people have heard about making butter. Of course we gave them a good description on the process of butter making as well as showing them the process in one of TY's editions. We would explain to people how medical users get the pain relief from eating eatables. Of course they would want to know how they could use the butter. They were quite surprised that you could make scalloped potatoes, put it your vegetables, cookies, cakes and even toast with marijuana butter.



*Sonnyboy – Lady Di – Marco - Al*

As you talked with people and they felt more comfortable, their questions would go deeper, wanting to know more and more. To have people come up to you, who I believe would normally ignore you and keep them fascinated by your teachings felt good to me. To have people saying “thank you so much” in an appreciated way made me feel very good inside. I'm very thankful that I had such an opportunity to speak out loud. Lady Di said it best as “we are very proud to be part of something so important and so wonderful, how could we not come out for such an important event. I'm so proud for what we accomplished this weekend” Thoughts echo by all involved.

I know for those that were in attendance this weekend it was wonderful event. I know I will be back for the next show in March 2007.

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

By Ted Smith

Note: Condensed article - originally published at [cannabisdigest.ca](http://cannabisdigest.ca)

*Ed's note: Last issue we shared Ted's "The Good" in Grassroots.*

*This month we share "The Bad" and "The Ugly" of this report.*

### The Bad

Last week the federal task force on legalization released its final report to the public, giving activists some pleasant surprises along with a few problems and disappointments. In my first blog about it last week I focused on the positive, as the report contains so many good recommendations that I missed a few in my summary. However, there are some definite problems with these proposals and the next two blogs I will address those concerns, saving my issues with the inadequate suggestions regarding the medical uses of cannabis for the final blog.

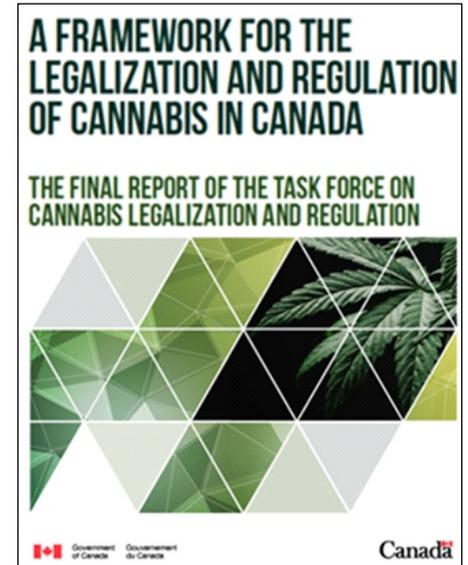
First I should stress that these are just recommendations and not actual law. The law will be entered into Parliament in Ottawa in the spring of 2017 and many fear it will be far more conservative than this report. No doubt every stakeholder likes some parts of this report and strongly disagrees with others. There will be a great deal of pressure exerted by some special interest groups to dramatically change the direction the document suggests we take.

Unfortunately, in some ways this report suggest a withdrawal from prohibition but not an entire ceasefire. Proposed limits of 4 plants per household, with a 100 cm height limit and a 30 grams personal possession are bound to be struck down in court, as they are unnecessary, arbitrary and unenforceable. Instead of giving adults the freedom to supply themselves with homegrown cannabis, the proposals build a corporate framework meant to maximize profits and tax revenue for the government. However, the task force did try to suggest plants grow no bigger than 100 cm, hurting their credibility in the cannabis industry while not really making anyone else happy. Are police now expected to go around each fall and measure everyone's plants to make sure they are not too big? What if the plant is tied down?



### The Ugly

A report on legalization given to the Canadian government is profoundly disappointing for patients, shoving sick people aside in the zeal to cash in on profits and taxes. In this report, which I should stress are not binding, the task force recommends less access with the removal of caregivers, no tax breaks and vague, weak language about pricing that leaves patients with little hope. While there are many good recommendations and the task force seems to have a grasp of many aspects of legalization, the failure to provide any significant benefits to patients fouls this report.



Legalization would not be happening in Canada or the United States if it were not for the wide range of substantial benefits cannabis provides to patients, along with their fight in court and on the streets for access to this medicine. Court battles have been fought, medical cannabis dispensaries established and many stories have been shared to bring light to this amazing medicine. The government task force clearly feels that people will find ways to get a doctor to sign a license to use cannabis if there are potential advantages, like lower prices, less tax or opportunities to grow. By making patients pay equal amounts for cannabis as recreational consumers, legalization appears to have no real advantages for those that need the help the most.

“The Government will need to work closely with licensed producers and patients to identify and address emerging issues and take decisive action if required, whether requiring licensed producers to prioritize supply for medical users or establishing price controls for medical users. The Government should take the necessary steps to have the authority to regulate these issues moving forward, while being mindful that executing these authorities may create the potential for market distortion and exploitation as individuals seek to benefit from perceived advantages in the medical regime.”

Most Licensed Producers will likely have little to do with patients once they have access to the much larger recreational market. Governments will be hard pressed to find ways to force them to put herb aside for patients, grow special strains or produce specialty products like suppositories and salves. Profits are the motivation of these companies and patients will find little sympathy in that.

