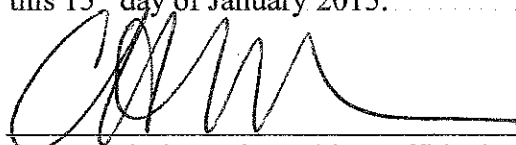


This is **Exhibit "JJ"** referred to in the  
Affidavit of **JEANNINE RITCHOT**  
Affirmed before me at the City of Ottawa,  
in the Province of Ontario,  
this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal tail stroke, positioned above a solid horizontal line.

A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits

From: [REDACTED]  
 To: consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca  
 Subject: 11-07-20-47comments on changes to medical marijuan program  
 Date: 2011-07-20 01:52 PM

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GREETINGS,

MY NAME IS [REDACTED] AND I AM A LICENSED HOLDER FOR THE MEDICAL USE OF CANNABIS AND FOR PRODUCTION.

I AM COMPLETELY DIGUSTED IN YOUR PROPOSED MEASURES AND YOU WILL BE MAKING A BAD PROGRAM EVEN WORSE IF YOU ALLOW THESE CHANGERS TO GO THROUGH. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION TO WHAT YOU'RE PROPOSING AND THERE WILL BE MANY GROUPS FORMED AS WELL AS MORE COURT CHALLENGES IF YOU DO NOT STOP THIS LUDERCROUS BEHAVIOR. I WILL NOT BE SUPPORTING IT AND ALL IT WILL DO IS SEND MORE PEOPLE TO THE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD.

FIRST OF ALL, THE NUMBER ONE PROBLEM WITH THE OLD PROGRAM IS THE FACT THAT DOCTORS WERE UNWILLING TO SIGN YOUR FORMS. THIS PROBLEM MUST BE ADDRESSED FOR I WAS INVOLVED IN THE RECENT COURT DECISION DONE BY COUNCIL PAUL LEWIN WHO SUCCESSFULLY CONVINCED THE COURTS THAT THE DOCTOR ISSUE IS THE MAIN ISSUE. YOU MUST MAKE IT SO THE DOCTORS DON'T HAVE THE CHOICE OF SIGNING OR NOT SIGNING. AS ADULTS WE MUST BE ABLE TO CHOOSE OUR OWN MEDICATIONS. HAVING DOCTORS PUSH GARBAGE PHARMACEUTICAL AFTER PHARMACEUTICALS IS A CRIME. YOU CAN ALLEVIATE THIS BY MAKING IT NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE A DOCTOR SIGN OFF. THE ONLY REQUIREMENT THAT SHOULD BE IN PLACE IS THE FACT THAT YOUR DOCTOR IS AWARE OF YOUR SICKNESS AND YOUR CHOICE. YOU SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST TRIED PHARMACEUTICALS BEFORE TURNING TO MARIJUANA. THIS WAY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION CAN'T INTERFERE IN AN ADULT'S CHOICE? THE DOCTORS WERE ALL SCARED TO SIGN AND THIS MUST BE CHANGED..

THE NEXT ISSUE IS THE FACT THAT YOU WANT TO TAKE AWAY PERSONAL PRODUCTION LICENSES. THIS IS SO WRONG AND DOES NOTHING TO STOP THE PROBLEMS YOU ARE USING TO JUSTIFY THIS DECISION. IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT COMMUNITIES AND HOME INVASIONS THEN YOU SHOULD ONLY LOWER THE AMOUNT THAT IS GROWN IN ONE'S OWN RESIDENCE. SIMPLE. IF YOU TAKE AWAY MY RIGHT TO PRODUCE MY OWN STRAINS AT A CHEAP PRICE I WILL GO UNDERGROUND AND SO WILL SO MANY OTHERS. THEN YOUR COURTS WILL BE AT ENDS TRYING TO CONVICT ME FOR SAVING MY LIFE, GUARANTEED UNDER THE CHARTER...HARPER IS A GOOF BUT HE CAN'T CHANGE THE CHARTER THANK GOD...; WE WILL ALL DRAG THIS THROUGH THE COURTS AND YOU WILL BE WASTING MORE OF OUR TAX MONEY ON THESE USELESS CONSULTATIONS THAT WE FEEL YOU WILL IGNORE US ALL ANYWAYS...WILL YOU ACTUALLY LISTEN TO US OR IS YOUR MIND ALLREADY MADE UP?????. IT IS NOT THE FASCIST HITLER; I MEAN HARPER THAT YOU SHOULD BE LISTENING TO IT IS THE MEDICAL USERS. PLAIN AND SIMPLE. IF YOU DO THIS YOU WILL MAKE THE PROGRAM EVEN WORSE AND YOU WILL BE PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESS TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION ASPECTS. THIS WILL KILL THE BENEFITS. PROFITS WILL BECOME THE MOTIVE, NOT PATIENT HEALTH...

PLEASE FIX THE DOCTOR ISSUE AND PLEASE, I BEG YOU, DO NOT TAKE AWAY MY PRODUCTION LICENSE, YOU WILL DESTROY ME AND PUT BACK ALL THAT I HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO FIX. I AM NOT THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT; I AM AN INDIVIDUAL THAT HAS COMPLETELY TURNED MY LIFE AROUND BECAUSE OF MARIJUANA. I AM NOW A FUNCTIONING MEMBER OF SOCIETY AND YOU WILL BE TAKING SO MANY STEPS BACK IN THE LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS WHICH IS INEVITABLE. HARPER WILL BE GONE NEXT TERM I GUARANTEE YOU AND THIS PROGRAM WILL MEET NOTHING BUT OPPOSITION IF YOU PROCEED WITH THESE PLANS.

PLEASE LET ME KEEP MY PRODUCTION LICENSE, IF ANYTHING JUST REDUCE THE AMOUNT ALLOWED PRIVATELY GROWN. NO ONE WILL INVADE A HOUSE FOR 2 PLANTS WILL THEY?

STOP THIS INSANITY

WITH THE UTMOST RESPECT AND SINCERITY

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marijuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marijuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-26-78 Comments  
**Date:** 2011-07-26 03:39 PM

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A "Body" still needs to exist to report information to (Health Canada) as it would be necessary for law enforcement to confirm individuals are able to legally possess marijuana, otherwise arrests and arbitrary confinement may result.

Health Canada needs to enter into contracts with distributors to avoid illegal sale and distribution of products.

Using a "Package" to demonstrate a person is in legal possession of product is "Ripe" for abuse, by reuse, counterfeiting, re-production, transportation for sale...A picture ID issued by the government is the only alternative for proof of legal possession.

Giving the Producers a the free reign to price as they see fit will cause price gouging in a shortage and inferior product quality in market abundance.

Compliance to standards must be enforceable by police as far as licensed growers are concerned.

Grand fathering of private growers must not take place.

The bonus of not having to police growers from "Rips" itself will save countless law enforcement hours and dollars.

Regulated "Spot" inspections should be a consideration as well.

From: [REDACTED]  
To: consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca  
Subject: 11-07-29-89 Proposed Improvements  
Date: 2011-07-29 03:02 PM

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To Whom It May Concern

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the proposed improvements to the Medical Marihuana Access Regulations programme.

I DO NOT AGREE WITH PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS. I THINK THEY ARE DETRIMENTAL TO THE OVERALL ACCESS TO MEDICAL MARIHUANA.

I have a concern with respect to the designated commercial producers as they will be setting the price. This opens a huge opportunity for syndicated crime to move into big production business and increasing prices once again to the often financially disabled sick persons utilizing the medical marihuana in the first place. I feel strongly that disallowing designated producers in residential areas (afterall producers who are legal only produce for 2 patients) will not allow for the low cost in production costs related to the patient who purchases and will only drive costs up and higher. I have a concern that commercial producers will be utilizing far more chemicals, and this does not allow the patient to see the growth of their medication from seed to bud product. A commercial grower will profit hugely before he has to destroy any product prior to a site inspection. The GOVERNMENT SHOULD STAY IN THIS PROGRAMME JUST AS IT IS. The wait time is not that long. Residential producers can provide the Canadian government more proof of security, fire related issues and all producers should be registered with POLICE AND RCMP just as long gun registry! This would alleviate error in police raids, and this would allow for protection of producers in their own community. As Canadian government's commercial producers thus far are far inferior, less quality, higher content of chemicals and fertilizers than a designated private personal producer, I cannot see how this programme improvement will make marihuana any more easily accessed or cheaper overall nor will I see how we can keep the HIGH QUALITY AND HIGH ORGANIC CONTENT WITHOUT CHEMICALS if we go commercial. Commercial producers will monopolize any person's ability to produce their own. I do not want to use someone else's product unless I can have my witness to the entire growth process. **THIS WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PRODUCT AND ACCESS TO MARIHUANA. I WANT MY GOVERNMENT PROGRAM AND GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT JUST AS YOU ARE DOING. IT IS WORKING!! YOU FINALLY HAVE SOMETHING THAT IS WORKING AND YOU WANT TO CHANGE IT. PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE TO COMMERCIAL PRODUCERS.**

I think Health Canada should remain with the very programme as it is now! It is working, it does alleviate abusers, more patients are having open dialogue with doctors and the regulations that you have set will be far more stringent than commercial producers. Commercial producers that are underground now, will have a joyride coming out of the closet so to speak and will absolutley monopolize the marihuana industry. There is no way they will destroy their crops and it will go to biker crime gangs etc. The little residential producer is quiet, rare to be busted, and is not stepping on any big drug crime syndicates toes, and helps this sick person to remain relatively well and painfree.

I cannot imagine having to go to a big box store commercial producer who will rake in profits off of my illness. Pharmaceutical industry type high prices making it unaffordable. Health Canada at least must REGULATE THE PRICES - DO NOT LET THESE COMMERCIAL PRODUCERS SET THEIR OWN PRICES. Keep it cheap at 5 dollars to 10 dollars per gram and NO HIGHER otherwise, you can bet it is crime related and profit driven.

thank you for this opportunity to speak about how I access my medical marihuana in a small, quiet, unaffected residential manner, high organic content, never bothered, never busted, not a security risk or fire risk, very well maintained and all within guidelines as set. I cannot imagine having to go anywhere else. This will drive marijuana production UNDERGROUND AGAIN! Welcome back to hydro boosting, theft, marijuana grow shows, increase in crime, etc. Please keep it regulated as you have it.



From: [REDACTED]  
 To: [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
 Subject: 11-07-29-147 Changes to Health Canada's Medical Marihuana  
 Date: 2011-07-29 09:42 AM

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Dear Health Canada:

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE MY RIGHT TO GROW MY OWN MARIHUANA PLANTS FOR MY  
 MEDICINE AWAY FROM ME.

My reasons are as follows;

COST - I will not be able to afford my medicine, if I have to buy it. Any  
 cost above what I am doing now will be too much.

I will be bed ridden again and my quality of life will  
 degrade.

