

Youth Perspectives on Cannabis Policy in Canada

*The M Word: Exploring Perspectives on the
Legalization of Marijuana and Safe Schools*
October 6, 2016

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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
FOR SCIENCE IN DRUG POLICY

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Youth Consultations



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Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy GET HAPPY

YOUTH SPEAK: Cannabis Policy in the 21st Century
Wednesday, September 7, 2016 | 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM



Submission to the Task Force

Ten recommendations covering:

- Age Restrictions
- Criminalization of Youth
- Prevention & Education
- Production, Distribution, & Access Restrictions

**Input From Attendees at
"Youth Speak: Cannabis Policy in the 21st Century"**

**Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy Submission to the
Task Force on Marijuana Legalization and Regulation**

DATE:
September 20, 2016

PREPARED FOR:
Task Force on Marijuana Legalization and Regulation
Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health
Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Mr. Bill Blair, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice

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SUBJECT:
Input From Attendees at "Youth Speak: Cannabis Policy in the 21st Century"

Age Restrictions

Rec. 1: Age restrictions around cannabis access should be as low as possible, with the recommendation of not exceeding legal drinking ages across provinces.



Age Restrictions

Rec. 2: Medical access to cannabis should remain a separate system without age restrictions, but should require physician support.



Criminalization of Youth

Rec. 3: Youth offenses outside the regulated system should be decriminalized. Criminal sanctions should be replaced with alternatives such as mandatory education, fines, and/or community service.

“Young people who possess, use, or distribute cannabis must not be worse off under legalization than they were under criminalization.”

- Participant at “Youth Speak”

Criminalization of Youth

Rec. 4: Past youth criminal records for simple possession and sale of cannabis should be expunged.

A photograph of a 'REQUEST FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK' form on a wooden desk. The form is white with black text and lines. A blue pen lies diagonally across the bottom half of the form. To the right of the form is a black calculator. In the background, a blue cup is partially visible. The form has the following sections and fields:

Personal Information			
Name (Last)	First	Middle initial	Birth date
Address (Mailing Address)			
E-Mail Address			
Services needed			
Do you have a? Yes No			

Prevention & Education

Rec. 5: Cannabis education should prioritize the development of youth’s “cannabis literacy” by including evidence-based assessment of risks, harm reduction principles, and not passing judgment on use.



Prevention & Education

Rec. 6: Cannabis education should start as early as possible with age-appropriate content, be created with the input of youth and young people, including those who use cannabis, and delivered by a trained facilitator or peer.



Production, Distribution, & Access Restrictions

Rec. 7: Home cultivation of cannabis should be permitted under the new regulatory regime.



Production, Distribution, & Access Restrictions

Rec. 8: Cannabis should not be distributed alongside alcohol, as this would likely exacerbate public health concerns associated with polydrug use.



Production, Distribution, & Access Restrictions

Rec. 9: Distribution of cannabis should include the provision of cannabis education to patrons.



Production, Distribution, & Access Restrictions

Rec. 10: People with past non-violent cannabis-related charges should be permitted to participate in, and benefit from, the new legal market for cannabis.

Monitoring Youth Outcomes

- Objective from the Discussion Paper:
 - Conduct ongoing data collection, including gathering baseline data, to monitor the impact of the new framework
- What are some of the key indicators for youth?
 - Use, availability, perceptions, attitudes
 - Impaired driving
- Improve national evidence base



Thank you!

Questions? Comments?

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