

# BotaniQ

Elevating the Modern Cannabis Conversation

Inspiring Entrepreneurs

Cutting-Edge Dispensary Design

Lessons from Washington



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“

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# BotaniQ

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## FEATURE

# 7

## Reigning Supreme

Meet the young  
entrepreneurs behind one  
of Canada's most exciting  
production facilities.

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# BotaniQ JOINS THE CONVERSATION

BY Barinder Rasode

**C**annabis has been moving from counterculture to mainstream for a long time, but the shift that is set to happen next year will still take a lot of Canadians by surprise. Legalization of cannabis is a seismic event. It validates what the majority of residents have been discovering for a long time. Just look at what's happening already in Ontario, where the government has announced its plans to open its own network of retail stores.

Pending the passage of legislation, Canada will become the first G20 nation to formally legalize and regulate cannabis at the federal level. We now find ourselves not at the end of prohibition, but at the beginning of a long process of dismantling old cannabis laws and building a new regulatory system that makes sense for all Canadians.

In doing so, we can't ignore the concerns of those unsure of how legalization will affect their communities. Much will depend on seeing a successful, cooperative approach to the new legislation. In Vancouver this month, the design of such an approach is shaping up to be a hot topic at the annual gathering of B.C.-wide municipal leaders hosted by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

Downloading duties onto local governments is the issue that worries community leaders the most. Public safety issues come next, followed by a general sense that respect for local government jurisdiction and authority is at risk. And then there are all kinds of other questions, touching on age limits, revenue sharing, driver safety and where cannabis can be consumed in public.

Having canvassed a wide spectrum of opinions, UBCM is staking out some ground that will protect local interests.

One thing is clear: we are facing a short time frame for implementation of a new legalized regime. And that is why the debut of this new magazine, *BotaniQ*, is so timely. As cannabis and its versatile compounds continue to defy a lot of the

old marijuana stereotypes, there has been a need for a publication that covers cannabis issues and lifestyles. And here it is at last. I am thrilled to bring you the first issue of *BotaniQ*.

*BotaniQ* aims to offer a uniquely sophisticated perspective on the subject of cannabis in Canada today. Working in collaboration with the editors of *Vancouver* magazine, we aim to cover cannabis issues and lifestyles with insight, warmth and wit.

Don't worry, we won't be shying away from the policy issues that underpin this transition.

The plan is to publish *BotaniQ* four times a year: in September, December, March and June. There is no shortage of material.

In this, our first issue, *BotaniQ* will be looking at the diverse range of voices shaping the great Canadian cannabis debate. We'll be taking you inside the best-designed dispensaries in B.C. We have a profile of the new wave of entrepreneurs who are pouring their passion into accelerating the growth of the cannabis industry. And our interview with Jim Cessford shouldn't be missed if you are interested in the law enforcement issues around cannabis dispensaries. Cessford served as a police officer for 47 years and brings a unique perspective to the conversation, committed as he is to ethics, public trust, professionalism and safety.

Getting this far has taken real leadership from our government for a large-scale and responsible public-health approach to this still-controversial topic. Now please join *BotaniQ* as this amazing journey unfolds. **Q**

---

*Barinder Rasode is the executive director of the National Institute for Cannabis Health and Education (NICHE), an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides impartial and evidence-based research about cannabis production and use in Canada.*





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In the courtyard of Arther Erkson's Waterfall Building, behind the waterfall.



# REIGNING SUPREME

*How a passion for the cannabis plant has moved from the backroom to the boardroom.*

BY Fabian Dawson, Associate Editor

**Down to Business**  
John Fowler (left) and Navdeep Dhaliwal in their Toronto office.

**A**s a budding lawyer at the University of Ottawa, John Fowler's passion for cannabis was often met with curiosity, derision and suspicion. But in the years since his time at law school, Canada's stance on cannabis has changed immensely. Today, Canada is a global leader in commercial medical cannabis and soon to become the first G7 nation to legalize recreational cannabis—and Fowler's passion is now met with interest, excitement, and investment.

Fowler's story mirrors the evolution of the nation's cannabis debate, which has moved from the backroom to the courtroom to the boardroom, as the process to legalize cannabis in Canada gathers steam.

In a fast growing multi-billion-dollar Canadian industry that has been primarily shaped by the courts, Fowler's pedigree as a patient rights advocate, lawyer and cannabis cultivator, is a rarity. Those qualities gave birth to 7ACRES, a cultivation-focused Licensed Producer of cannabis with a



“Our mission is to turn our passion for the plant into a thriving business that produces high-quality cannabis at a commercial scale.”

— John Fowler, CEO of Supreme Pharmaceuticals Inc. (TSXV:FIRE)

state of the art, cultivation facility in Kincardine, Ontario on the shores of Lake Huron, about 225 km northwest of Toronto.

“Our mission is to turn our passion for the plant into a thriving business that produces high-quality cannabis at a commercial scale,” says Fowler, the CEO of Supreme Pharmaceuticals, which owns and operates 7ACRES. The facility spans more than six football fields and utilizes hybridized, modular greenhouse technology to maintain quality as the operation scales. “By combining the best practices of indoor cultivation with the natural power of the sun, we get indoor-quality buds with sun-grown quality characteristics,” Fowler explains. “Sun-Grown” cannabis has developed a strong demand and following. 7ACRES is a business-to-business focused Licensed Producer, selling bulk cannabis to legal retailers for resale to the medical industry, and in the future, recreational consumers. All cannabis produced by 7ACRES will be resold with producer’s mark indicating it as “Sun-Grown by 7ACRES.” “Think of it like ‘Intel Inside’ for the cannabis industry where our mark is a symbol of quality,” states Fowler. “Focusing on cultivation allows us to develop proprietary value by building the infrastructure, management systems and expertise needed to scale cultivation in a regulated industry. The intellectual property and expertise we develop in Kincardine can be deployed domestically and abroad. Distribution and retail will always be geocentric but cultivation can be standardized, exported and adjusted for environmental factors globally.”

Like all things botanical, you reap what you sow. To ensure integrity of cultivation, Supreme established an alliance with top international cannabis seed developer Dinafem Seeds. Since 2002, Dinafem has worked to develop an extensive library of sativa, indica, hybrid and CBD-based genetics. It has also pioneered the research and development of feminized and auto-flowering cannabis seeds. “It is critical to start from seed to ensure our plants are ideally suited to our hybrid facility and our business objectives,” says Fowler, who, at 29, is one of the youngest CEO’s in the cannabis industry.

Fowler’s long-term goals for the company are guided by a clear vision to lead and innovate with a talent pool that is young and enterprising. For financier Navdeep Dhaliwal, a Chartered Accountant by training, the cannabis industry is an ideal industry to make a positive social impact globally and turn passion into profit.

With an extensive background in Capital Markets, Venture Capital and international growth

of new ventures, Dhaliwal, 36, is the president of Supreme. He believes there is an unprecedented opportunity for Canadian cannabis companies to become global leaders given the significant advantage they have operating in a Federally legal jurisdiction and access to capital.

“While there is a lot of excitement in the cannabis market there is often a lack of focus on long term value creation. The emergence of a recreational market is a windfall opportunity for Supreme. But our focus is building proprietary value, or a ‘moat’ as Warren Buffett puts it, to make us competitive in the long run,” says Dhaliwal. “Our focus is producing high quality cannabis and maintaining quality as we scale over multiple acres. Our goal is to become the top high-end cultivator in Canada and replicate that globally.” Supreme is expecting to invest significantly over the next two years in both hiring and construction, to see the 7ACRES facility in Kincardine fully built out by 2019. At full capacity with upwards of 300 employees the facility’s production will skyrocket to about 1,000 kilograms per week in 30 grow rooms, which amounts to approximately \$200 million to \$300 million in revenue from just the first facility.