Proposing to take away the opportunity to have a designated grower provide medicine is a quick death sentence to some patients and a huge blow to the gut for others. How could any rational, caring person suggest that patients that are losing the battle to stay alive must give up their garden when they can no longer physically maintain it, forcing them to purchase every gram they use?

“However, the Task Force believes that the Government should respond to the concerns expressed by municipalities, law enforcement officials and community members by immediately reviewing the current risks associated with designated production and the ongoing need for such production. There should be a sufficient range of options available to patients in the future to easily access cannabis for their medical need. The majority of Task Force members believe that the problems with the activities of some designated producers are serious and that the Government should determine an appropriate timeframe for phasing out this provision as the new system for non-medical uses of cannabis is established.”

These proposals completely fail to recognize any use of cannabis in palliative care. Instead of encouraging pilot projects for patients who wish to use cannabis towards the end of their lives, the task force only proposes more research is done in very general terms. Little clinical research is being done in Canada on cannabis products right now, in part because the drug approval process has been thwarted by court decisions and the government does not conduct any research of its own.

“Some companies may wish to market cannabis products as “wellness products” rather than as medicines. We understand that the federal government is currently conducting a review of its approach to the regulation of natural health products. The question of CBD or other non-psychoactive cannabinoids as potential wellness products is likely to be explored in this review process and will be informed by emerging research in this area.” With a great deal of pressure from the Canadian Medical Association to remove the medical cannabis program entirely, the task force is using legalization as an excuse for withdrawing important components of the current medical program while offering no concrete benefits. These proposed regulations are a step back for patients, treating them with suspicion rather than compassion. While the rest of the report deserves credit for proposing some progressive recommendations, everyone should be concerned what will happen to patients if these suggestions become law.

The complete article can be found at <http://cannabisdigest.ca/the-bad-dissecting-the-canadian-cannabis-task-force-report/>



# DIRECTORY

## Signing Clinics

### Alberta

Oasis Medical Centre	<a href="http://oasismedicalclinic.ca/">http://oasismedicalclinic.ca/</a>	(844) 876-2747
Natural Health Services	<a href="http://naturalhealthservices.ca/">http://naturalhealthservices.ca/</a>	(844) 262-0942

### British Columbia

Medicinal Cannabis Resource Centre Inc.	<a href="http://www.mcrci.com/">http://www.mcrci.com/</a>	(604) 566-9391
Greenleaf Medical Clinic	<a href="http://greenleafmc.ca">http://greenleafmc.ca</a>	(877) 513-4769

### Ontario

CTCP (Grow or LP)	<a href="https://www.canadiantherapeuticcannabispartners.com/">https://www.canadiantherapeuticcannabispartners.com/</a>	(613) 967-9888
Marijuana For Trauma	<a href="http://mftgroup.ca/">http://mftgroup.ca/</a>	(613) 965-6780
Body Stream	<a href="https://www.bodystream.ca/">https://www.bodystream.ca/</a>	(800) 730-8210
Cannabinoid Medical Clinic	<a href="http://www.cmclinic.ca/">http://www.cmclinic.ca/</a>	(647) 406-4902

### New Brunswick

Marijuana For Trauma Inc	<a href="http://www.mftgroup.ca/">http://www.mftgroup.ca/</a>	(855) 638-0420
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### Nova Scotia

Trauma Healing Centers	<a href="http://www.traumahc.com/">http://www.traumahc.com/</a>	(902) 462-2957
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### Quebec

Sante Cannabis	<a href="http://santecannabis.ca">http://santecannabis.ca</a>	(514) 419-4131
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### Canada Wide Listings

Lift Cannabis	<a href="https://liftcannabis.ca/doctors">https://liftcannabis.ca/doctors</a>	
Marijuana For Trauma Inc	<a href="http://www.mftgroup.ca/">http://www.mftgroup.ca/</a>	(855) 638-0420

## Compassion Centers

### British Columbia

Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club	<a href="http://v-cbc.ca/">http://v-cbc.ca/</a>	(250)381-4220
British Columbia Compassion Club	<a href="https://thecompassionclub.org/">https://thecompassionclub.org/</a>	(604) 875-0448

### Ontario

CannDo	<a href="http://www.cando.ca">http://www.cando.ca</a>	(416) 901-7095
Toronto Compassion Center	<a href="http://tccentre.org/">http://tccentre.org/</a>	(416) 668-6337
Just Compassion	<a href="http://justcompassion.ca">http://justcompassion.ca</a>	(647) 984-7420
True Compassion Toronto	<a href="http://truecompassiontoronto.com">http://truecompassiontoronto.com</a>	(647) 977-1995

### Nova Scotia

Farm Assists	<a href="https://thefarmassists.com">https://thefarmassists.com</a>	(902) 266-4769
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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>

Commercial List: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/marihuana/info/list-eng.php>

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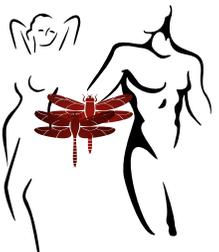
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