

Why We Are Needed...

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

Many people suffering from chronic or critical conditions in greater Victoria currently use cannabis to alleviate their conditions, yet under Health Canada's current program, there is no means for community-based access to medical cannabis and cannabis-based therapies.

The Vancouver Island Compassion Society (VICS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a safe source of medical-grade cannabis to patients throughout and beyond Vancouver Island. We are also working to increase our knowledge and understanding of medicinal cannabis by initiating and participating in peer-reviewed research investigating the therapeutic potential of raw cannabis and other cannabis-based therapies.

Since 1999, the VICS has provided its members with a high-quality source of medicine within a safe, professional atmosphere that's conducive to healing.

Who Can Join the VICS?

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

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

As there is much anecdotal evidence that the symptoms of other conditions can be treated with cannabis use, (chronic pain syndromes, spasticity disorders...) the VICS will register any applicant with a valid medical recommendation for cannabis use.

Recent Medical Marijuana News

Under pressure from the courts, Health Canada has now granted over 4000 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.

Anyone currently wishing to request an application to Health Canada's Medical Marijuana Access Division can contact them at:

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

Or call the MMAD toll free at:

1-866-337-7705

The form required is the Medical Marijuana Access Regulations application, and it can also be found online at:

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/marihuana/how-comment/applicant-demandeur/index-eng.php>

Time Costs Lives!

Cannabis is safe:

The LD-50 (median lethal dose) of cannabis is between 1:20,000 and 1:40,000. An individual 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 high court decisions and clinical research, the federal government has recognized the medical need of some critically and chronically ill Canadians for cannabis, and has proceeded with the cultivation and distribution of a single strain of poor quality, non-organic cannabis product.

Medicinal Cannabis Now!

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 (VICS) believes that those currently suffering from ailments which can be alleviated by the use of cannabis should be allowed to do so without discrimination, persecution or the fear of arrest.

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 Respect Honesty & Compassion

For applications to join the VICS and/or for additional information on the many medical conditions that can benefit from the use of cannabis, please visit us on the Internet at:

www.thevics.com

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

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