“Regardless of whether you’re a medical user or a recreational user, the quality of the product is what matters,” says Dhaliwal. “Our brand is built on quality. We want our producer’s mark to mean something to the consumer, to be a statement of quality. We believe this is a profitable philosophy for Supreme and our retail and distribution partners.”

Writing in the *Financial Post*, James West of the *Midas Letter* (which has been covering the best of Canadian publicly traded and private companies for over 30 years), described Supreme as one of the best-run, fastest-growing marijuana stories in Canada. “I’ve been following all of the marijuana companies since the launch of ACMPR rules and I believe that Supreme is, at this point, the best horse in the race,” West concluded.

Barinder Rasode, the executive director of the National Institute of Cannabis Health and Education (NICHE) hailed Supreme’s commitment to develop a cultivation protocol that could help establish standards in the industry. “We need to build a reputation for quality and best practices alongside a well-regulated environment to position Canadian producers, both big and small, as the best in the world,” says Rasode. “As such, we need the sharing of research and best practices developed by companies like Supreme to help all levels of government create a safe and successful cannabis industry in Canada.” **Q**





**Green Thumb** At the state-of-the-art 7ACRES facility, it's always time for harvest.

# PLANET OF THE VAPES

Tech evangelist **Jer Baum** is always searching out the latest gadgets and gizmos—and that includes the hottest new tech embraced by the cannabis industry. In this inaugural issue of BotaniQ, Baum looks at some of the vaporizers offered up by the Evergreen Cannabis Society in Vancouver, designed to make a leaner, cooler and healthier experience.



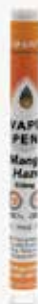
**Arizer  
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This high-quality vaporizer manufactured in Kitchener, Ontario, has a dual-option operation (choose a whip or bag) for different types of users. As a competitor to the more well-known Volcano, the Arizer is a more cost-efficient way to spend your dollar, equipped with a remote control, this device lets you enjoy your chill session hands-free.



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**Cannatek  
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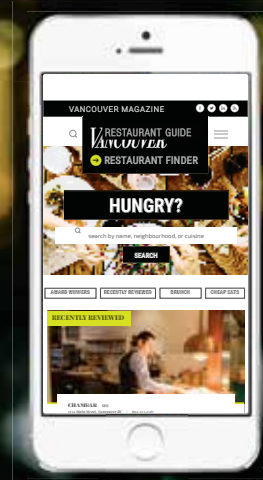


Photo by Clinton Flussey

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# THE CANNABIS COUNTER

*The House of Commons health committee, which is conducting public hearings on the government's plan to legalize marijuana, is being bombarded with numbers. Here are just a few of them.*

BY **Fabian Dawson**, Associate Editor

**33%** Over a third (36.4 percent) of consumption in Canada is projected to come from people in the 15 to 24 age group. In 2014 to 2015, **33 percent of grade 12 students reported using cannabis** at least once in the last year.

**\$5 Billion** The Craft Cannabis Association of BC (CCABC) says that a **thriving cannabis industry**, estimated at \$5 billion, already exists and is the backbone of the local economy of many communities in British Columbia and elsewhere in Canada.

**32%** When retail marijuana businesses opened in Colorado in 2014, there was a **32-percent increase in marijuana-related traffic deaths**. During the same period, all traffic deaths increased by only 8 percent. Marijuana-related traffic deaths were approximately 20 percent of all traffic deaths.

**170,000** There are upward of 170,000 **patients who use cannabis** for medical purposes in Canada. Under the guidance of a healthcare provider, patients use medical cannabis to manage symptoms from a variety of illnesses, including arthritis, HIV/AIDS, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and cancer. According to Health Canada, 65 percent of patients authorized to possess medical cannabis as of June 2013 were diagnosed with "severe arthritis," and this remains a significant group for medical cannabis under the current regulations.

**60,000** Each year we spend more than a billion dollars to enforce cannabis possession laws, arresting about **60,000 Canadians for simple possession**—which is nearly 3 percent of all arrests. At least 500,000 Canadians carry a criminal record for this offence.


**35%** In a forum research poll of Ontarians conducted in late June 2016, 35 percent of those polled said **they prefer pharmacies as a distribution point** for cannabis over the liquor store and dispensaries. Canada's pharmaceutical distributors execute over 240 million order lines annually, with greater than 99.9-percent accuracy.

**400** With more than 400 **chemical agents**, the understanding of the long-term effects of cannabis, as well as the potential health benefits, is still evolving. Continued research into the effects of cannabis is critical to ensure that healthcare providers have the appropriate knowledge of this drug and that patients are able to use cannabis as safely as possible.

**10,000** Comparatively, contraband tobacco is a major problem in Canada. The RCMP has identified about 175 criminal gangs involved in the trade, together producing as many as **10,000 cigarettes a minute** in 50 illegal factories operating in Canada.

According to recent public opinion research, Canadians have little trust in the cannabis industry. When asked about how much they **trusted different industries** to do what's right for Canadians, respondents placed the marijuana industry last among 20—at just **13 percent**—according to Environics Communications.

**198,000%** Based on consumption trends from the U.S. and assuming full legalization (medical and recreational) in 2018, a Mackie Research Capital Corporation report predicts that **cannabis-oil consumption in Canada** is expected to grow from 284 litres in 2015 to 562,613 litres by 2020 (a 198,000-percent increase). Dried marijuana consumption is expected to grow from 6,388 kilograms to 110,034 kilograms over the same period (a 1,600-percent increase).

 Although research on edibles is limited, the psychoactive effects of orally consumed cannabis are known to be different from smoked cannabis because of how it is metabolized in the body. Smoking cannabis induces psychoactive effects within minutes, whereas it is known to take about 40 minutes **to feel the effects** when cannabis is orally consumed.

**25% to 30%** According to the recent Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, cannabis is the most-used illicit drug in Canada. In particular, **25-to-30 percent of adolescents report past-year cannabis use**.



# CANNABIS PROFESSIONAL SERIES

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# BUDDING BEAUTIES

*A new wave of dispensaries embraces a sophisticated design sense.*

BY Sujinder Juneja

**B**y global or even North American standards, Vancouver's marijuana dispensaries have a long way to go when it comes to incorporating cutting-edge design elements into their storefronts.

Until very recently, most of Vancouver's nearly 200 marijuana dispensaries invested little in the design and visual appeal of their stores. Seemingly by default, stores tended to follow one of only two style templates. The first model was inspired by a stoner teenage dorm room fantasy, with giant neon marijuana leaves buzzing angrily in the front window, walls haphazardly clothed with black-light posters of dancing psychedelic bears, and counters littered with tattered and overflowing cardboard boxes of rolling papers, pipes and pills. The second template was much more clinical, positioned more like a doctor's office than a retail outlet, with iron-barred windows, hospital-green painted walls, and a labyrinthian series of checkpoints that not only kept customers away from the product, but also denied friendly opportunities for education and demystification.

Perhaps these storeowners were too worried about being shut down by the city or raided by

police to put time, money or effort into a modern makeover. But since February, when the B.C. Supreme Court allowed cities to regulate marijuana dispensaries, progressive proprietors have had the breathing room to entice customers with a sophisticated look that matches style with substance and stays in step with mainstream attitudes about weed.

