

May 4, 2018

Attn: Mr. R.J. Simpson
Re: Cannabis Legalization

1. My name is Tim Harris. I apologize for this format as I was unable to locate an employment centre for local job opportunities, nor a business centre with computer and printer access.
2. I attended your forum last night and was not at all surprised when the primary concern was preparedness. The unfortunate stigma of those who use cannabis and the criminality associated with its use have made various public inquiries unreliable and should not be used as a primary source of data.
3. I have been smoking cannabis since I was 26 years old (50 years old) for various work and sports related injuries including: broken neck, collar bone, shoulder blade, nose; blown knee and torn achilles tendon. I do not use edibles. I do not like them. I require the smoke to keep my sinuses clear and find it a faster method of getting the medicine to the pain. I also have PTSD.
4. I am here from Saskatoon where the statistics for arrest are easily 20% higher than anywhere else in Canada. Very tough on cannabis use. Although still technically illegal, (~~leniency~~) leniency has been granted allowing them to operate under probation for two years. I have been a client for one.

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5. Since Bill 6 was released, I have been actively advocating, educating, facilitating and problem solving with Federal, provincial and local governments. I am current, knowledgeable and experienced.

6. I have reviewed all materials provided at your forum last evening. These are my preliminary recommendations:

a) Cannabis, where ever possible, should not be equated to tobacco or alcohol.

b) A distinction needs to be made between cannabis which is high in CBDs (medicinal) and cannabis which is high in THC (recreational). These seem to be a point of confusion with the public.

c) In terms of guidelines for territorial controls, I believe 25 years old is a more responsible age requirement thus eliminating enforcement issues by having a very clear line.

d) I foresee the recommendation of a two-tiered system, limiting potency for those 19-25 will lead to many administrative and enforcement difficulties and unforeseeable costs to the territory.

e) I am in favor of the test market idea allowing two years up and running before the introduction of dispensaries.

- f) Pricing, as a control, should be considered more thoroughly. As per your documentation, the federal government will be applying a \$1/gram tax. You should explore the same.
- g) There may also be additional revenue generated on transport and additional charges.
- h) Higher "luxury item" pricing is also an option.
- i) The combination of points f), g), and h) may help with controlling youth consumption being an expensive luxury.
- j) Regarding the use of liquor stores as the point of sale, I would advise against this. There exist able reports discouraging the mixing of alcohol and cannabis making this appear contrary to the objective.
- k) Regarding issues as to where cannabis can be smoked, I do not feel as if the current smoking area by-laws are adequate. As for highways and roads, this suggests that there is a driver involved.
- l) Regarding addictions counselling, approximately 15 years ago there was a federal, perhaps provincial, program called S.A.M. (Substance Abuse Management). A very good program that eliminates ineffectual abstinence programs and encourages responsible use.

m) In terms of health insurance coverage for medicinal cannabis, I recommend you see some of the work in Nova Scotia where medicinal cannabis for work related injuries is tabled and being debated.

n) Finally, I think the fastest route to stabilization before July 2018 deadline is to consider the mail order model. (~~where~~ ~~at~~ ~~date~~) However, with a modification making Hay River and Yellowknife as the sole points of distribution. Not a store front rather, using Natural Sciences (Saskatoon), as a point where diagnosis can be made, orders, etc then either for pick up or delivery arrangements made from there.

7. Finally, it is here sir that I am formally asking for the job. I have mediated, educated, and facilitated this transition to Cannabis legalization. In addition to the above I have also been certified with: non-violent conflict resolution, crisis intervention and suicide intervention, and am knowledgeable when it comes to addictions counselling.

8. Thank you for your time and consideration. Shane Thompson is my local contact and I request that a copy of this document be sent to him as well.

Sincerely,