CONTROL - Control over the quality and strain of my plants will be lost. I  
 take great care in growing and feeding of my plants. No one  
 will grow a plant the way I do for my self. I am  
 always thinking this is my pain relief and quality of life, when caring for  
 my

plants. The government has tried to grow marihuana  
 plants and the quality of the end product was not good enough or  
 strong enough or the right strain for a particular  
 disease or illness. People who will grow for profit don't care about the  
 end result like I do. The choice to feed your  
 plants organically will be gone. Again, changing the end  
 result of the medicine.

Just think of growing your own vegetables. The care  
 you take to growing those vegetables with feeding, weeding and the  
 type of soil used, Now think of growing your own  
 medicine and how you care for those plants so you may have a  
 a near normal life with less pain.

STRAINS - The strains of plants will be lost. Those people growing for a  
 business will not care about certain plants helping certain  
 diseases.

PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT TAKE MY RIGHT TO CARE FOR MY OWN PLANTS AWAY FROM ME  
 AND MY RIGHT TO CHOOSE MY  
 OWN HEALTH CARE. JUST THINK OF GROWING YOUR OWN VEGETABLES AND THE SPECIAL  
 CARE YOU GIVE YOUR PLANTS.

THANKING YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE MY OPINION STATED.

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 705- [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca); [rsnadir@distributel.net](mailto:rsnadir@distributel.net)  
**Subject:** 11-07-31-156I have never lived in a grow op(eration)! I have had some organic houseplants in my home.  
**Date:** 2011-07-31 03:49 PM

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Prohibitionist Police propaganda about cannabis growing is based on racist, outdated, exaggerated and fictional worst case scenarios!

An average Canadian family home could easily have a dozen or two house plants of various sizes. Yet ordinary suburban houses are never labelled as grow ops or considered in any way dangerous. The Children's Aid Society never rushes in and seizes the children living there to protect them from exposure to mold, mildew or dangerous levels of humidity, fertilizer and toxins from a Jade plant, a Corn plant etc. Canadians have been propogandized for generations by the State and it's prohibitionist Police drug war lords and their war on some drugs' producers and consumers.

I have previously had MMAR Personal Production Licenses and am currently waiting on a renewal. Since I live in a small ( fifty square meters ) one bedroom apartment the only space I have to grow a few organic Cannabis houseplants to produce medicine is a two square meter closet in the bedroom. The closet walls have been treated with Concrobium, a safe, enzyme based all natural solution that kills mold and mildew and keeps it from coming back without bleach, ammonia or volatile organic chemicals.

Then the closet walls were sealed with a mold and mildew proof water based latex paint ( no VOCs ). For obvious reasons I will not use any chemical products or fertilizers; my medicine will be produced to organic vegetarian standards. I will use only small amounts ( 30 milligrams ) of United States of America, Department of Agriculture, Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI ) certified safe and organic fertilizer, per plant per week of growth.

Since the closet is not a sealed room there will be no need to vapourize sulphur to prevent mildew or mold. Because the closet will be vented constantly propane or natural gas will not be burned to produce carbon dioxide to accelerate and increase plant growth as it would be vented with the warm and humid atmosphere and be wasted. I will not use soil or soilless growing mix thus avoiding mold, mildew, fungi and dust problems. The atmosphere of the closet will vent into my bedroom and the bedroom air will then be vented to the outdoors to control temperature, humidity and any natural and safe plant fragrances.

I have never had a single problem of any kind during my two previous PPL periods and have never had any police or other complaints about my methods of growing plants. They were perfected over four decades of safe and organic practise. For safety and environmental reasons I will not use a high wattage ( 1000 watt ) or high voltage ( 220 volt ) High Intensity Discharge ( HID ) grow lamp with a plasma bulb that operates at very high temperatures ( 2000 to 5000 degrees ). Also, the infrared heat and ultraviolet light a HID lamp produces would be too intense for a few houseplants in a tiny closet.

I will use energy efficient Light Emitting Diode ( LED ) grow lamps draw 250 watts and two amperes of current per unit. Each grow lamp has an on board computer controller that will constantly monitor all components functions and temperatures in real time. Each fixture will remain close to room temperature, 30 Celsius, as it has a large heat sink and a computer controlled redundant array of eight muffin type cooling fans.

The state of the art grow lamps are CE and RoHS certified; the highest standards available; they do not contain any hazardous material, or emit toxic fumes and they are completely recyclable. My LED grow lamps will not produce strong electromagnetic fields ( EMF ) so they can not interfere with medical devices. If the built in computer controller detected any anomaly in the functioning of the LED grow lamp it would automatically shut down the unit within one thousandth of a second. LED grow lamps produce no more heat and no more risk of fire than a similar wattage LED television.

The LED fixtures will be connected to a surge protector that will draw power from a residual current device (RCD). A ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) computer chip is built into the power point and will constantly monitor the balance between the energized conductor and the return neutral conductor in real time. If any anomaly should be detected, the electricity

in the circuit would be shut off within one thousandth of a second. This would prevent a harmful electrical shock if a short circuit of the built in controller and power supply in the grow lamp fixture occurred.

Redundant battery powered smoke alarms will be installed; one inside the growing closet, and another just outside my bedroom door. There is a CSA approved Carbon Dioxide fire extinguisher suitable to extinguish any electrical fire, and a CSA certified five centimetre diameter fire hose, suitable to extinguish any combustibles, at my apartment door.

No smoke or noxious odours of any kind will be produced by my production and consumption. I will use a Arizer Extreme Quiet vapourizer ( [www.arizer.com](http://www.arizer.com) ) at home and an Iolite portable vapourizer outside of my home ( [www.my-iolite.com/](http://www.my-iolite.com/) ). I live in Ottawa, when my PPL is renewed you may email me and arrange a tour of my production site.





**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-31-225proposed changes to MMAR  
**Date:** 2011-07-31 03:32 AM

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Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I received a letter from Health Canada inviting me to comment on some proposed changes in the MMAR program. And as a participant in the program I feel I should comment because some of these changes would be beneficial and one in particular would not be beneficial at all. While there is room for improvement in the program in areas such as streamlining the application process or having more education for Doctors and health care professionals in regards to healthy natural alternative medicines such as marijuana etc. instead of just dishing out more and more dangerous pharmaceutical pills. The proposed phase out of personal production licenses is not a good idea and would be a mistake, and I am concerned about this for many reasons. What you are proposing will cause undo financial hardship on many people who have spent substantial time and money setting up their own production room. And you are also proposing that we stop organically producing our own high quality medicine from proven strains that properly treat our own specific conditions. Then, in order to stay legal, we will have to buy "?" from commercial growers who can grow any strain they want, any way they want, and charge whatever price they want. Specific strains treat specific conditions and I can guarantee that they don't have the amazing pain treating strain that I have, as it was given to me by my father before he died. Also just because of the size and scale of the proposed production approach it would be nearly impossible to keep these big production facilities organic. Of course, focus will be profit and production, and not high quality organic medicine, proper curing process, and concern for patient health. So now, not only will all that time and money spent be wasted, but the knowledge and expensive equipment will be useless as well. So, are you also suggesting that everyone will be able to afford to buy their medicine from these commercial growers and that it won't cause economic burden on individuals or society? I have read the list of key concerns and I have personally not experienced any problems with crime, break ins or home invasions nor do I expect that to ever happen. But I have been sure to take appropriate security measures and physical deterrents. I have a fenced and gated 2 acre estate property that is guarded by my three pet Rottweillers. I have installed a high tech surveillance system with 12 cameras that records 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and store it all on 2 seperate harddrive for up to 30 days. All the cameras are night vision, motion detection, and can be monitored over the internet from anywhere. If there was ever an issue, the police could use the recordings to catch the criminals but there never has been a problem. There has never been any mould or poor air quality in my production room and I have always followed Health Canada's rules and guidelines in regards to my licence and will continue to do so. Also, one of your stated concerns is exaggerated because, as in my case, when everything is done to the electrical code and professionally installed by a licenced electrician, there is no fire hazard. I am strongly opposed to the proposed phasing out of the personal production licenses and it certainly doesn't seem logical in any way. I have taking responsibility for my own health and I should be allowed to continue to do so. Thank you. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-28-30 program changes to medical marihuana  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 12:51 AM

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I received your letter on the changes that may occur to the designated grower program. I have produced marihuana for my patient, [REDACTED], since the first year the program was setup and have found the program has brought much relief to her. She goes from being very crippled to able to work in the garden when sufficient quality and quantity is being provided. I have learned many things about what is necessary for the quality that is needed by her. I have found a single strain becomes inefficient within a couple of weeks and needs to be rotated through several strains. Four or more strains work very well to keep the medicine working for her. I have found the same through other patients from other designated growers, such as my wife. I have also provided the marihuana over the years free of charge to her. I fear the new changes will produce marihuana that is beyond her ability to buy to maintain her quality of life. The commercial program will provide the necessary product through several outlets which is nice for the ones with sufficient wealth to buy it, but the ones with low income like my patient will lose the ability to get free or low cost marihuana to supply her needs. I will apply to get a commercial license but fear that my patient will lose her low cost marihuana source, if i do not get a new commercial license.

I fear the new program being proposed by health canada is going to be held up in court, when health canada decides to terminate the old program of designated growers program. When the old program is terminated and the patients have to start paying commercial rates to obtain there medicine, I can see many going to the courts and winning. I can easily see these suits going to multi billion levels very quickly. Others like my wifes patient will not be able to afford the medicine and will die within 6 months of program end without her low cost supply. I highly suggest not terminating the old program and instead inspect it. The cancelation of the program will be very costly.

A grow operation can be easily inspected for plant numbers, csa equipment and safety equipment to relieve the fire and police concerns. The inspection process can be either be done by health canada inspectors or private companies. The inspector goes into a grow operation and counts the number of plants. When counting the plants can look at the equipment being used to make sure it has csa stickers. They can also check to make sure the breaker board is csa approved. Any fire safety equipement necessary for the fire department can be checked. Any violations can be written up with a 2 week notice and reinspected, just like the fire department would do. The program has its flaws but can be easily corrected. As for cancelling the program, I can forsee much time being spent in court and class action lawsuits being launched. It will be very difficult on the government and very costly to the taxpayer to cancel the program.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-28-90 Consultation Document  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 04:20 PM

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Hello,

I have held my license to produce and consume marijuana for myself for several years and never had any mold problems (partially due to having the right equipment in my room), trouble with the law (luckily my mother before she died had money and could afford to help me out), no electrical or fire hazards as my room was constructed by proper electricians and I had fire rated gyproc and other safety measures in place, no theft because I have video surveillance in place (again thanks to my mother's help). I think the biggest problem is the lack of information and help people need setting up their own growing rooms. To make everyone purchase their own marijuana from Health Canada is outrageous as it is cheaper to grow than to buy. I know that since my mother passed away two years ago I would not be able to continue using it medically if I could not produce my own. It would be much too costly. I think you should revise the amount of help you give people financially and make sure they have the proper facilities in place before you condemn all low income families who use this medication to have to stop or have their kids do without things so their mother or father can buy medicine he could grow for a lot less. You have to look at most disabled people are low income especially the ones who couldn't get Canada pension or any other form of income such as myself. My wife works homecare and makes a little more than what social services would give us. So unless your provincial health plan will cover the cost I think you will just make a lot of sick people do without medication they rely on. The setup and equipment that I have cost thousands of dollars to get going, although now that it is setup my only production cost is my electricity bill. When you phase out this production license my equipment and a room in my home will be useless thus would probably be sold to someone growing illegally because no one else would want or buy it, are you going to reimburse clients that have spent thousands on equipment to be able to grow their own medication? I have Secondary progressive multiple sclerosis for the last ten years and my disease had me walking with a cane within 2 years. After starting marijuana therapy I no longer need walking assistance, my depression has improved, my appetite is better and muscle spasticity has improved dramatically. I think revisions need to be made to the program but I believe you are on the wrong track. We need either a provincial drug program to recognize this as a medication or to inform people of what equipment is necessary and more information on how to grow safely.