Here are five stores that we think represent the next wave of modern dispensary design in Vancouver.

## LEAVES OF ZAZIE

Just off Main Street, **Leaves of Zazie** is nestled within a bright, cozy, high-ceilinged, cream-coloured room that celebrates the latest arrivals via a backdrop of clipboards decorated with colourful chalkboard drawings. With a rotating selection of around 20 choices of bud, the store neatly arranges its tightly curated selection of oils, tinctures and accessories on sparsely filled shelves. The worn fir floors offer a sense of warmth and history, blending nicely with the smoke-grey painted wooden desk and small glass display case, all illuminated under steel pendant lights. 109 East Broadway, [leavesofzazie.com](http://leavesofzazie.com)



### EVERGREEN CANNABIS SOCIETY

Across town, the husband and wife-owned **Evergreen Cannabis Society** (inset), launched in 2015, is ingrained with a holistic philosophy that extends to the welcoming vibe of the store. Featuring large floor-to-ceiling windows that openly invite passersby to take a closer look, the store is about to undertake a major aesthetic facelift. Embracing a “West-Coast-meets-B.C.-craft-brewery” design, the space will offer couches for studying or quiet conversation, and showcase original paintings from local artists. 2868 West 4th Ave., [evergreencannabissociety.com](http://evergreencannabissociety.com)



### THE VILLAGE DISPENSARY

Transitioning off the busy street to a peaceful courtyard that leaves the chaos of the city behind, you'll find the **Village Dispensary** (below), a space consciously designed as a higher-end



retail portal, meant to welcome all who stepped within (even if they might confuse the coffee-shop-cool dispensary for a JJ Bean). Brightly lit, the room features many natural elements, including metal, glass, polished blond woods and exposed concrete—a fusion they call “Scandifornian.” Some of the store’s scattered flashes of colour come from odd bits of jewellery and other baubles that staff and customers have donated to the space, perhaps in reverence for its special place in the community. And with a bold branding upgrade in the works, the store will soon be even more visually pleasing. Inner courtyard, 206–1540 West 2nd Ave., [thevillagedispensary.ca](http://thevillagedispensary.ca)

### BUDDHA BARN

Just a few blocks eastbound from Evergreen and up a short flight of stairs, **Buddha Barn** (below) features ivory walls, clean white floor tiles and sparkling alabaster counters wrapped in rich, natural wood. Together, these features give the whole room a boutique and spa-like feel, allowing its loyal fan base to peruse the latest strains in Zen-like bliss. 2179 West 4th Ave., [buddhabarn.ca](http://buddhabarn.ca)



### AURA HEALTH STUDIO AND DISPENSARY

Intended to house both a dispensary and a full-service natural health clinic, the dispensary section is all that remains until it too undergoes a full-scale transformation in the coming months. What **Aura** (below) has going for it is the most attractive and forward-thinking branding in the city. All signs are professionally designed and printed using their singular font, nothing handwritten. To create an experiential environment, customers are invited to open the display jars themselves if they want to get a whiff of the fresh bud. Aura’s bold hexagonal logo adorns gift boxes, water bottles and other ephemera, making each visit an elevated experience. 1316 Kingsway, [aurahealthstudio.com](http://aurahealthstudio.com) Q



# BIG BUSINESS

*With legalization on the horizon, businesses are getting ready to capitalize on a whole new market.*

BY Caleb McMillan

**L**ast year, Shoppers Drug Mart, Canada's largest pharmacy chain, applied to Health Canada to become a distributor of licensed medical cannabis. At the time it made sense. The newest users of cannabis weren't—and still aren't—teens and young adults, but aging baby boomers who would rather shop at a familiar drug store than at a dispensary. With federal government permission, anyone can become a licensed producer of medical cannabis—but Shoppers wanted to be a distributor, and that can only be accomplished through direct mail-order for now.

But come July 2018, pharmacies across the country are hoping that will change. As the bill stands, the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations remains untouched, but there are exemptions built in for the Minister should he or she decide pharmacy is the way to go. While Shoppers and PharmaChoice declined to comment for this piece, Rexall spokesperson Derek Tupling says that his own company is “figuring out what role pharmacy may or may not be able to play in the medical marijuana business.”

“When the federal government introduced their legislation there was no mention of or indication of pharmacy being a distribution point or an opportunity for pharmacy to sell medical marijuana,” Tupling explains. Until cannabis is given a Drug Identification Number, or DIN, pharmacies are handicapped by regulations. But as provincial governments use liquor control boards to ready themselves for recreational legalization by July 1, 2018, there are other corporations preparing to capitalize on the upcoming opportunities.

Two licensed cannabis producers, Organigram and Canopy Growth Corp., are partnering with the New Brunswick government for exclusive sales to the public. And the Ontario government has made it clear they will be supplying from Canada's 58-and-counting licensed producers, although, according to the provincial Ministry of Finance, “many aspects of the retail and distribution framework remain to be determined.”

Jordan Sinclair, director of communications and media for Canopy Growth, says the company is pursuing a “diversity of strategies that suit different purposes.” For example, Canopy has partnered



with artist and entertainer Snoop Dogg to supply patients with the “Leafs by Snoop” brand. Snoop already licenses his image in places like Colorado.

But a different kind of licensed producer remains unsure of the future. Capitalizing on the law change for them means staying out of jail, or at least clogging up the courts, losing their assets and potentially losing their property.

Chad and Tania Jackett head Liberty Farms, a quiet hobby farm in the foothills of British Columbia. The place is like any farm property you’d encounter in B.C. There are goats, ducks, chickens, a vegetable garden and three hefty akita’s roaming the grounds. What makes Liberty Farm unique is its Health Canada licence to grow medical cannabis. Like some 30,000 Canadians, Chad and Tania were issued legal exemptions in the 2000s. It allowed them to grow numerous plants for themselves and a few designated persons. This type of licence doesn’t permit sales, but, like so many in British Columbia, the Jacketts can’t ignore the relief medical cannabis provides.

“Right now we’re being demonized by people claiming dispensary owners and the existing

market are in it for the money, as if we’re multinational corporations or subsidized by tax dollars,” says Chad. “Without us being here, there would be many patients that would be dead or suffering or left without their medicine.” With a combined licence to grow hundreds of plants, the Jacketts felt it was their moral duty to help those without the means to medical cannabis. In 2015, to serve patients better, Chad and Tania opened Grass Roots Dispensary in Squamish. Later licensed by the municipality, the example, say the Jacketts, is proof that good people work in the so-called black cannabis market.

They aren’t the only “other” licensed producers in British Columbia, and their dispensary is hardly the only one. Given its illegality, the exact size of B.C.’s cannabis market is hard to determine, but some estimate it’s between \$2 to \$7 billion.

Everything now hinges on how British Columbia’s government responds to its provincial responsibilities under the federal Cannabis Act.

“We’d like to stay open and serve our community and the patients,” says Tania, “but everything depends on somebody else’s decisions.” **Q**



# Q&A *with* JIM CRESSFORD

*Canada's longest-serving chief of police calls for public consultation on cannabis legalization.*

BY Jenni Baynham

**W**

hen he retired back in 2015, Jim Cessford had been the chief of police for the Delta Police Department for two decades, with a career spanning 47 years. So when it comes to the law, this guy knows what he's talking about. We sat down with Cessford to talk cops, weed and public safety.

---

## **FIRST OF ALL, ARE YOU PRO-LEGALIZATION?**

Well, I support decriminalization. We are long past making simple possession a criminal offence. The federal government has made the decision to legalize cannabis and they've garnered a lot of support for it, so we—the police force—have to be ready for that.

