

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



"The continued prohibition of cannabis jeopardizes the health and well-being of Canadians much more than does the substance itself." - Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs, 2002

**Cannabis prohibition, just like alcohol prohibition, does not work, and will never work.
It's time to try a different approach.**

Police and politicians are doing the public a disservice by promoting the idea that more enforcement and harsher sentences will solve the problem. Prohibiting cannabis keeps the market underground, inflates prices, and attracts organized crime. Increasing the penalties for growing cannabis will only increase the amount of organized crime involvement and therefore increase the amount of violence as well. Is that what YOU want?

Costs associated with cannabis prohibition:

- "We estimate the cost of enforcing cannabis drug laws to be closer to **\$1-1.5 billion** per annum."
- Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs
- Cannabis prohibition is used to justify huge police budgets and sweeping powers
- Enforcing cannabis laws diverts valuable police time and resources away from more serious crimes
- Inflated black market profits attract organized crime and promotes corruption at all levels
- 30,000 - 50,000 Canadian citizens are charged with simple possession each year
- 1.5 million Canadian citizens now have criminal records for possession of cannabis.
- The futility of enforcing cannabis laws promotes disrespect for police and the law

Benefits of legalizing and regulating cannabis:

- Growers would be licensed and subject to inspection.
- Age limits on sales, quality controls and accurate product information.
- Take away funding for organized crime.
- Free up police resources for serious crimes.
- Tax revenue collected from sales. (**\$Billions** annually)
- A fraction of the money saved (and the revenue earned) could be put towards enforcing our border, keeping cannabis from being exported to the U.S., but **more importantly** keeping hard drugs and guns from entering into Canada from the U.S.

53% of Canadians support the idea of legalizing and regulating cannabis.

In a legal, regulated market cannabis could be sold in a manner similar to wine.

Cannabis Information Resources:

CFDP.ca CannabisFacts.ca FrankDiscussion.net MedPot.net/forums
NORML.ca CannabisLink.ca CannabisCoalition.ca TheMarijuanaMission.com

"Scientific evidence overwhelmingly indicates that cannabis is substantially less harmful than alcohol and should be treated not as a criminal issue but as a social and public health issue."
- Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs, 2002 Report: **www.SenateReport.ca**