A Concerned Medical User,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-28-96 changes  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 06:10 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and i am a medical marihuana licsensee,to posses and grow for myself. I just built a room to grow medical marihuana for myself and my mom, who is also a medical marihuana licsensee, we cant afford to pay for the subscriptions so growing our own is the only way to go. We also spent some money building a secure and safe room, everything is by the book and we are following the regulations. So it is our feeling that we should be able to continue doings so.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-28-97 Opinion on Proposed Improvements  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 06:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [IMG\\_0031.JPG](#)

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Dear Minister:

I have had a Designated Production License since 2005 for my [REDACTED] who suffered a catastrophic closed head injury as a result of a MVA in 1995 and is quad. He is stroked on his right side and has muscle spasms so severer that the pain associated can be unbearable at times. His doctors over the years have trialed a number of anti-spasm drugs that either had no affect or the side effects were intolerable. Then we discovered marihuana as a treatment. Over the last few years I have found that certain strains have considerably reduced the contractions from where his right hand was twisted inward and pressed firmly against his chest with his fingernails penetrating the skin in the palm of his hand to the very well relaxed arm and hand as shown in the attached picture of [REDACTED] and his dog [REDACTED]. I also believe marihuana is responsible for managing aggression and mood swings associated with closed head injuries. And given the severity of his condition, the euphoric effect makes life in a wheelchair just a little more bearable. His general health is excellent based on yearly physicals and he has never had a cold or the flu since being prescribed.

Our indoor grow room initially cost approx. \$5000 to set up. A licensed electrician provided the needed electricity to the room to code. A 850 CFM charcoal can filter replaces the air in the room every 3 minutes maintaining odor control while controlling the humidity in the room. You would not find one speck of mold anywhere in my grow room! The first few years I grew I was hoping to be visited by a Health Canada inspector to show off my environmentally friendly operation and was very surprised to find out there weren't any! I could have been growing hundreds of plants and know one would have known...or cared for that matter. When I had questions early on during the learning curve there was know one to turn to.

With that said can you guess why there are unsafe grow rooms, or why someone, after never seeing anyone from Health Canada might be tempted to grow more than what they are allowed to? Your oversight of the program to date has been quit frankly a joke and in my opinion has directly contributed to the negative arguments listed on your web site denouncing home grow operations. Just think what would happen to posted speed limits on our roads with no enforcement!

Now for the biggest issue....cost! Just how do you think very sick people are going to come up with the funds to pay market prices for their medicine? Without a DIN number for marihuana there is no insurance coverage. For [REDACTED], he is prescribed 5

grams per day with a cost based on Health Canada's prices around \$900 per month or \$10,800 a year. I can grow that amount for less than half of the cost to purchase. It will be a huge financial burden to us if we are denied the right to grow anymore.

I have read hundreds of articles and testimonials praising the benefits of marihuana and I am concerned the cost to purchase will be a tremendous financial burden to those who cannot cope with daily living without their medicine.

Respectfully yours,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-28-98 IMPROVEMENTS  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 06:35 PM

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NONE OF THIS MAKES ANY SENSE LICENCED GROWERS CHARGING WHAT EVER THEY PLEASE GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT KIND OF CHEMICALS THEY PUT ON THEM TO CONTROL PESTS.I CAN GROW MY MEDICATION FOR ROUGHLY 3 DOLLARS OR SO PER GRAM SO THESE GROWERS ARE ONLY GOING TO CHARGE ME 84 DOLLARS PER OUNCE LETS GET REAL.AS FOR SAFTEY NO ONE KNOWS WHAT I HAVE IN MY HOUSE BECAUSE I DO NOT TELL EVERYBODY,AS FOR MOLD AND ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS GET AN ELECTRCIAN TO DO IT PROPERLY WHICH IS NOT HARD TO DO.THIS PROGRAM HAS COME A LONG WAYS IN THE LAST 5 YEARS DONT DESTROY IT YOU CANT PUNISH THE LEGALLY LICENCED GROWERS BECAUSE OF A FEW BAD EGGS NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO THE CRIMANAL ELEMENT WILL ALWAYS BE THERE GET TOUGHER WITH THESE CRIMANALS NOT THE INNOCENT IF THESE NEW IDEAS GO THREW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IS PEOPLE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD THESE PRICES THESE LICENCED GROWER WILL CHARGE AND THEY WILL START TO GROW THEM SELVES AGAIN AND WILL BE BREAKING THE LAW AGAIN OR IT WILL BE CHEAPER TO BUY ON THE STREETS.ALSO DEADLINE FOR FEEDBACK IS JULY 31 I NOW PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT EVEN GOT THE LETTER THAT I RECIEVED TO RESPONED TO THESE PROPOSED CHANGES SO HOW CAN THE RESPONED.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca  
**Subject:** 11-07-28-102 RE: comments on proposed improvements to the Program  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 07:29 PM

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one more point to add to my comments if i may:  
i worry that if people on fixed incomes due to the illnesses that they require this additional treatment for will not be able to afford to purchase their medicine from the commercial growers and would therefore be left with the alternative of turning to the black market which is unnecessary at present with people producing their own and designating their own trusted growers. taking away the option to produce ones own/designate a grower would possibly serve to support the illegal drug trade.

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**Subject:** Re: comments on proposed improvements to the Program  
**From:** Consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca  
**To:** [REDACTED]@live.com  
**Date:** Thu, 28 Jul 2011 03:30:21 -0400

This is to acknowledge receipt of your comments regarding the proposed improvements to Health Canada's Marihuana Medical Access Program.

We thank you for your comments regarding this proposal and can assure you they will be taken into consideration as the federal regulatory process progresses. There will be additional opportunities for comment when a regulatory proposal is prepublished in the Canada Gazette Part I.

Thank you for writing.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nous accusons réception de vos commentaires au sujet des améliorations envisagées au Programme d'accès à la marihuana à des fins médicales de Santé Canada.

Nous vous remercions de vos commentaires relativement à la proposition et nous pouvons vous assurer que nous en tiendrons compte dans le cadre du processus de réglementation fédéral. Vous aurez de nouveau l'occasion de transmettre vos commentaires au moment de la publication préalable du projet de réglementation dans la Partie I de la Gazette du Canada.

Nous vous remercions de nous avoir écrit.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-28-110 Proposed changes to Medical Marihuana Access Program  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 08:39 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam

As a holder of a license to grow medical marihuana, I am very concerned about the proposed changes to the program. My concerns are as follows:

- 1- Cost It seems that the cost will be left up to the commercial grower. This cost could be prohibitive to me. It costs very little for me to produce my own, and this cost can be spread out over time. Probably not something a for-profit grower would do.
- 2- Effectiveness It has taken some trial and error to find a strain that works for my conditions. Will this strain be available to me?
- 3- Toxicity How will I know what chemicals, and pesticides are going into what I consume? I use no toxic chemicals.
- 4- Availability Will I always be able to get what I need? What if there is a mail strike?

Producing my own medicine has finally given me a measure of control over the pain and appetite lose due to my condition. I in no way wish to give this control over to what will basically be another big pharmaceutical company.

Please do not punish us all because of the few who have taken advantage of this program. I do not abuse it in any way, and my life has become much more bearable because of this program.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Reply To:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-29-25  
**Date:** 2011-07-29 11:22 PM

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To whom this may concern ,I feel that the so called improvements to the medical marihuana program are unfair for the following reasons....1.users can no longer grow their own and will have no idea what chemicals are being used to grow the marihuana that they are using. 2. most patients who i know including myself grow for pennies per gram....we cannot afford to pay dollars per gram.Is it the intent of the Canadian government to make criminals out of honest people....because that is exactly what they are doing!!I am too angry and disgusted to write any more....SHAME on the government of Canada!!!

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-29-26 Proposal Change to Revoke Personal Production License  
**Date:** 2011-07-29 11:02 PM

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Marihuana Consultations  
Controlled Substances and Tobacco Directorate  
Health Canada  
Mail Room, Federal Records Centre - Bldg 18  
1st Floor, 161 Goldenrod Driveway, Tunney's Pasture  
Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

This is in regards to the government of Canada's proposal for a new supply and distribution system for dried marihuana that relies on licensed commercial producers to cultivate any strain(s) of marihuana they choose and the revocation of the production of marihuana for medical purposes by individuals in homes and communities.

According to your website you basically talk about three issues which are as follows:

1. You are not going to take the medication away;
2. You wish to reduce the risk of abuse and exploitation by criminal elements; and
3. You wish to keep our children and communities safe.

I confer with all of the above:

You further advise that the only legal source of dried marihuana would be commercial producers, who would be licensed by Health Canada to produce and distribute dried marihuana. Individuals would purchase their supply of dried marihuana from one of these licensed commercial producers and these so called licensed commercial producers would set the price for marihuana for medical purpose.

I wish to advise that with my current production license, I can manufacture my medical marihuana in my own well ventilated and secure basement at a cost of approximately \$ 20.00 to \$30.00 an ounce. How much will the new

commercial producers charge for the medical marihuana and who will be regulating the costs. I am quite sure that the new commercial producers would be charged a federal and possibly a provincial sales tax on the income of the sale of this medical marihuana. I wonder how much revenue would result in this proposal.

If I am unable to obtain the medical marihuana from the new commercial producers at the same costs, then indeed you will be taking the medication away.

Should this proposal proceed, I would like to know the following:

1. Would the medication be covered under disability or drug benefits?
2. Would there be in place a grandfather clause allowing current licensees to continue to grow there own medical marihuana? and if not,
3. Would there be a reimbursement to the current licensees for the cost of equipment purchased in order to establish there own cultivation of the medical marihuana? and lastly;
4. Why should the federal government make revenue from my pain management medication?

As it stands, under the advice from my attorney and physician's I will still manufacture my medical marihuana and in talking to my equipment and nutrient suppliers the foregoing point is a general consensus.

The government intends that this proposal would be a potential for the diversion of marihuana produced for medical purposes to the illicit market. I sincerely hope that I can count on my government to make the right choice about this proposal, as all I can see is that this proposal would increase the number of people to include the disabled who would have no choice but to purchase their marihuana off the streets for a discounted cost.

Sincerely,

From Windsor, Ontario (07/29/2011)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-29-78 Concerns regarding the new proposed regulations  
**Date:** 2011-07-29 04:00 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I have received your letter regarding the new regulations, and I have to voice my concerns. There are some points that scare me with the new proposed regulations. I do agree that changes are definitely needed to stop the criminal element, however if Health Canada sent out someone to check the production licenses to see if patients are complying, that would eliminate some if not most of the 'bogus' producers.