## **IN WHAT WAY?**

Well, from my perspective, instead of resisting change we have to realize it's come upon us. It's happening in the U.S., and now it's happening here, and we need to work with that rather than against it. I can work with the legalization; there are just some things that have to happen from a public-safety perspective. There's definitely a lot to be done before July 1.



---

### **WHAT DOES LEGALIZATION HAVE TO DO WITH PUBLIC SAFETY?**

There are certainly some main areas we need to focus on. We need to know what the enforcement and pricing scheme would look like in order to [try to] eliminate the black market. What would the law look like? What is the pricing going to be? If they don't come up with a proper pricing scheme and look at taxation then we won't eliminate the black market.

### **WHY NOT?**

Because there's always a market for cheap drugs. And if illegal drugs are cheaper than legal drugs, well... that's that. Legalization won't eradicate the black market, but it might take some of those sales away.

### **WHAT DOES LEGAL CONSUMPTION LOOK LIKE TO YOU?**

That's what everyone's talking about right now. Is the legal age of consumption a provincial decision or a federal decision? Should it be 19 or should it be 25? I think the government has to come to terms with the fact that this is happening and get out there to have a public consultation.

### **WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE DONE?**

From a policing perspective, the technology still doesn't exist for roadside screening. We need a functioning breathalyzer so that law enforcement can detect drugs in the driver's system for roadside testing; that's really, really important.

### **DO YOU THINK THERE WOULD BE AN INCREASE IN IMPAIRED DRIVING?**

Yes. Numbers in the U.S. indicated that fatal motor accidents increased quite a bit after the legalization of marijuana. We absolutely have to be able to detect usage and keep these people off of the road.

### **IF THAT TECHNOLOGY DOESN'T EXIST YET, WHAT CAN BE DONE IN THE MEANTIME?**

We should be training law enforcement in drug recognition. There are experts in that field that conduct an extensive training course so that police officers are able to recognize what a person high on drugs looks like, and what their actions are like. The problem with that is that right now we don't have enough trainers available to train all the police officers in Canada.

### **WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE NEWS THAT FENTANYL HAS BEEN FOUND IN STREET-LEVEL CANNABIS?**

The fact is that we need to deal with the opioid crisis. If people are going to continue to buy marijuana from the black market, you could see an increase in instances of fentanyl. You could also see dealers turning to other synthetic drugs, which might magnify the situation. I do think we need to focus on the legalization of cannabis, but personally I think the fentanyl crisis just has to come first.

### **HOW WOULD YOU MAKE SURE LEGAL CANNABIS WOULD BE "CLEAN"?**

I think we would have to do a proper accreditation of growers and distributors—that will make things a lot safer straight off the bat. Right now, we don't have a great idea of what's going into the cannabis that's being distributed, so people are putting themselves at risk. Legalization would give us the chance to regulate that.



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**DO YOU THINK THE POLICE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH LESS CANNABIS-RELATED CRIME?**

Not at all—I think they'll have more work to do than before. Like I said before, impaired driving, or people who can't afford drugs who are still committing property crimes. In Ontario, their new policy speaks to the fact that you can consume cannabis in your own residence, but not outside—it has to be done on private property. What happens then is that you have people calling the police to report people smoking in public places; they want the police to come out and take action against these people. I can see the police being really burdened by that. Both the federal and the provincial government will have to take a look at a way to offset police costs.

**GOOD POINT: WHO'S ACTUALLY GOING TO ENFORCE THE NEW LAWS?**

Exactly. Another example of that is that there will be certified growers and distributors. Somebody is going to have to check on the licences for those. Does the person selling cannabis actually have their paperwork in place? Is their licence valid? Somebody is going to be tasked with dealing with that, and dealing with illegal distributors who will no doubt continue to sell.

**WHAT ABOUT PERSONAL WEED USE? WOULD YOU NEED SOME SORT OF PAPERWORK FOR THAT?**

The federal government is currently assessing a proposal by which people can grow up to a maximum of four plants in their private residence. There's still going to be a requirement for the police to monitor this, because who is going to check that people have only grown four plants? The police will still have to respond to calls about this. Don't get me wrong, over time, as the policy settles, it might not tax the police so much. But initially, I believe there will be a huge demand on police time. People won't be familiar with the policies or the regulations, and who do you think they will call to ask?

**WOULD THEY GO AHEAD WITH THE LEGALIZATION WITHOUT HAVING ALL THESE DETAILS WORKED OUT?**

I know the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police have said they're not ready for July 1. My opinion of that is they're just not sure what they're going to be facing, and that creates a lot of uncertainty.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK EXACTLY NEEDS TO BE DONE?**

From my perspective, this is a public health and safety matter. Everyone can enjoy the legalization of cannabis—or the people who want to can—but there will always be those who ruin it for others, maybe those that sell in the black market or start selling cheaper alternatives to cannabis. What I would like see done is a public consultation across Canada.

**WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO ASK PEOPLE?**

We need to know what the general public wants cannabis legalization to look like. What would the legal age be? We need to make sure as many people as possible are on board, and we are all coming from a safe place. It's important for me to say the main objective should be to prepare Canadians for legalization. In B.C. we've just gone through an election, we have a new government, and, for the most part, people haven't come to the realization that cannabis is going to be legalized. It's not a crisis and we don't need to panic, but we need to have things done in a safe and orderly fashion. **Q**



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# WASHINGTON STATE OF MIND

*Five years in, here's how legalization has shaped our neighbours in the Pacific Northwest.*

BY **Piper Courtenay**

In November 2012, Washington State legalized recreational marijuana. And almost immediately, things started to change.

“Within a month of the law having passed, prosecutors across the state dismissed current pending charges for possession of marijuana,” says attorney Alison Holcomb, reflecting on the early days of legalization. Existing charges at the time were arguably still viable cases, as Initiative 502, the law decriminalizing recreational marijuana, was not retroactive. Prosecutors, however, decided to take a stance, responding boldly to the message from voters that they would no longer support statewide prohibition. “Anybody who was breaking the law before its passing could still be prosecuted,” adds Holcomb, who wrote I-502. “The fact that all of these adults had their criminal charges dismissed, no longer had to go to court, no longer had to deal with the stress of possible criminal conviction, was, to me, one of the most significant benefits of legalization.”

Now, five years later, leaders of the fledgling cannabis industry take great pride in the integration of pot into mainstream society, but the overwhelming sentiment is that there is a lot of work left to do. Policy makers, once stuck between a model of criminal prosecution and a model of public health, are still hamstrung by the disparities

between the tangible benefits of legalization and the promises made during the campaign.

## **POLICY PIONEERS**

Over the past several decades, Washington State has approved a handful of policies regulating both recreational and medical marijuana. Between 1998 and 2011, laws surrounding the cannabis industry have fluctuated to set taxation standards, include patient rights, define parameters and tackle issues stemming from collective grow operations. Seeing a system comprised of several different bills and regulatory bodies, activists began to realize the years of new legislation had left the cannabis community in Washington unstable, with a foggy legal framework. There needed to be a clear law decriminalizing the cannabis industry. Enter Alison Holcomb and Initiative 502.

In 2012, alongside Colorado, Washington became one of the first states to legalize recreational marijuana—a shift that not only provided a concrete legal foundation from which a viable industry could grow, but also unified recreational and medicinal users. Under Initiative 502, adults 21 and older could purchase, consume and possess marijuana through state-licensed dispensaries. All avenues of regulation were appointed to the Washington State Liquor and



Cannabis Board (LCB), including setting testing standards, approving licences and creating a set of inventory and production rules.

