

Why We Are Needed...

A recent National Post poll showed that **93% of Canadians support the decriminalization of medical cannabis.**

The Vancouver Island Compassion Society is a non-profit group dedicated to supplying affordable, medical-grade cannabis to patients throughout Victoria and Vancouver Island and to plan, participate in and promote research into the use of medicinal marijuana, THC, and other cannabinoids.

Many people suffering from incurable diseases in the greater Victoria area currently use cannabis to alleviate their conditions, yet until now there has been no official organization in place to ensure the safety and quality of their medication, to monitor use, or to track patient welfare. The VICS has been founded to undertake this important public service.

This will allow for a more consistent source of medicine for members of the society as well as creating a **safe, professional atmosphere** for the distribution and monitoring of medicinal cannabis and other natural therapies.

Who can join the VICS?

There is irrefutable medical evidence that cannabis can alleviate symptoms of the following conditions:

- 1. Nausea and vomiting** associated with cancer and HIV/AIDS therapies.
- 2. Wasting Syndrome:** to stimulate appetite and produce weight gain in HIV/AIDS and cancer patients.
- 3. Multiple Sclerosis:** for the relief of muscle pain and spasms.
- 4. Epilepsy:** to help reduce the frequency of epileptic seizures.
- 5. Glaucoma:** to lower intra-ocular pressure.
- 6. Hepatitis C:** to alleviate pain, itching and fatigue; to help with treatment.
- 7. Fibromyalgia:** to alleviate chronic muscle aches and fatigue.

The VICS will register applicants with a **valid medical doctors recommendation** for cannabis use. As there is much anecdotal evidence that the symptoms of other conditions can be treated with cannabis use, (chronic pain syndrome, spasticity disorders...) the VICS will also register anyone with a **valid medical recommendation** for cannabis use for conditions other than the seven listed above.

Recent Medical Marijuana News

Under pressure from the courts, Health Canada has now granted over 600 chronically ill people an exemption from the Canadian Drugs and Substances Act, thus affording them the right to cultivate and use cannabis as a medicine. Although the VICS has a clear mandate to supply our members with medical-grade cannabis, it is our goal to encourage and educate patients in how they might grow their own supply of medicine and thus avoid the black-market element associated with the illegal drug trade.

Anyone currently wishing to grow a personal supply of medical cannabis or wanting it supplied for them legally should phone or write to:

**Health Canada
Office of Cannabis Medical Access
Drug Strategy and Controlled
Substances Programme
Healthy Environments and
Consumer Safety Branch
Address Locator:3503B
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1B9**

The form required is the Medical Marijuana Access Regulations application. It can be found online as well.

Time Costs Lives!

Cannabis is safe:

The LD-50 (median lethal dose) of cannabis is between 1:20,000 and 1:40,000. This means that one would have to smoke nearly 1500 pounds of cannabis within about 15 minutes to induce a lethal response. In 3000 years of therapeutic and recreational use there has never been a single reported death due to use or treatment or a single incident of lung cancer associated solely with cannabis inhalation.

Cannabis is medicine:

As a result of recent court decisions, the federal government has recognized the medical need of some critically and chronically ill Canadians for cannabis, and has proceeded with the cultivation distribution of its own poor quality, non-organic product.

Medicinal Cannabis Now!

Although Health Canada has started a \$240,000 peer-reviewed clinical trial at McGill University designed to study the effectiveness of smoked cannabis on chronic pain, distribution is currently limited to study participants. It is imperative that patients presently struggling with life-threatening or incurable diseases have access to a safe, affordable supply of cannabis from an environment that is conducive to healing.

Our Mandate:

The Vancouver Island Compassion Society believes that those currently suffering from ailments which can be alleviated by the use of cannabis should be allowed to do so without police harassment or criminal prosecution.

It is our mandate to supply cannabis to patients with valid medical documentation in a controlled atmosphere while ensuring strict safeguards against abuse. The VICS believes that in addition to medical marijuana, members of the society need the following for complete holistic care:

Trust Honesty & Compassion

The VICS is committed to supplying the best possible health care to its members; it is our sincere hope to soon see Health Canada do the same.

In order to add to our knowledge and understanding of therapeutic cannabis, the VICS is currently involved in research with the University of California, San Francisco, as well as the University of British Columbia.

The Vancouver Island Compassion Society



“[The VICS] has provided that which the government was unable to provide: a safe and high quality supply of marijuana to those needing it for medicinal purposes.”

-B.C. Provincial Judge Higinbotham

**For information/donations
call (250) 360-8955**

or

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www.thevics.com