I have had a production license for over 2 years, and not once have anyone come to check to see if I am complying with the regulations. I feel if someone was to come out to the sites on a regular basis, this wouldn't have gotten out of hand.

Before I received my license, I was taking Tylenol 4 and Diazepam to keep my pain and nerve spasms under control. My doctor looked me in the eye and told me what he was giving me was going to kill me! Once I started producing my own marihuana and taking it on a regular basis (smoking and eating) I was able to STOP the diazepam all together and cut back considerably on the Tylenol 4's.

I now take morphine for the pain and use the marihuana for the nerve spasms. The cost to me is approximately \$400.00 per month to manage my pain. With your proposed changes, I am looking at a minimum monthly cost of \$4500.00!

Being on a fixed income (provincial disability) there is no way I could cover this cost. I would be forced to go back on the meds that will kill me or be forced to grow my own meds illegally. Most legitimate people who have production licenses I am sure are like me, and are growing their own because it is cheaper than going thru a compassionate club or thru Health Canada. It really makes a person feel like either death or jail is emanate!

I don't have the means to become a commercial grower so therefore I would be forced to buy it off of some guy that can afford to get the commercial license, who by the way according to your regulations, doesn't need any type of pain management background, just the ability to produce good quality pot. To top it all off you are telling us that this grower person gets to decide if we can even buy it from them?!? That is absolutely absurd!

I just feel that if you were a bit stricter in your process of regulating the production licenses and actually checking the production sites, the criminal aspect would have been greatly reduced. I am not saying that it wouldn't be there at all, we all know there are people out there that will try to scam the system. However, I am equally sure there are people out there like myself that comply with the regulations and are just trying to get by with what they have.

Giving me the right to have this production license has given me the opportunity to live a healthier and productive life. Taking away the license will condemn me to the couch and a life of synthetic drugs that will eventually stop my liver from working. What about our right to a quality of life?

Please consider the views of this patient and others when making your decision.  
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely;



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-29-115 Re: consultations  
**Date:** 2011-07-29 01:19 PM

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I have a number of comments

1. Because of the strike I just received your notification of the consultation today July 29, 2011(although I was aware of it). So it would seem appropriate to extend the deadline to Aug 31, 2011. To accommodate late mail.
2. Would weed bought from suppliers be income tax deductible and free of sales tax?.
3. Would suppliers have on demand inventory or only grow per customer? This would be important in the selection of a genetic strain. A possible scenario would be a supplier sending a sample pack to speed up the process of selecting a suitable strain for the patient
4. Even though the regulations governing the suppliers will be stringent, efforts should be to make customer/simple and straight forward
5. There is a need to address the vulnerability to prosecution for family members and care givers. They could be considered to be in possession when home alone with weed in the residence or aiding in transportation when travelling..
6. One of the things that has always bothered me when dealing with Health Canada is the threat that if the rules aren't followed to the letter, I'm in violation and will go to hell. When actually it is no different than a prescription from the drugstore which can be far stronger and more addictive than marijuana.
7. Pricing could be another concern as a large number of participants depend on assistance which more than likely will not consider paying for weed. Could coverage by drug plans be mandated?

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-29-119 response to proposed changes to the MMRA  
**Date:** 2011-07-29 12:57 PM

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Hello.

My name is [REDACTED]. I find the proposed changes to be an insult to those of us that are sick.. If the production of medicinal marijuana is to be turned over exclusively to the commercial sector, it would be the worst thing that could be done. I understand the concern and pressure about illegal activity, the concern about people growing close to schools or other sensitive areas. However, there are some of us that wouldn't be able to continue paying for medication. This would put more of a strain on our healthcare system. There are some changes that could be made, but not to do away with the whole system that is in place. A little common sense should be used when producing your own medication. If the commercial sector was to hold the power, there's no guarantee that the prices would be manageable for most people that require it. These people are sick. They would not be interested in producing specific strains that individuals have found work best to aid them in daily living. Who pays for the equipment that has already been purchased for the purpose of producing medication? The courts would be tied up by cases between the crown and people that are still producing their own medication, and are sick. Again i stress, these people are sick. Not drug lords with guns and drugs. This is a plant that aids a wide array of ailments. Doing away with permits and cards would make it more possible for people to obtain a fake order form. How much money would be involved with shutting down the program? How many people would recieve large settlements for job loss? I plead with you to take a good hard look at the impact this will have on the people that use the medication, and the conditions they have. Can you really just tell them to stop producing and buy it for MUCH more money than it costs to produce it. The decision to turn the program over to the private, FOR PROFIT sector would be a bad one. This would push people to go to the streets to find it. If the government is concerned about "drug abuse" they should take a hard look at the prescription abuse that goes on. Much more abuse than medicinal marijuana. Making it "easier" to obtain marijuana would turn this whole country into California. In California, you can obtain medicinal marijuana simply by making an excuse to your doctor. Our system eliminates this from happening. If you would like to disuss this whole issue with me, feel free. [REDACTED]@gmail.com or (403) [REDACTED]

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

**From:** Minister Ministre  
**To:** [REDACTED]@shaw.ca  
**Cc:** consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca  
**Subject:** 11-07-29-139 Fw: LEGAL MARIJUANA PRODUCTION  
**Date:** 2011-07-29 11:43 AM

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Thank you for your correspondence of July 28, 2011, addressed to the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, regarding the proposed improvements to the Marihuana Medical Access Program. We have forwarded your comments to the following address consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca so that your feedback may be included in the consultation process.

----- Forwarded by Minister\_Ministre/HC-SC/GC/CA on 2011-07-29 11:42 AM -----

**From:** "Aglukkaq, Leona - M.P." <leona.aglukkaq@parl.gc.ca>  
**To:** 'Patrick Chapados' <patrick.chapados@hc-sc.gc.ca>, "'minister\_ministre@hc-sc.gc.ca'" <minister\_ministre@hc-sc.gc.ca>  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 02:21 PM  
**Subject:** FW: LEGAL MARIJUANA PRODUCTION

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 28, 2011 2:17 PM  
**To:** Aglukkaq, Leona - M.P. **Subject:** LEGAL MARIJUANA PRODUCTION

FROM [REDACTED] = APPL. KEY [REDACTED]

I RESIDE IN MERRITT B.C. AND HAVE HAD MY LEGAL MARIJUANA PRODUCTION LICENCE FOR 6 OR 7 YEARS WITH NEVER ANY PROBLEMS WITH MOLD, NEIGHBOURS, POLICE, THE CITY OF MERRITT AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED.

I AM A LAW ABIDING CITIZEN AND COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE LOCAL R.C.M.P. SHOULD ANY ATTEMPT OF A HOME INVASION OR BREAK IN OCCUR AT MY RESIDENCE THE LOCAL R.C.M.P. HAVE ADVISED ME THEY WOULD RESPOND IMMEDIATELY. THIS HAS NEVER OCCURRED SIMPLY BECAUSE MY HOME IS FULLY ALARMED AND VERY RARELY UNOCCUPIED. BEING A LEGAL MARIJUANA GROWER AUTHORIZED BY HEALTH CANADA AND COMMUNICATING WITH OTHER LEGAL GROWERS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A HOME INVASION AT A SANCTIONED LEGAL MARIJUANA GROWERS HOME SIMPLY BECAUSE WE CAN AND WOULD PHONE THE POLICE.

WHEN A LICENCE IS SIGNED OVER TO ANOTHER DESIGNATED GROWER RATHER THAN THE ORIGINAL HOLDER OF THAT LICENCE I FEEL THIS CREATES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THAT GROWER TO USE THAT LICENCE IMPROPERLY FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT AND I BELIEVE HEALTH CANADA SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE TO INSURE THAT PERSON IS MONITORED BY ALL LEGAL STANDARDS INCLUDING THE R.C.M.P. INVESTIGATING BY FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH REGULAR INSPECTIONS.

SHOULD HEALTH CANADA REMOVE MY ABILITY TO PRODUCE MY OWN MARIJUANA FOR MY OWN HEALTH ISSUES AND BEING ON DISABILITY COULD SOMEONE TELL ME WHERE THE MONEY WILL COME FROM FOR ME TO BUY MY MEDICAL MARIJUANA. THE COST WOULD EXCEED MY \$906.26 MONTHLY PAYMENT FOR DISABILITY. THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA NEEDS TO EXPLAIN THIS FINANCIAL SHORT FALL.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA IS A NATURAL PAIN SUPPRESSANT RATHER THAN THE PRESCRIBED GABAPENTIN, OXYCONTIN AND OXYCOCET WHICH HEALTH CANADA SHOULD RECOGNIZE WILL SHORTEN MY LIFE AND GREATLY DIMINISH THE QUALITY OF MY LIFE.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca); [joe.daniel@parl.gc.ca](mailto:joe.daniel@parl.gc.ca); [laytoi@parl.gc.ca](mailto:laytoi@parl.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-29-141 Proposed changes to the MMAR Program  
**Date:** 2011-07-29 11:05 AM  
**Attachments:** [DSCI0001.JPG](#)  
[222043\\_10150167390682902\\_510622901\\_6655952\\_3474140\\_n.jpg](#)

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Dear Leona Aglukkaq and all other MP's attached,

My Name is [REDACTED]. I am upset with the proposed changes to the MMAR program. Let me tell you a bit about me so you can understand where I am coming from. I have chronic pain caused by injuries sustained in a car accident in 2005. I have included a picture so you can get a glimpse at the severity of the accident and understand how it impacted my life. What you can't see in this picture is a broken pelvis, a shattered wrist, multiple neck fractures, head trauma and road burn from my toes to my waist. What you can see is a girl who has years of recovery ahead and someone whose life will never be the same.

I was on pain killers for a couple years after the accident and hated myself because of them. They made me miserable but my doctor kept perscribing them to me. I did lots of research on alternatives so I could get back to happy-go-lucky me instead of the lethargic, unhappy me that I became. I found cannabis topped the charts for pain management. So I stopped taking percocets and started medicating ONLY with cannabis. My life improved immediately. I wasn't groggy. I was clear headed and most importantly I could function. The problem then became I was medicating illegally. I learned of Health Canada's MMAR program and approached my doctor. It took a bit of educating, but he signed my papers so I could legally medicate with cannabis. I could also grown my own medicine and not have to worry about affording to be pain free. Now, I feel great. I am happy and healthy (as you can see in the 2nd picture I attached) I am glad I decided to take my health in to my own hands and grow my medicine myself.