Three years later, Senate Bill 5052 set its sights on incorporating the medical marijuana industry into the new regulatory system. As of July 1, 2016, any illegal dispensaries that once served the longstanding medical community were forced to close or transition into licensed retailers. Much like recreational marijuana, all sales are now taxed, packaged and tested subject to a standard set of requirements before being sold.

Led by an alliance of politicians, dispensary owners and civil rights advocates, these initiatives promised an array of statewide improvements. With an increase in tax revenue and social funding, a decrease in crime and mass incarceration, a levelling of racial disparities in the justice system and a restructuring of law enforcement resources all on the table as potential positive side effects, the access to high-grade recreational marijuana seemed to be the least convincing of the arguments to legalize.

Once the movement to end prohibition began to gain momentum, opposition came from both sides. Some feared that legalizing would increase drug-related DUIs and marijuana use by minors, and they challenged the argument that decriminalization would yield the assured benefits to revenue and crime. The anticipated pushback came from law enforcement agents who weren't ready for a rollback on the criminal prohibition of drugs. "They essentially used the same arguments that led to the prohibition in the first place—that drugs are the things tearing apart the fabric of society and the best way to combat problematic drug use to treat it as a crime rather than a public health issue," says Holcomb. Similarly, those who were benefitting from the illicit drug trade and stood to lose economically from legalization resisted the proposition. The unexpected source of

opposition, however, came from within the cannabis community. Pot activists expressed concerns about the strict regulatory framework proposed by I-502, suggesting it didn't go far enough. Instead, they believed state control was a new form of prohibition. "In their mind, it was almost as bad as having criminal prohibition in place," says Holcomb.

Jump forward five years, and a pattern of positive and negative impacts across all sectors shows that both sides of the debate were, in some way or another, right about legalization.

## SEEING GREEN

Washington has seen massive statewide commercialization and exponential economic growth. According to the LCB, as of February 2017 over 2,697 recreational licences have been issued. Preliminary data for this fiscal year shows that as of January 2017 recreational and medical marijuana sales have generated a combined total of over \$8 billion. According to some of the top industry leaders, this rapid expansion yields both profits and problems.

"It was explosive growth," says AC Braddock, CEO of Eden Labs. "Fortunately, we planned for it and our infrastructure was able to handle it, if just barely." Along with the economic boom, she says, fiscal expansion wasn't the only improvement in the industry since legalization.

For over two decades Eden Labs has been leading the industry in extraction technology, primarily with plant oils for herbal medicine. Long before legalization in Washington, the Seattle-based company had a noticeable customer base of pot entrepreneurs searching the market for machines to safely produce high-quality cannabis oil on a large scale. In an interview with *Seattle Business* magazine, Eden Labs founder Fritz Chess said legalization had dramatically increased business. With the bulk of sales now going to cannabis extraction, Eden Labs went from four full-time employees in 2011 to 17 salaried employees and 7 contractors in 2014. "We've pretty much tripled our size, tripled our growth and tripled our income," said Chess.

One of the most notable effects, Braddock notes, is an increase in gender equality among industry leaders. Eden Labs is presently one of the top 10 fastest growing women-led companies in Seattle, but Braddock recalls a time when seeing only a few women in a room of 100 men was the norm at cannabis-related events. After legalization, however, she began to notice a visible decrease in the gender gap. "Around 2014, it changed dramatically," she says. "Suddenly, half of the room was women." She attributes the spike to organizations like Women Grow that are dedicated to cultivating business and investment opportunities for women in



the cannabis industry. According to a survey conducted by Marijuana Business Daily, women hold approximately 36 percent of the leadership roles in the young industry. “It’s pretty well documented now that the number of female CEOs in the industry far exceeds other industries in the U.S.,” says Braddock.

## TO SERVE AND PROTECT

Once I-502 passed, law enforcement policy devolved from tackling a criminal offence to a civil enforcement priority. While the raw data measuring the post-prohibition effect on crime is mixed, advocates living in Washington say the evidence of overall improvement is tangible.



“Women hold approximately 36 percent of the leadership roles... the number of female CEOs in the industry far exceeds other industries in the U.S.”

— AC Braddock, CEO of Eden Labs

Braddock suggests, however, that not all byproducts of legalization were helpful to the cannabis community. She says one of the

leading issues threatening the industry today is the abundance of misinformation and a lack of education. “One of the biggest changes we saw to the industry was the amount of people getting into it based on a Green Rush mentality,” she says. “Many of them didn’t really have a complete understanding of where the industry was going and how to manage its growth.” A massive influx of business owners, growers and investors, many coming only equipped with knowledge based on long-established products like tobacco or liquor, quickly exposed a learning curve imbedded within the commercial side of cannabis. “It is a brand-new industry and it doesn’t work the way that they think it’s going to,” says Braddock. Last year alone she attended over 30 speaking events across the United States, Costa Rica and Canada—mainly to promote new extraction technologies, but also armed with the mission of rectifying some of the murky knowledge surrounding product development.

“This isn’t a short-term [investment opportunity] at all, and a lot of them think it is,” says Braddock. “It puts tremendous amount of pressure on the existing infrastructure of the industry.” Rachel Kurtz, business development manager at the National Cannabis Industry Association (NCIA), says that despite the negative effects of the Green Rush, the overall impact of decriminalization on business has been overwhelmingly positive. “The options now for buyers are massive,” she says. “Everything is tested for pesticides, consumers know where everything comes from... the dosage is safer, and the process of buying is much safer.”

“[The police] were wasting enormous sums of money, ruining careers and fracturing lives. We were actually contributing to a lack of public safety,” says former Seattle police chief Norm Stamper. After 34 years of experiencing the War on Drugs as a law enforcement agent, Stamper refers to his activism as an anomaly in police thinking. His outspoken support of I-502 may have garnered opposition from his fellow colleagues, but his experience allowed for a rare perspective. He says that while behind closed doors many police officers supported ending the prohibition, one of the main drivers behind their public opposition was a factor that very few people discussed.

“Legalizing marijuana in the minds and hearts of many police officers [felt like society] was saying what they have done for, in many cases, decades was a waste of time,” he says. “That they were somehow engaged in activity that did not contribute to neighbourhood safety or public health. It kind of turned into an existential question.”

Additionally, many officers feared that more cannabis would end up in the hands of youth and there would be a rise in impaired driving. “They had kind of a doomsday script in mind,” says Stamper. “Most of them really did believe the sky would fall if Washington were to legalize.”

It turns out that law enforcement is the same as other sectors of society, facing a push and pull of positive and negative effects of legalization. This makes it exceedingly difficult for advocates to prove a distinct link between their efforts to end prohibition and their original promise to reduce crime.

“502 had tremendous impact. So many of the activities that were once considered crimes are no longer considered crimes,” says Holcomb. “The number of arrests varied between upwards of six to nine thousand every year, with between

two and three thousand being filed as criminal charges. Those numbers dropped to just 120 the year after 502 passed.”

If only it were that easy. One may rightly assume a drop in arrests or fewer violent crimes indicates a positive link between decriminalization and law enforcement; however, a report published this month by the Washington State Institute for Public

reputable testing mechanism that can be used in the field,” says Stamper, citing this as a potential reason for discrepancies in traffic statistics. “Nobody should be driving impaired, whether it’s marijuana or any other drug. We need to create technology that is fair, just and reliable.”