As a MMAR license holder, I am very concerned about the proposed improvements to the program outlined in Section 4.2 : Dried Marihuana Production and Distribution. According to this document, PPL's (Personal Production Licenses) would be phased out. I will either have to apply to be a commercial producer or purchase my medicine from one. I strongly disagree with this! With the proposed changes, it is stated "Licensed commercial producers would be able to produce any strain(s) of marihuana, thus giving individuals greater choice as to which strain(s) they wish to use." In a prefect world, this could work. The problem is..we are NOT in a perfect world. As I hope you are aware, there are thousands of cannabis strains and each strain is made up of different cannabinoids. So no strain is the same. Commercial growers may have more variety than Health Canada's current menu of 1 strain, but that doesn't mean that they will be able or willing to produce the strains that myself and every member of the public needs. Phasing out the PPL scares me. I will now be forced to rely on somebody else instead of being self sufficient. What happens if I cannot find a commercial grower that can supply the strains I need? Will my medicine now have a DIN # and be covered by health insurance? If not, what will I do if I cannot afford my medicine... is there a system in place for circumstances like that?

I would prefer to grow my own medicine and not leave it in the hands of strangers. I agree that Health Canada's current program is flawed and needs repair but I do not agree with taking away our rights as individuals to cultivate our own medicine.

Thank You,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-29-149 re: proposed changes to mma  
**Date:** 2011-07-29 08:56 AM

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Dear Sir/ Madame,

I have the ability to produce my own meds and can do it safely, proper and at little cost. I need a specific strain, and because it produces little, (compared to commercial strains) big growers don't want to grow it. Not enough profits. The trend, in medical cannabis has towards high CBD strains with little THC. Again, against what commercial growers want. Putting my meds in the hands of a large grower, who gets to grow and charge what ever they want, does not help myself and others I have talked with.

My question is: Ohip going to cover the cost of my meds as other prescriptions?

Finally, if you want to control the programme better, thats easy.

Instead of issuing plant numbers, which can be abused, issue wattage.

example

5 grms a day=25 plants

5 grms a day x 30 days (one month)= 150 grms a month x 3 months (average time to finish crop)=450 grms

1000 wt hps produces one pound on average

455 grms

so in theory, this person could grow enough meds w/ 1000 hps ( veg light also need, 1000 wt)

thankyou,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-29-155  
**Date:** 2011-07-29 03:01 AM

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My name is [REDACTED] from Powell River B.C. I have read the proposed changes to the current medical marihuana program. I agree that the time patients have to wait for licenses to be processed is too long and a change to the way possession licenses are given is necessary. With the current system I spent almost ten months from when I applied without a license or a safe legal way to access medicine. If your doctor says you need any other kind of medication you wouldn't be waiting for it.

Something about the proposed changes I can't agree with is taking away a persons right to produce for themselves or to have a caregiver produce for them. I understand that there are issues with the current system and as long as there is prohibition there will be people trying to find away around it but without that ability to produce for yourself, medical marihuana would become unaffordable to the people who need it most. The people who are currently category 1 patients and have low incomes or are on disability because of their illnesses or injuries, and need larger amounts on a daily basis (cancer patients, epilepsy patients, M.S. patients, etc.) will be unable to afford their medicine. People who need their medication but can't afford it will be forced to find other ways to get it such as producing it themselves despite the rule changes because they are unable to live with out it. This will result in the sick and injured, who this system is supposed to be helping, to live in fear of the police and even for some to be arrested and jailed because of their medical needs. Some patients also need specific strains to help their different issues and these proposed private companies won't be able to fulfill every persons individual needs.

Another negative aspect about the proposed changes is phasing out outdoor growing. This would be environmentally unfriendly because of the large amount of power and supplies needed to support large commercial indoor grows.

It is because of these issues that I don't support the proposed changes and believe that a different plan needs to be put together that will better support the people in need.

I also think the public hasn't been well enough informed about the changes and there hasn't been enough time for feedback.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-30-14 Submission for proposed new changes to Health Canada's process to access marijuana  
**Date:** 2011-07-30 10:39 PM

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The proposed new changes miss the fundamental struggles people who are medically allowed to use marijuana are going through. These amendments will make it harder for all people, people from a wide range of socio-economic groups, to get the medicine that has proven right for their medical needs. It is a shame.

If you propose to have the growing and dispensing of marijuana given to a selected group or companies, why not then also propose that the cost to accessing this form of medicine then be consequentially covered by prescription benefits (that is people who have insurance with Manulife for example, can have most of the cost of the drug be covered and all one pays will be the small dispensing fee, etc.?) – this will at least keep it affordable and accessible at least to the people who are covered by insurances as such (but it still will not address the groups who have a right to use marijuana but are not covered by medical insurance programs). Then make this an accepted drug on the medical insurance list. Remember, when giving control to specific companies, the prices that will be determined for patients who need to access will become controlled. A form of monopoly will start, not only on the ability to grow and dispense, but also the prices that will be set. It may drive certain legitimate users underground and into an arena where they may end up being victimized by the law.

Furthermore, by giving the rights to grow to a specific set of 'companies' will never ensure that the strains being grown are healthily grown or properly grown, as is needed by a patient, or for a patient with specific needs. The process and ingredients used when growing and harvesting determine how well a patient's body receives it and when this is controlled by the patient, it gives greater access over taking care of one's health properly. Majority of growers who also have a right to use have not been in any problems with neighbours or the law for growing and using. It is unfortunate that the few who do get in trouble with neighbours, the fire code, and the law, have made the current existing Health Canada process unstable for the ones who have abided peacefully.

Rather the proposed amendments should have included education and awareness to the medical field plus doctor sensitisation programs so that becoming qualified or re-qualified to get and continue to get legal access to marijuana does not make a patient feel the medical system's pressure to continue using pharmaceuticals, a lack of knowledge on the medical benefits of marijuana, and a general political and cultural pressure which is still present within the medical system and based on taboo and shame, felt by a patient. Many

within the medical industry still treat one's need to use this form of medicine with a run-around and passing the buck which does not aid a patient's right to continue accessing this medicine in a law abiding manner. This is still an uncomfortable subject amongst most medical practitioners and this is unacceptable and unhelpful for people who have found this medicine as a solution to living a normal and balanced life.

Furthermore, introducing amendments where the municipal bodies issue licenses adds another bureaucratic and costly step to the whole process of affordably accessing and using marijuana. Generally licenses are issued for businesses and growing indoor is not a 'business' when grown by patients. The amendments seem to have responded to the fears of the public and a system who and which do not understand the medical benefits of marijuana and the relatively safe ways that this medicine can be grown and harvested indoor by the patients (this form of growing is similar to people who choose to grow tomatoes and other edibles indoors instead).

If these reforms do pass, it will continue the vicious misunderstandings and the cycle of taboo and shame on a medicine required by a group who may have a legal right access and use.

Please consider the above points carefully and we hope the proposed amendments do not pass without addressing these points.

Regards,



From: [REDACTED]  
To: [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
Subject: 11-08-01-37  
Date: 2011-08-01 12:43 AM

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I am writing this letter as a response to potential changes to the medical system. My involvement with medicinal marijuana began about seven years ago, when I had suffered a injury while at work, trying to earn a living for my family of four which at the time, we were quite normal. That changed.. On feb 15 2005 i suffered a laceration to my right hand, and at the order of my supervisor at work, had attended at Royal Island Hospital in Kamloops BC for suters and a tetanus shot in my right shoulder. I was given the rest of the day off. The following day I had started to develop symptoms like severely swollen right hand and digits, intense pain shooting thru my arm. As the next few months progressed, my condition deteriorated rapidly, and after extensive review I was diagnosed with having CRPS (complex regional pain syndrome). I have attempted to deal with this syndrome without medication, and have failed completely. At the beginning I struggled to stay off of opiates, very quickly this disease pushed me beyond my ability to function. As this disease involves my nervous system, stress is a direct factor to the amount of physical pain I suffer. I was almost immediately disabled from being able to work, I had attempted to return to work shortly after the tetanus incident, and was met with excruciating pain and the inability to use my arm. I have spent over a month everyday at Royal Island Hospital occupacitational rehabilitation, and the end result is total inability to function in any setting. I was involved heavily with Workers Compensation Board and have made extensive efforts towards employment, including retraining for four weeks in Vancouver, away from my home and family. I returned to Kamloops and with the involvement of Workers Compensation Board, made a great deal of effort to find new employment. With out success. My pain has spiralled out of control, I have been diagnosed with chronic Major Depression, my family is at the financial end of the rope. Fitting Comoposition and being unemployed for this length of time has left us destitute. The stress of watching their father fall apart has taken a tremendous toll on my to children. Let alone all the things they have had to miss out on or had to sacrifice because the money to pay for simple things like sports has not been there. My wife has been left emotionally destroyed, being forced to watch the person she loves, crippled by pain, watching me while pain takes everything from me, and robs us of a life that we should be entitled to. Me and my wife are young and every dream we had for our future has been taken from us My condition is degrading and both me and my wife (who is only 31) know full well what is in store for us. Financial struggles, endless nights fighting for sleep, long days trying to pretend the pain isn't there. Over the last seven years I have tried countless prescriptions to deal with the pain and I have dealt immeasurable damage to my stomache and liver. I have seen many specialist and attempted many many approaches to minimise the damage to my body, all met with failure. This disease has taken so much from me and my family. I have lost all my self respect and having found failure at every turn. I used to drive commercial transports for a relocation company moving 10-12 000 lbs of furniture a day. I was in a union shop earning \$21 hr and now I can not even find employment cleaning toilets. Having to purchase all of my medications is a significant drain on our money and having to pay for my marijuana would be crippling. Taking away my ability to provide myself my medication will be inhuman. One of the only things I find joy in anymore is growing my medicine, being able to work in my garden is a significant stress reducer. The benefit I draw from growing marijuana is immeasurable. I take great pride in what I



do and with it being in my home it allows me to work when I can and I also have the ability to leave it when I need to. Very few things allow me this kind of flexibility. Please, please do not take my garden, it means so much to me. I understand that things need to get better but don't sacrifice innocent growers to punish the wrong. I follow the rules, I don't risk my family, my room is safe and clean. I don't damage my home, nor do I bring trouble around my neighbour hood. I pay my bills, I cut my grass, and i raise my children. I am not a criminal, please don't make me one.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-08-01-55 re: proposed improvements to marihuana medical access program  
**Date:** 2011-08-01 12:17 AM

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Attention: Controlled Substances and tobacco directorate

I am disabled and on a pension that covers my monthly expenses I am constantly in pain and have found that the medication has bad effects.

I have no side effects from using cannabis for my medical use. Due to my limited income i cannot afford to purchase cannabis from a supplier

I have a hard time paying my utilities each month just to grow my own cannabis it would cost me more to purchase cannabis from a supplier each month than it would to grow my own. I would rather have you increase the monitoring of the grower than denying me of my ability to grow my own cannabis controlled medicine.

I would be willing to become a government grower to help support other disabled people who are suffering from chronic ailments and who can't afford to pay for their medication

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** changes to medical marihuana regulations  
**Date:** 2011-07-18 08:14 AM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with respect to the proposed changes to the regulations for the medical use of marihuana. I am a senior citizen and a medical marihuana user.

The proposed changes to medical marihuana regulations are unacceptable in their present form because previous attempts by the federal government to provide a safe supply of medical marihuana have proven wholly inadequate. The marihuana previously made available through the government's provisions for medical marihuana was simply of very poor quality and thus ineffective for its intended purpose.

As someone in constant, chronic pain, I resent the federal government's attempts to remove my right, in consultation with my physician, to produce my own medicine. In effect, the federal government is moving to lessen my ability to deal with illnesses. I need the right to grow my own marihuana for both medical and financial reasons.

There is no assurance that growers who are licensed by the federal government will have any experience (unless the government is proposing to license criminals) or will produce a quality product. Given the federal government's previous failures to provide a quality product, I do not wish to have them forcing an unknown, untried producer/grower on me.

As well being totally opposed to having marihuana suppliers 'forced' on me by a government that has a poor record in providing such medicine, a medical marihuana user like me with only a Canada Pension for income, for financial reasons needs the option of producing his or her own marijuana. Quite simply, if I cannot produce my own marihuana, I will not be able to buy it from commercial producers unless prices are strictly regulated.

For someone like me who lives at or below the poverty line, anything more than \$25 an ounce is unaffordable because, as mentioned, my only income is the Canada Pension. I have been producing my own medical marijuana since 2005. Marihuana is very inexpensive to grow and a price of \$25 an ounce - \$400 a pound - would provide a profit margin to licensed producers that any farmer would be happy with.

Finally, there is nothing in the proposed regulations to put marihuana on an equal footing with other prescription drugs. So long as provincial drug plans and other programs to assist people with medical expenses do not cover marihuana, medical marihuana users are at a distinct financial disadvantage in seeking help for their illness. The great expense of having to buy marijuana helps keep medical marijuana users below the poverty line.

My primary objections to the proposed regulatory changes can be summed up as follows:

- (1) Allowing licensed medical marihuana producers to charge more than \$400 a pound for their products would be allowing them to gouge the sick, and so is totally unacceptable; and
- (2) Forcing medical marihuana users to purchase marihuana from producers who cannot guarantee a sufficient quality supply is simply adding to the burden of the sick, and is also unacceptable.

I note that in the case of medical marijuana, the ability of patients to grow their own medicine affords them a rare opportunity to escape 'gouging' by drug companies. Instead of recognizing this benefit, the federal government proposes to make medical marihuana users subject to price gouging by drug growers. I suggest it would be more appropriate for the federal government to seek ways to help sick people financially, not to find ways to increase the burden of illness. These changes simply make things worse for sick people. What kind of health policy is that?

Medical marihuana users must be allowed the option of producing/growing their own marihuana in order:

- (1) to ensure they have marihuana of a sufficient quality to meet their needs; and
- (2) to ensure they can afford their own marihuana.

In conclusion, let me state that I am keenly aware of the federal government's philosophic objection to allowing the use of marihuana for any reason. The federal government has consistently refused to set up any controlled studies on the medical use of marihuana, and statements by leading government Ministers on the matter demonstrate an appalling ignorance on the subject.

I should not need to remind you that there would be no medical marihuana in this country if the courts had not forced the federal government to make such provisions. Nor should I need to remind you the federal government has consistently refused to set up controlled studies on the use of medical marihuana, preferring instead to rely on ignorance and court compulsion to guide its policy in this area.

Over the years, the federal government consistently has demonstrated a clear 'bias' against marihuana, and has done everything in its power to prevent its medical use until forced to do so by the courts. Knowing this, medical users like myself have a very deep and abiding suspicion of federal government attempts to interfere in our medical treatment. These latest changes smack of the federal government seeking to do indirectly (get rid of medical marihuana by making it too expensive or forcing people to use poor marihuana) what the courts have refused to allow it to do directly (simply

outlaw medical marijuana).

Finally, I note that alcohol and tobacco continue to be available to anyone of legal age at very cheap prices. So long as the federal government views alcohol and tobacco as less dangerous drugs than marihuana, it demonstrates its complete inability to assess drugs for medical treatment solely on their own merits. So long as the federal government continues to place political considerations ahead of what is best for medical patients, it has no moral authority to pronounce on what is best for the sick.

I deeply resent the federal government using my poor health as a 'political football' to satisfy people for whom old prejudices are preferable to the best advice of medical science. There is no justification for the proposed changes other than the attempt by politicians to insert themselves between doctors and patients. Such actions are reprehensible.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-05-5 Comments on proposed changes  
**Date:** 2011-07-05 09:18 PM

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Reading your article has brought some issues regarding proposed changes to existing medical marijuana licensed persons/growers as follows.

I have spent close to \$1000 to build a seperate room just for growing.  
Spent \$ for electrical updates for growing.  
\$ spent on equipment, lights, fans, exhaust, etc.

Who will reimburse me for my expenses?

Under my own growing operation I know exactly what quality of medicine I have. Just like my garden I am in control of how my food is raised that goes in to my body. How do I know the quality, was it grown according to my high standards? I like growing my own food it is much more cost effective and I cannot afford the prices that would be charged for my medicine. Am I to suffer in future, that is not fair.

You state you will have the medicine shipped registered mail/bonded courier well that in itself would be a breech of privacy. The mailman lives right across the street the neighbors are busy bodies, how do we guarantee that tongues don't start wagging? Right now no one knows what I do.

Those of us that have already invested in ourselves should be grandfathered with the program and not penalized with the expense and uncertainty of depending on someone else to provide our medicine when we know what works for us and have already invested in ourselves.

The one thing that is true for everyone - you can only count on and depend on yourself.

From: [REDACTED]  
To: consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca  
Subject: 11-07-06-5 new medical marihuana laws  
Date: 2011-07-06 10:15 PM

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WELL, I MUST SAY PERSONALLY THIS STINKS!!!!!!WAKE UP!!!

- (A) WHO IS GOING TO PAY FOR ALL OF MY EQUIPMENT?  
(B) I HAVED PAID FOR AN ELECTRICIAN TO HOOK UP THE PROPER 220 HOOK-UP, WHICH IS LEGAL.  
(C) I STAY WITHIN THE REGULATIONS(ONES THAT DON'T SHOULD LOSE ALL PRIVLEDGES), JUST BECAUSE THERE ARE SOME BAD APPLES DOSEN'T MEAN EVERYONE IS. THIS IS A FACT OF LIFE.IN EVERY TIER OF GOVERNMENT THIS HAPPENS.  
(D) YOU SAY IT WOULD MAKE NEIGHBORHOODS SAFER, BUT DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT THERE IS AND ALWAYS GOING TO BE ILLEGAL OPERATIONS NO MATTER WHERE ONE LIVES. GO AFTER THEM ONES AND MONITOR THE ONES THAT ARE ABIDDING BY THE LAW. AS HEALTH CANADA YOU'S SHOULD ALONG WITH RCMP'S SHOULD BE GOING DOOR TO DOOR INSPECTING THE ONE'S THAT ARE LEGAL TO SEE THAT THEY ARE FOLLOWING YOUR GUIDELINES AND NOT ABUSING THE SYSTEM AND IF THEY ARE THEY NEED TO PULL THERE LICENCE INDEFINATELY.  
(E) I HAVE NO PROBLEM LETTING HEALTH CANADA, POLICE, RCMP, FIRE INSPECTOR, ELECTRICAL AUTHORITY OR ANY ONE ELSE INTO MY HOME FOR INSPECTIONS AT ANY TIME, AND IF ANYONE ELSE OPPOSES TO DOING SUCH THEN YOU KNOW THAT THEY ARE PROBABLY BREAKING THE LAW. WHY HIDE IF YOU HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.  
(F) I AM ON A DISABILITY PENSION AND I AM LICENCED TO ORALLY TAKE AND SMOKE 8 GRAMS A DAY,BUT UNFORTUNETLY I COULD NOT AFFORD TO PAY WHAT THE GOV, WANTS ME TO PAY AMONTH WHICH WOULD BE APPROX: \$1200 A MONTH, WHERE I CAN GROW IT MYSELF FOR LESS THAN \$200.00 A MONTH. UNFORTUNELY,SOME NEED STRONGER MEDICATION THAN OTHERS AND I AM SURE THAT HEALTH CANADA IS NOT WILLING TO PAY THAT AMOUNT FOR MY MEDICATION, SO WHO IS GOING TO PAY FOR IT BECAUSE I CERTAINLY CANNOT AFFORD THAT.  
(G) AS A CANADIAN IT IS A PRIVLEDGE TO GROW MY OWN MEDICAL MARIHUANA, UNTIL I BREAK THAT PRIVLEDGE I SHOULD NOT BE PUNISHED FOR FOOLS THAT ARE BREAKING THEIR PRIVLEDGES. EXAMPLE: ALCOHOL ABUSE- IF ONE IS CHARGED FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING WHY SHOULD EVERYONE HAVE TO PAY THEY DON'T ,SO IT SHOULD BE THE SAME WAY FOR MEDICAL MARIHUANA USERS.  
(H) I BELIEVE THAT CHANGING THE LAWS IS RIDICULUS, YOU'S AS HEALTH CANADA JUST NEED TO COME TOGETHER WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS TO ENFORCE YOUR OWN RULES AND REGULATIONS AND MAKE PEOPLE AWARE THAT THERE WILL BE NO TOLERANCE TO ABUSING YOUR SYSTEM.

YOURS,TRULY

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 11-07-08-32 Changes  
**Date:** 2011-07-08 08:31 PM

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I relies that MARR is trying to improve the program, I think that is a great step forward. I am suffering from bone cancer and severe pain, I have not worked for several years and will most likely never work again. The problem that I have is, I have very little money, I took me a long time to set up my small grow room and about 2000.00 dollars. If a priwet company is able to set their own price I will not have the money to pay there prices plus the shipping and the taxes. I don't think that it is fair for the small grower like myself to have to remove our grow rooms that we have spent lots of money on. I under stand that there are people who are abusing the system and it needs to be stopped. But please don't take it out on me. I hope that there is a way where you can make the changes that you would like and A way that I a small grower like myself can still grow with in the law of Canada.  
Thanks for letting me voice my opinion.  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca); [REDACTED]@hotmail.com  
Subject: 11-07-11-8 comments  
Date: 2011-07-11 09:21 PM

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To Whom it May Concern

I am just about to fill out the forms to renew my designated grower license for the 3rd year and I am deeply concerned about all the negative press and rumour that I may not be able to be the designated grower for my patients for much longer.

Recently I had a visit from three RCMP officers, they had received a "tip" that I had a marijuana grow on my property. The officer told me that he had no search warrant and legally I did not have to allow him access, I explained I had nothing to hide and they were welcome to come in and look around.

The first thing they commented on upon entry into the medical grow was the framed licenses that adorned the wall and how professional they looked hanging there. As they continued looking around I asked if they would like to see a copy of the permit, the officer indicated that they could tell by looking that it was all done professionally and that to be honest it was the (quote) "nicest looking grow they had ever seen". I explained that I had a new power pole installed at the end of the drive, and that the grow was registered with BC Hydro and I paid commercial rates. I asked if they would like to count the plants to ensure I was within my legal limit, again they indicated that would not be necessary as they could tell I was "one of the good growers", I told them they were welcome back any time.