While the numbers may not show a consistent correlation, Stamper says that the proof is evident.

“One of the problems with marijuana enforcement is the absence of a legitimate and reputable testing mechanism that can be used in the field.”

— Norm Stamper, former Seattle police chief

Policy (WSIPP) shows that the connection is not so simple to nail down. One study in the report suggests there is no evidence that the change in state laws caused an increase in property and violent crimes. The same study, however, did find a link to a decrease in homicide and assault. Another study WSIPP cited found evidence that nonmedical legalization may have led to a drop in rape and murder rates, while a different study found the increase in arrests pertaining to cannabis-specific crimes were in fact associated with medical legalization in 2014. According to the Seattle Police Department, both violent crime and property crime have steadily declined over the past two decades, but they say that has no significant link back to decriminalization.

This muddy collage of numbers and studies make defining the effect of legalization on crime rates incredibly difficult. There are some areas, however, in which the impact is measurable—validating some of the points made by both proponents and opponents of the law.

New information from a Washington State Healthy Youth survey and the WSIPP report corroborate the evidence that youth use has remained virtually unchanged for over a decade. Legalization didn’t in fact increase the amount of drugs ending up in the hands of Washington’s high school-aged kids. While this may help dispel some of the initial fears held by the opposition, there are areas in which their worries are arguably being validated. According to the Marijuana Impact Report released in August by the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program, concerns regarding drug-related DUIs have been legitimized. The report, citing the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, states that the percentage of THC-positive drivers by day has more than doubled, from 7.8 percent in 2014 to 18.9 percent in 2015.

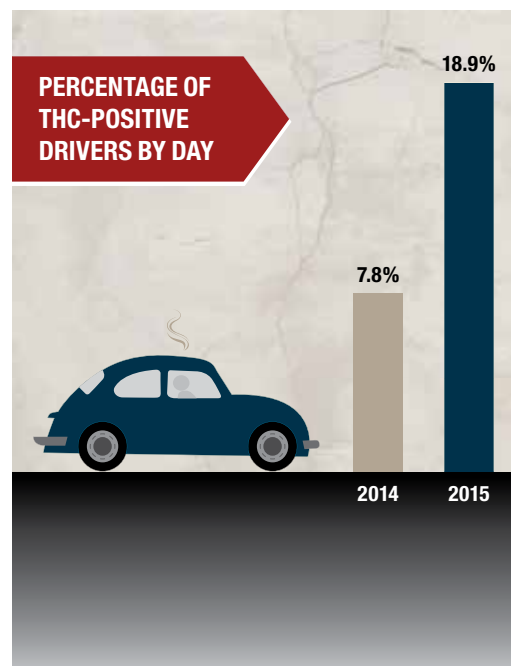
“One of the problems with marijuana enforcement is the absence of a legitimate and

“For the longest time, police officers have pretty consistently lined up in opposition to legalization; now it’s fundamentally reversed,” he says. “The sky did not fall.”

## RACIAL TENSION

One of the explicit arguments in favour of I-502 was that legalization would help eradicate the racial disparities existing in cannabis-related arrests. Unfortunately, while marijuana arrests dropped dramatically in Washington post-prohibition, racial profiling and the disproportionately high arrests of minorities still remain an issue. According to a study by Mike Males, a senior researcher at the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, African-Americans are still two times more likely to be arrested for marijuana-related offences.

“While the sheer number of people being impacted by law enforcement in connection with cannabis has dropped significantly, the ratio of discrimination hasn’t changed,” says Holcomb.





“We do have a real problem with racial discrimination,” agrees Stamper, who believes this is the area that currently needs the most attention. “It’s an implicit bias, if not blatant racism, on the part of too many police departments and too many police officers.”

### THE BLACK MARKET

Washington approached business licensing with a lottery, which unfortunately counteracted the original hopes of reducing black market activity. Existing illicit businesses and new hopefuls were placed into the same pool, with an equal chance of becoming a state-regulated dispensary. Any store that did not make the cut was officially operating illegally and was instructed to shut down—though many continue to operate, at a high level of risk. “Current medical stores that had no way of getting into the new adult-use market just continued underground, contributing to the illicit market” says Rachel Kurtz of the NCIA.

Kurtz says that the market in Washington is imbalanced, with some cities producing too much product while others have been left with virtually no legal stores or growers. This means that cross-border dealing from places with a surplus of marijuana is still prevalent, while individuals in areas with scarce resources are forced to buy from the black market. “The best answer to getting rid of an illicit market is to legalize it federally,” she says. “That way anybody can get licence and [excess product] can get exported.”

## GOING FORWARD

Measuring the long-term effects of legalization with only a margin of five years is almost an impossible task. Changes in crime rates, industry fluctuations and social developments have really only just begun to show a discernable link. What is apparent, however, is that legalization was the right move for Washington State. The group dedicated to passing the law in the first place is still highly active in building on their original work, in hopes of seeing more definitive positive impacts across all sectors.

Holcomb says that while many initially opposing views have since been moderated after experiencing the benefits of a regulatory system, there still continues to be objections to the current framework. “It’s healthy that opposition exists,” she says cheerfully. “We should continue to evolve the policy based on a growing real-life experience with how the current structure is growing.”



### FARMING AT HOME

With Washington being the only legalized state not to allow for individuals to grow their own plants, a statewide movement has manifested to secure home cultivation in the next round of legislation.

“It was not included primarily due to political concerns that including an allowance for home grow would jeopardize the measure passing in the first place,” says Holcomb. After public opinion research showed that including a home growth provision was a cause for concern, policy makers decided they wouldn’t risk the whole initiative. “Every detail that might push support one way or another was important,” says Holcomb. “I do believe it is time to revisit that question.”

Kurtz personally agrees. “Look at beer, for example. Some of the best microbreweries come from individuals who had a hobby of brewing at home and decided to expand,” she says. “It’s unfortunate that people aren’t able to get a licence anymore or grow at home, because [the industry] is missing out on people who may be really good at growing.” **Q**





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# CANADA'S GOING TO POT

*Associate editor Fabian Dawson takes a quick look at the diverse range of voices that is shaping the Great Canadian Cannabis Conversation.*



## THE DOCTORS

**T**he Canadian Medical Association (CMA), which unites over 85,000 physicians on national health and medical matters, wants the legal age for consumption to be amended to 21, to better protect the most vulnerable population—youth—from the neurological developmental harms associated with cannabis use. It states that once the act is in force, there will be little need for two systems (i.e., one for medical and one for non-medical cannabis use). The CMA also says that the medical profession does not need to continue to be involved as a gatekeeper once cannabis is legal for all, especially given that cannabis has not undergone Health Canada's usual pharmaceutical regulatory approval process.

## THE LANDLORDS

The Canadian Federation of Apartment Associations (CFAA), which represents the owners and managers of one million residential rental suites in Canada (through 11 associations across the country and direct landlord memberships), wants the law to prohibit marijuana growing or processing in multi-unit dwellings and in rented

dwellings of any size. Smoking marijuana should be banned anywhere that smoking tobacco is banned, it says. In addition, CFAA says landlords should be able to ban the smoking of tobacco or the smoking of marijuana. The private rental housing sector provides close to four million rental homes for nine million Canadians of all ages, incomes and situations.

## THE LOCAL POLITICIANS

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is the national voice of municipal governments in Canada, representing nearly 2,000 cities, towns and rural and northern communities that together comprise more than 90 percent of the Canadian population. It expects municipalities to be on the front line of enforcing local zoning and density bylaws, along with matters related to the minimum age of purchase, personal cultivation, personal possession limits, smoking restrictions and public nuisance complaints. The FCM wants Ottawa to give it the necessary financial resources for the initial implementation costs of a regulatory framework, and to cover the additional costs of public education, prevention and treatment,





administration and ongoing research. FCM is also calling for municipal participation in the development of a price and taxation regime, to ensure that legalization does not download financial burdens to the local level.

### THE PHARMACISTS

Canada's 40,000 pharmacists, under the umbrella of the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA), believe that the new legislative framework for cannabis in Canada should restrict the use of terms such as "dispensary" and pharmacy-related symbols such as a green cross for the recreational distribution of cannabis. It wants federal government support to include pharmacists in the management and distribution of medical cannabis, and a clear distinction between recreational and medical cannabis.

### THE NURSES

As the national professional voice for over 139,000 registered nurses and nurse practitioners in Canada, the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) wants to see a national cannabis tracking system that would prevent cannabis from being diverted to an illicit market or activity, and to prevent illicit cannabis from becoming a source of supply in the legal market. It also wants to see the tracking of sales of cannabis in relation to its proximity to the sale of alcohol, as well as a significant investment in public health and public education programs like current harm reduction messages related to tobacco use.

### WOMEN (*Well... Some of Them*)

REAL Women of Canada is a non-partisan, non-denominational, pro-life women's organization, with an overarching purpose of promoting traditional marriage, and maintaining the definition of a family (which it calls the most important unit of society) as a man, a woman, and children. REAL Women of Canada says that Bill C-45 should not be passed into law, claiming it will cause great damage to hundreds of thousands of people. The organization is pushing for the prevention of cannabis use, saying it is a gateway drug and that 90 percent of addiction starts with the use of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana.

### THE THINK TANK

The C.D. Howe Institute, an independent research and advocacy group concerned with public policy, is seeking a ban on the consumption of marijuana in any establishment that sells alcohol. It is suggesting a Netherlands model, where "coffee shops" that sell marijuana and allow consumption on the premises cannot offer alcohol.

### THE INDUSTRY

The National Institute for Cannabis Health and Education (NICHE) is a not-for-profit corporation that advocates for legislation, regulation and business policies that will support the safe transition to legalization in Canada. Among other issues, NICHE wants the establishment of clear quality expectations and standards. "Ideally, a curriculum would be developed in conjunction



with licensing, ensuring that producers with superior expertise and evidence-based training are given priority status to receive a licence,” says NICHE. It also wants staff in any retail storefronts to be professionally trained to mitigate potential negative drug interactions and overdoses.

#### **THE PUBLIC HEALTH WATCHDOG**

The Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) is an independent voice for public health in Canada, promoting health equity, social justice and evidence-informed decision-making. CPHA wants advertising and marketing restrictions to minimize the profile and attractiveness of cannabis products. It says the near-complete ban on tobacco advertising and restrictions on advertising alcohol are approaches that should be used as examples for any control mechanisms developed for the marketing and advertising of cannabis products.

#### **THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY**

The Arthritis Society, along with Canadians for Fair Access to Medical Marijuana (CFAMM), is recommending the removal of sales tax for medical cannabis, given that prescription medicines are not subject to tax. It also wants medical cannabis to be authorized as a therapeutic product so it can receive a drug identification number (DIN) and therefore improve its eligibility for coverage and facilitate reimbursement under public and private health insurance plans.

#### **THE FIRST NATIONS**

The objective of the National Indigenous Medical Cannabis Association (NIMCA) is to promote and defend the Indigenous relationship to the cannabis plant. It says that Bill C-45 and any enabling regulations must ensure Indigenous sovereign, inherent and treaty rights. It wants the proposed law to have clearly defined language “that protects our sovereign and inherent rights to grow, cultivate, process and dispense cannabis and hemp and all their products freely within our nations and Treaty lands and territories.” It is also seeking the inherent right to govern and regulate its own Indigenous cannabis industry.

#### **THE COPS**

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) says a primary concern in Canada is drug-impaired driving. It is urging the federal, provincial and territorial governments to develop an enforcement regime that discourages drug-impaired driving, enhances public safety and provides for efficient and effective enforcement. The CACP strongly recommends that governments increase investment in Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) and associated officer training to improve law enforcement’s ability to detect and remove drug-impaired drivers from Canadian roads.

#### **THE PEDIATRICIANS**

The Canadian Paediatric Society, which represents more than 3,000 pediatricians, wants dispensaries to be prohibited from being located

close to elementary, middle and high schools, licensed child care centres, community centres, residential neighbourhoods and youth facilities. It is also seeking a ban on the marketing of cannabis-related products using strategies or venues that attract children and youth, including “candy-like” edibles, “giveaways” and promotion through social media. In addition, the society is recommending the screening of children and youth for cannabis exposure and/or use, and the education of families on the health risks and harms associated with cannabis.

### THE NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS


The College of Naturopathic Physicians of British Columbia (CNPBC) says many patients view their members as primary care providers, and patients in B.C. have been seeking advice from CNPBC registrants concerning medical cannabis. “With a documented history of robust regulation and specifically prescribing authority in B.C., it is submitted that the College of Naturopathic Physicians of B.C. could effectively regulate patient access to medical cannabis,” it says.

Québécoise des Dépanneurs en Ailmentation—have banded loosely together to express serious concern about the labelling and packaging of retail cannabis. This collective has stated that there is a correlation between plain packaging and illegal consumption, as evidenced by studies on tobacco use in Australia and France. The group concurs with its international affiliates that plain packaging makes price the primary purchase motivator and that this opens the door to illegal purchases. It wants branding to be allowed on cannabis retail packaging to reduce the ability of criminals to produce and distribute contraband product and to minimize the impact of lowest price point by allowing legal consumers to make informed decisions on their product choices.

### THE SMALL GROWERS

The Craft Cannabis Association of British Columbia (CCABC) says that the already existing cannabis industry, estimated at \$5 billion, is an economic necessity for many small communities in B.C. It wants The Cannabis Act to include regulations and licensing to accommodate small-

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 *Failing to allow a transition of existing dispensaries would leave many thousands of people with medical conditions in a serious health crisis, and be a discredit to the medical cannabis advocates who have risked their liberty to help people in need.”*

— The Canadian Association of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries (CAMCD)

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CNPBC says this will alleviate the bottleneck in access created by the limited numbers of nurse practitioners and medical doctors currently prescribing medical cannabis.

### THE LAWYERS

Fasken Martineau is a leading international business law and litigation firm, with more than 700 lawyers across Canada and in the U.K. and South Africa. The company’s research shows that each year over 2,000 Canadians are killed in motor vehicle accidents, many involving transportation employees, and over 800 workers are killed in workplace accidents. It is suggesting that the Canada Labour Code be amended to prohibit workers from entering a workplace under the influence of cannabis or other drugs without prior medical authorization and employer approval. It is also recommending the code be amended to permit employers to conduct random testing of workers for cannabis and other drugs in “safety sensitive positions.”

### THE CONVENIENCE STORE OPERATORS

Convenience stores operator alliances from across the country—from the Ontario Convenience Stores Association to the National Convenience Store Distributors Association to the l’Association

craft producers and processors. The CCABC contends that many consumers have come to know and love the choice of regional strains, edibles and handcrafted topicals available from the craft market. It says the new regulations must include the producers and distributors that have been serving these consumers, or the black market will continue to thrive.