The cost of building a proper medical grow did not come cheap, to the tune of \$80,000.00 and I will admit had I known it would be so expensive I never would have done it. I decided to build the medical grow for a dear cousin that was dying of cancer as well as the hope to get my elderly mother on medical marijuana rather than the cache of pain pills she now takes that makes her a babbling idiot. Sadly my dear cousin Wayne died before I could get him on as a patient and my mother is still not sold on attempting marijuana so I decided to take on two other patients.

The bond I have formed with my patients over almost 3 years is very personal, and most certainly one that could never be formed with Health Canada or any large commercial grower. The private one on one between a designate and patient is extremely important if this program is going to succeed. To find the proper strain of marijuana that helps a patient means communication and lots of it. It also means trying one strain after another until we find one together that works, whether it be for nausea or pain what may work for one patient does not mean it will work for the other. To think that any large commercial grower would ever take the time to "care" about a patient is laughable, to think a large commercial grower is the answer to your problems is also laughable, you know they already tried that in Flin Flon Manitoba and to say it was an extreme disaster is speaking mildly.

Does it make sense to say that the government is considering revoking every single



valid drivers license in Canada? after all there are many drivers that don't follow the rules of the road, so lets punish every single drivers license holder. If that sounds ridiculous its because it is, but just as ridiculous is the idea of pulling every designated grower's license. Just like the poor Pit Bull - one bad dog, one bad owner equals a bad rap for the entire breed of dog.

Why not start by red flagging those growers that look suspicious? Like the ones that have had several patients, that to me would be some indicator that something isn't quite right. Why don't you ask the patients to give you feedback, are they satisfied with their grower? is their grower helping them? is their grower listening to their needs? But DO NOT punish the patients or the growers that are following the rules. There are many many more of us that are helping patients and following the rules and regulations than are not, but no one ever writes about that, you never hear about anything positive in the press or the hundreds of grower/patient relationships that are working you only ever hear about the ones that are taking advantage and not following the regulations.

As for being concerned about any excess marijuana being sold, if the grower is following the rules and plant allotment then there will not be any excess, if for some reason there may be excess in a crop then why not offer to purchase that from the grower. Its no secret that the marijuana that Health Canada provides its patients is not fit for human consumption, it would be far far better than the skunk weed you are now offering.

I believe that this program works and works well, I believe you should concentrate on weeding out the growers and patients that are not following the rules and leave the ones that are in place and allow them to continue as they are. We have all gone through great expense to set up the medical grows, for what ever personal reason each of us has for setting it up in the first place, could be a ill or dying parent, friend or relative. It feels good to help someone that is sick, and to punish the patients for a few law breakers is unfair, I believe Health Canada is setting themselves up for chaos if they choose to annihilate this program.

I believe that we have gone to far to back track, and that punishing the growers and patients that work hard to ensure that they follow all rules is unfair and unwarranted, I hope that you will take some of the things I have said into consideration.

██████████

250-██████████

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 11-07-13-40 Proposed changes to Medical marijuana access program  
**Date:** 2011-07-13 02:13 PM

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My name is [REDACTED], and I am currently a federal exemptee under your current guidelines. I am also a designated producer for a terminally sick gentleman in B.C. I have been part of this program for over a year and a half, I find that there are certain parts of the program which work well for me and there are many parts that do not work well. That being said, I am glad the program exists and without it I would be addicted to percocet and Oxy-codone again. I have taken the last year or so to move, and to set up a legal, safe medical facility where I can produce clean effective Medicine for myself and my client. This has not been an easy task. I suffer from debilitating chronic pain, thus I hired the professionals to do the work (set-up) properly and to code at the time. This of course includes permits and inspections from the city of Calgary as well now as the City Police. Everything passed. This added cost of set up was astronomical, but absolutely necessary to have a safe facility in a residential area. Prior to setting up this residential facility I tried to secure an industrial or commercial space to set up in, however with zoning, bylaws, commercial neighbors complaining about sharing space with a grow op. Let alone the fact they don't even believe you are legal! I believe that the production facilities belong in commercial, secured, and monitored areas. Yes away from residential areas. This will stop some of the crime related to these residential operations. My big question is I guess, how will I be compensated for my initial investment to build this safe facility. To date I have invested over \$40,000. I thought this would last for many years if i did it right the first time. I hope I don't lose that investment. I am also a member of the Cannabis Trade Association, and as such have many many peers and colleagues in the same situation as myself, some on much larger scales of course. My other concerns are about who is going to be issued a commercial growers license, and on what basis or credentials. I would like to be considered for a commercial license right now. I have production logs, shipping logs, security logs, etc. I believe that I can produce cannabis for medicine that is second to none! I have been cultivating my own cannabis and also believe that there is a certain Zen or calm that comes when producing your own remedies or herbs, and consuming them. There are many who will just not allow their medicine to come from the hand of large tobacco companies, or worse a pharmaceutical company, who is only in it for a dollar. I believe that if we were to set up a network of secure freestanding industrial facilities, where patients who can physically garden can do so. As long as each patient was allotted a number of square feet, based upon their permit numbers etc.. This would allow for much greater control of everything from number of plants, to who is removing product from the facility and when. I would also like to mention that this year I moved from B.C to Alberta, It was very difficult to find a doctor in B.C to help with my forms, but since moving here I have found it almost impossible to secure a physician who will put his or her name on your simple renewal or anything. Even with the release form for medical practitioners. It would be nice if Health Canada could provide at least one doctor in each region of this country who has some knowledge of this drug. That is so important. Don't just let us have this permit and free reign to go medicate as we feel fit, help us have trained competent medical professionals we can seek advice from regularly and easily. I could go on forever. Please contact me anytime to discuss further. Thanks for your time in hearing my thoughts. I look forward to the future.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-13-66 WWW Form Submission  
**Date:** 2011-07-13 12:26 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
( ) on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at 00:26:36

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message: I am a patient with a Medical Marijuana Production License. I am concerned about Health Canada phasing out the Patients growing their own Medical Marijuana. I personally do not want to receive Medical Marijuana from another source. Growing my own Medical Marijuana allows me to have clean, quality Medical Marijuana for my ailments. This seems like I will be forced to get my prescribed Marijuana from a producer that I do not know or trust. Before being prescribed Medical Marijuana, I was prescribed Pain Medication that had too many side effects - I was in a vicious circle - they made me sick to my stomach after a few days - so I would stop taking them - after a few days the pain was intolerable - back to the pain medication and my stomach would get too upset to eat - since being prescribed Medical Marijuana I do not go through this circle.

Will the current Medical Marijuana Production Licenses be Grandfathered?

Also, I have spent a great amount of money to have an electrician update the electrical, on house insurance set up to cover growing Medical Marijuana, buy the equipment to grow the Medical Marijuana in my home. My house and production site is totally safe and healthy and I would welcome an inspector from Health Canada.

Other patients that I know have gone through great lengths as I have to make sure their homes/production sites are up to standard by having a certified electrician perform any necessary upgrades, been in contact with BC Hydro and Insurance companies to conform to all and any regulation that might come about through Health Canada for Personal Production Sites.

I would like to know what criteria Health Canada plans on using to choose who will be accepted a Licensed Commercial Grower. If I have to become a commercial grower to be able to grow my own medication I want to know what the criteria is, please.

counter: 1872

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**From:** ■■■  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-14-5 Comment on the new "Proposed Improvements to Health Canada's Marihuana Medical Access Program"  
**Date:** 2011-07-14 09:55 PM

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## Designated-Person & Production License Concerns.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am sending you this email, with concerns with the current and proposed redesigned medical marijuana access program.

My concerns are in regard to the following information that I took from the Health Canada website.

*"Within the proposed redesigned Program, only licensed commercial producers will be legally allowed to supply individuals with marihuana for medical purposes. Personal and designated production would be phased out."*

I have many concerns with the new proposals, but first I would like to say that most people know why they are actually permitted to comment on the new proposals, not only does it allow you to get a bit of insight "from the public" on issues you might not have thought of or the extent of such, but most of all, it enables you to give the general public a heads up on what IS going to happen next. "Become a virtual cash cow for the Gov"

We all know that the current system is full of questionable concerns, and I also believe that some issues definitely need to be addressed. I, like most people thought at first, that the creation of Health Canada's Marihuana Medical Access Program had finally made a move in

the right direction, and that move was that it had finally given people in need access to medication that offered them some relief, and this relief was at an affordable price, they could actually grow it themselves, somehow it had evaded becoming the next untapped resource!

Not only did the Medical Access Program help people by the masses, it was created in a manner that would not enable it to become a money machine for a select few including the creation of yet another "roundabout" Government Money Grab or money making machine.

In our lives it is a constant / daily topic that we discuss. I could talk about this all day long but here I will only try to point out a few of the most important issues I can think of.

Now most of us already know where this is going to end up. "A money grab"

I can only imagine how long this was discussed before "for lack of better terms" the cat is out of the bag, the general public finally had access to their medication, and with no one having their fingers in it!

I believe this "giving patients to grow their own medication" was most likely some sort of trial, to see how this could be tapped "money making machine" in the end.

So here we are at the stage of; How to take advantage of the people.

Knowing that the above is the end and final goal, let's deal with some of the issues along the way.

So by now, if you're wondering, my answer is YES.

Yes I do believe there should be a redesigned Program, but not in a way that it will hit the prescription users in their pockets.

From my perspective, here are some of my concerns;

1) Currently, I have a "Designated-Person Production License", I am growing for 2 patients at the moment. Now, within the proposed redesigned Program, only licensed commercial producers will legally be allowed to supply individuals with marihuana for medical purposes.

What your proposal means for my patients, there is no way that they will be able to purchase their medication at the price they are currently paying!

My patients will AGAIN be at the mercy of others. I could keep talking about this all day, but hey, IT IS WHAT IT IS! My patients currently pay for hydro fertilizer and production materials, if the proposed changes pass "which they will" patients will also have to pay for profit, and blown up profit at that, as the government money grab "taxes, licensing, quality control, etc, etc," will have to be added to those profits. This is going to selectively gouge the ones in need with no alternative!

2) Stopping Personal production is the saddest move that could happen for prescription holders. Now, just like with pharmaceutical medications, prescriptions will be priced out of reach for many in need "Again the rich will always be able to afford it".

Phasing this out will be a sad, sad thing.

Note: It's not that I don't agree that changes have to be made, I agree that controls should be put in place, I agree that a third party quality control should be looked at to ensure that medication is of high standards, I also agree that there is a huge opening for abuse with the current layout of this whole thing but phasing out personal production is definitely not the way to go.

3) There are many issues that will be faced, such as; how is this going to be kept under control.

a) If an inspector goes into one grow operation and then goes 20 miles down the road to another grow operation this will lead to cross contamination, "a big mess" one has mites, they all have mites, one has dry mold, they all have dry mold, see where this is going. A good decontamination system will have to be established, "more money".

4) Another issue, this one I am currently in a mess with:

My current / personal issue with dealing this designated grower license that I am now holding; about 3 - 4 weeks ago, I contacted my house insurance to advise them of our situation, an insurance rep came to my house and I discussed my medical grow operation with him as I thought that it was the right thing to do for insurance purposes. It became quickly obvious that honesty was not the best policy.