### THE DISPENSARIES

The Canadian Association of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries (CAMCD) wants the government to take the necessary steps to incorporate the existing supply chain into the legal system, and to respect the product diversity that patients and consumers rely upon. “Failing to allow a transition of the country’s existing dispensaries would leave many thousands of people with medical conditions in a serious health crisis, and be a discredit to the many medical cannabis advocates who have risked their liberty to help people in need,” it says. The CAMCD is also asking that product diversity under the proposed laws be expanded further to include products currently available in dispensaries, like edibles, concentrates and topical ointments. Excluding these, it says, would leave many patients without the products they’ve come to depend on, and would facilitate a steady stream of consumers to the illicit market. **Q**





# BUDDHA BARN

## MEDICINAL CANNABIS



DEAR FRIENDS,

After 3 years operating on West 4th Avenue in the City of Vancouver, Buddha Barn received a Business License in 2016 to operate as a marijuana dispensary. One of the reasons we have been successful in attracting thousands of Members over the years is because their health and well-being is our top priority. This is one of the reasons why Buddha Barn started lab testing our products last fall. Since then, Health Canada has started random testing and the Cannabis Canada Association of federally licensed producers is implementing new safety standards. This is the future of our sector. It is time to insist on testing for all products now to protect the health of consumers.

Buddha Barn has now gone recreational, so medical cannabis membership has never been easier! In addition to clear labeling and making test results available to our Members, Buddha Barn's safety policy promotes testing by federally regulated laboratories, labelling and making results available to our members upon request.

Read the policy at [buddhabarn.ca](http://buddhabarn.ca) or visit us in person.

Yours truly,  
The Buddha Barn Team

New members are  
always welcome.  
Membership has  
never been easier.

2179 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver  
Phone: 604-739-9456  
#insistontesting  
[buddhabarn.ca](http://buddhabarn.ca)



# CARIBBEAN SPLIT PEA SOUP WITH CANNA-PUMPKIN PURÉE

For adults only. Gluten-free.  
Prep and cooking time: 1 hr, 30 min.  
Serves 4.

*It's official: autumn is here, and we're loving it. Bubbling hearty soups, warm kitchens and friends gathered around the dinner table is what makes life's little moments a big deal. Incorporate the bounty of fall vegetables and the healing qualities of turmeric, ginger, cumin and cannabis oil into this rich pumpkin soup to relax the brain and soothe the body. (Remember: when adding your dosages, the rule of thumb is to start slow, and go low.)*

## Canna-Pumpkin Purée

1 medium pumpkin  
¼ cup Greek olive oil  
½ cup finely diced onions  
1 thumb-sized piece of fresh ginger, grated  
4 tsp Cannabis olive oil (1 tsp Cannalife Indica  
Strain: Pink Bubba = 20 mg THC)  
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400°F. Slice top off pumpkin, remove innards and pour in Greek olive oil and place diced onions inside. Replace the pumpkin "lid" and pop in the oven to roast for 40 minutes. Scrape out cooked pumpkin flesh and drain excess juice in a colander placed over a bowl (retain liquid for the soup). Add ginger and blitz in a food processor. Measure in 4 tsp of Cannabis olive oil and give it a quick blitz. Add salt and pepper to taste. Divide into 4 servings and set aside.

## Caribbean Split Pea Soup

2 tbsp Greek olive oil  
1 tbsp butter  
1 cup thinly sliced leeks  
1 tbsp minced garlic  
1 small Thai chili, smashed  
4 chicken thighs, skinless and boneless, diced into bite-size pieces  
1 tsp organic turmeric powder  
1 tsp organic cumin powder  
6 cups chicken broth, plus leftover pumpkin juice  
2 cups cooked split peas  
2 cups diced potatoes  
2 cups sliced carrots  
½ cup chopped celery  
2 handfuls spinach  
Salt and pepper to taste  
4 lime wedges

Heat olive oil, butter and leeks over low heat and sauté gently. Add garlic and chili, increase heat to medium, and fast fry. Toss in chicken, brown on all sides and sprinkle with turmeric and cumin. Stir well to give it all a quick roast. Pour in all liquids and the split peas. Stir well and bring to a simmer. Add remaining vegetables and simmer for 25 minutes, until cooked through. Season with salt and pepper and divide into 4 servings. Top with one serving each of canna-pumpkin purée, place a wedge of lime on top of the pumpkin purée and serve immediately. (Placing the purée on top allows diners to decide how much of a dose to consume; they can spoon off some of the purée, or go bold and mix it all in.) Add a dash of lime juice to balance the flavours. Add more citrus to reduce "headiness." Citrus cuts the effects of THC.

## How did it affect our test diners?

**DINER 1:** 90-pound, 27-year-old female dancer with shoulder pain

**Result:** relaxed, less pain, felt a bit of a heady vibe

**DINER 2:** 170-pound, overworked 30-year-old male singer

**Result:** 9 hours of uninterrupted sleep

**DINER 3:** 150-pound, 35-year-old male, recreational marijuana user

**Result:** tingly relaxation, no headiness

**DINER 4:** 165-pound, mid-50s male, corporate lifestyle, restless sleeper

**Result:** slept soundly, woke up energized



Samantha "Sam" McLeod, founder of [Eathical.ca](http://Eathical.ca), is an avid food writer, author, photographer and video producer. If you have a recipe or a cannabis-related food product that you would like Sam to try out, contact her at [samanthamcleod1@gmail.com](mailto:samanthamcleod1@gmail.com).





# BUDZILLA

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Based in Vancouver, Budzilla sells medical cannabis, infused edibles and concentrates. Budzilla's main mission is to focus on 3 key elements:  
research and development to create quality medicinal ingredients;  
sourcing the finest NON GMO, local organic ingredients;  
and setting leading standards within the dispensary industry.

All Budzilla products are laboratory certified which enables us to develop consistent, controlled, and concentrated products. We create most of our concentrates and have a wide selection with prices that cannot be matched!

Budzilla can treat specific conditions with specific remedies. Our medical cannabis provides patients with relief from physical pain due to chronic and/or terminal illness(es) symptoms, psychological trauma, addiction, extreme anxiety and/or stress disorders. Some of the most prestigious Budzilla products help cure various cancers, stops violent seizures, helps regulate chemical imbalances and help stimulate appetite. Our medical products help relieve patients of symptoms without the damaging side effects of toxic pharmaceutical pills.

Budzilla is a safe place, wheelchair accessible and friendly towards your needs.

**2267 Kingsway in Vancouver @ the corner of Kingsway and Nanaimo**

**[budzilla.ca](http://budzilla.ca)**

**[facebook.com/BudzillaDispensaryClinic](https://facebook.com/BudzillaDispensaryClinic)**

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# Join the Conversation on Cannabis Legalization in Canada

The National Institute for Cannabis Health and Education (NICHE) is a not-for-profit corporation created to support the safe transition to legalization. By partnering with government, academia and industry NICHE will support the design and implementation of legislation, regulations and business practices that protect the health and safety of Canadians.

The role of NICHE is not to act as subject matter experts in any particular field, but rather to identify and bridge knowledge gaps that exist in the following areas:

- Public Health and Safety
- Education
- Legislation and regulatory reforms
- Research and best practices
- Industry Standards and Accreditation

NICHE is a vital resource in the transition to legalization. As an independent research and education facilitator, NICHE can bridge the gaps that often occur between government, industry and the public thereby assisting in a more efficient transition to legalization.

**Visit our website  
[www.nichecanada.com](http://www.nichecanada.com)  
and join the conversation today.**

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