My grow operation is situated in an un-attached garage about 200 ft. from my house "that I have build specially for the purpose of growing for my patients".

I showed the insurance rep all the work that I had done, I showed him all the paperwork for this operation, and I showed him how this whole thing was built by professionals, "not a back yard fly by night operation". I thought that I was doing the right thing by advising my insurance of what was going on, I was growing on my property, but not in my actual house, everything was legal, everything in its place.....

Well now here is my gift for being so honest, as "some" say honesty is the best policy!

This is what happened, about 2 weeks later my insurance phoned me with bad

news, they have revoked my insurance policy, they say that no one will insure me due to me having a marijuana grow operation on my property, now that sounded bad but wait, **THAT'S NOT THE BAD NEWS**, the bad news now is that, since I don't have any house insurance, I am in default of my mortgage loan at the bank! I signed the dotted line saying that I will have insurance on my loan in the event that something was to happen to my house, well now, when July 15<sup>th</sup> rolls around I won't have any more house insurance. **It gets worse!**, so now, when July 15<sup>th</sup> rolls around the bank can come over to my house and demand the keys and there is **NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT, NOW MY FAMILY IS FACING LOOSING OUR HOME.** Why? For producing medication for 2 patients "one which is my wife" This needs to be looked at, and quick. I have a nice house in the country, I have been living here for close to 20 years, paying bills here, we are now at the risk of losing our home in a couple weeks because I was HONEST!

**Please address this quickly.**

**Here is yet another big issue for me: What about all my expenses to build a medical grow operation for my patients?**

One thing that I believe is not being mentioned or even considered in all of this is; I will use my case as an example: My wife and I, not wanting to start a grow operation in our house "for insurance reasons" opted to build a separate building specially for the purpose of growing medical marijuana.

We built a new 2 story building, had it professionally wired and set up especially for the purpose.....

Now, not only did I spend many thousands of dollars to build this building, "tens of thousands", we spent many thousands of dollars for equipment to outfit this building to ensure quality control, from large filters / fans, to air exchangers, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, pump systems & climate controls, etc, etc, etc,

I have also done a bit of stock piling to save my clients money, I spent a lot of money on a stock of fertilizers in addition to many bales of dirt in storage, "all of which I purchased at bulk pricing to save everyone money on their meds!

Should your proposals pass, **what am I going to do with all of this, and who is going to**



cover all these expenses????, you get the picture, and now I am hearing that this will all be in vain, it will all have to be trashed and we will be out literally tens of thousands of dollars we invested just to try and help someone out, and all while following the law.

So now with the proposed changes, a pencil pusher got a brain wave and wants to abolish all of it in order to secure a money mill for a select few. Hmmmmm I wonder how easy my wife and I will swallow this one should all the "so called proposals" pass!

### **Who is going to pay for all of our mess?**

A small story for you a few months ago, I had the opportunity to help someone out really close to me, in Sept 2010 I actually had the opportunity to help my mother out during her last couple of months with her battle with cancer. Family members discussed with our mother the option of trying marijuana to suppress her pain, which she agreed to try. Not only did we have to deal with the, end of life cycle for our mother, we had to deal with acquiring illegal drugs "marijuana" in a hurry, as time was a factor in helping her cope in her last few weeks with us. "note; this was discussed with a doctor prior to discussing it with our mother"

We acquired marijuana as one of the last resorts to make her comfortable, my mom had very good results with it and it definitely helped her cope with her pain at the time.

The issues in dealing with all of this was compounded by all the delays we faced when trying to acquire marijuana to be used as a pain suppressor in my mother's situation, this should not be there. There should be a system for such cases in place to purchase this immediately, for instances like these.

The many months of waiting for would not have helped our mother out one bit!

**Here is a bit of reading that I am sure not too many people will enlighten you with.**

Word out on the streets; the actual drug dealers are pissed at all of this as it has put a BIG dent in their money making machine! They have had to resort to getting licenses themselves to grow in order to compete. One local family actually went out and got 4 - 100 plant licenses in order to grow for profit!

Finally something was done that actually DID put a dent in the drug dealers cash machine, this has never happened before, this actually slowed down the drug dealers, something that no other entity has been able to do in the past, EVER! Now with all the loopholes people actually are given 100 and 200 plant licenses,

Now, that's a crock of crap if I ever seen one. It's retarded, who makes these laws!

And soon, with these new so called restructuring / proposals, "that will inevitably be put in place" it will turn the clock back to where it was, soon be taken out of the loop so the dealers can AGAIN get right back into business as usual except now they will be licensed to grow WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT.....

"Without even knowing, someone finally got it right, and they are about to take it all away" funny how things work!

In closing;

I would like to know who is going to pay for all my expenses in all of this. I have invested a lot of money in order to help the patients I grow for, who is going to help me pay for all of this should it all be abolished? My family as way too much invested in this to just trash it all out!

I believe that a 3<sup>rd</sup> party cannabinoid / marijuana fingerprinting / qualitative control system should be looked into, but note, there are many issues that still exist with current sampling & testing procedures that affect fingerprinting and THC readouts.

I, myself have also looked into this a bit but there is a big problem with existing testing capabilities for testing the breakdown of THC, CBD, CBN to ensure the quality of a

medication one consumes.

The problem is that, if you were to do 2 or 3 or 5 consecutive tests on samples of the same marijuana plant, they will all come out with a different fingerprint!

I would love to get involved in this aspect of it, "if there was a possibility". But chances are someone already has their finger in this "hence one more reason for new proposals!!!"

Should the new proposals sadly pass, and this "currently" weak quality control / fingerprinting system be put in place, not only will some growers benefit from being recognized for the questionable quality of their product, but patients unfamiliar with testing procedures will think that they are benefitting from all of this.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

902-[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-14-37 my input  
**Date:** 2011-07-14 03:34 PM

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Hello. I have just read the proposed changes to the medical marijuana laws and would like to comment.

I have been growing at my home for about 3 years now. I have a significant investment in my setup. \$3000 for the shed, probably another thousand in equipment. Additionally I have just built a \$25,000 specially constructed garage with in-floor heating and fully insulated. This garage was built to home standards for the express reason of accommodating my growing needs. It was also built to allow me to grow for another 2 license holders who are having a lot of difficulty obtaining product from their designated grower. He took on more patients than he can adequately supply. The financial investment by all growers is significant.

The most important issue is cost. What I now grow for basically free I will be expected to come up with \$800 - \$1000 EVERY month to purchase. The new proposed changes seem to offload the cost of purchasing marihuana directly onto the sick, disabled people who require this product. I believe ultimately the courts would force Health Canada to cover the cost of purchasing said marihuana and then it would be a financial disaster for the taxpayers.

The reporting and audit requirements seem more trouble than it is worth, seems incredibly expensive to staff and enforce the standards. As a person who is interested in making a transition from a personal producer to a small commercial designated grower i lose interest when I see all the paperwork and reporting requirements.

I am quite concerned about the elimination of the authorisation card. Holding that card gives me comfort and makes me feel at ease when I am required to show it, like for boarding a plane while carrying the marihuana.

A lot of the other changes seem reasonable and should make things easier overall.

[REDACTED]

**From:** ■  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-14-40  
**Date:** 2011-07-14 02:32 PM

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I have spent a tremendous amount of money on home security system, contractor, construction, plumber, and electrician and all proper permits. Not to mention thousands on equipment that is all CSA and UL certified, and have just recently got my license and haven't even produced my first crop yet and this is now what you are proposing. that it was all for nothing and to add insult to injury i would have to pay to take it all down and restore my basement room back to the way it was. Try to sell equipment and go back to paying ridiculously high street prices from a licensed producer who along with the other producers will hold a monopoly on all medicinal marijuana patients. Is this going to fix things, are you going to reimburse me or will you allow license holders a reasonable amount of time (approximately 5 years) to make the change to the new system without costing us thousands

thank you

■

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-18-23Proposed Changes  
**Date:** 2011-07-18 04:37 PM

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Health Canada

July 18, 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Reference: Proposed Changes to Health Canada's Medical Marijuana Medical Access Program**

I am writing as I am currently a 'Designated Grower' under the program. I am concerned about changes to the program in the following ways.

Firstly, as a grower for a patient who is seriously ill, I have invested a lot of time and money to set up the growing conditions appropriate for my client's needs. This has involved getting a building permit, having licensed electrical and carpentry work completed, and installing some expensive equipment, including air conditioning, exhaust system and lights, all of which I had to purchase.

Unless I am able to continue to produce and grow marijuana

for my client (or someone else) I will not be able to recoup my initial investment. If I had known that Health Canada was going to change the rules for designated growers I would not have proceeded as the cost is just too great.

Further, I have, through trial and error, been able to grow the best strain of medical marijuana to suit my client. I use non-toxic, chemical-free methods. This is something that is not easily replicated. Should my client have to go through the same process with another grower, I would expect it could take up to two years before he is able to get the medicine to meet his requirements.

I think that existing 'designated growers' should be able to maintain the status quo. It is, in my opinion, extremely unfair to now pass this over to commercial growers.

I am not opposed to inspections or accountability as to transactions.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

[REDACTED]

West Kelowna BC [REDACTED]

Privileged/confidential information may be contained in this message. If you are not the addressee indicated in this message (or responsible for delivery of the message to such person), you may not copy or deliver this message to anyone. In such case, you should destroy this message and kindly notify the sender by reply e-mail.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-20-49new proposal  
**Date:** 2011-07-20 01:31 PM

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Hi I just got my license this year, I am not for having to buy from a source other than myself... I have invested money in the equipment and for the first time I have control over how I grow it and the quality... I am on a fixed income disability pension and do not have the money to buy it. I also am so disabled that I do not drive and seldom leave my home of which is in a rural area on an island, the cost to go to town on the ferry is \$40.00 let alone having to find someone to take me there and a days worth of time...so please do not take my ability to grow it myself....For the first time in years the stress of having to acquire marihuana is gone and I know what I am getting.... PLEASE This proposal is not good for a lot of us capable of growing our own. It sounds more like someone is seeing a way to make money... I do believe that plants like all of the vegies in my garden should be free to anyone capable of growing them. The police already control people selling drugs... I would not and have never sold Marihuana. thank you sincerely [REDACTED] oh and by the way where are the picture ID's we were suppose to get I have been waiting since last year? ????????????????

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-20-51WWW Form Submission  
**Date:** 2011-07-20 01:10 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
( ) on Wednesday, July 20, 2011 at 13:10:38

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message: I am on the medical marihuana program and i grow my own medical supply. I could not afford to buy my own from someone else no matter who it was government or privately. Also I would have no idea what it was sprayed with or what chemicals it had in it, at least with me growing it I know exactly what I put in it and that gives me a piece of mind. Also when I go to my Doctor to renew my for application it costs me \$300.00 every year and I can't afford that either. Both me and my wife are on medical disability pensions and don't have alot of money to do this . In fact we go in the whole every month as it is. Can you not give the doctors an option as to how long your license is good for. If I am going to be on this program for awhile because it does work for me why do I have to have it renewed every year , why can't the Doctor have a choice as to how long I can have it, like instead of just the two choices of 6 months or a year. why can't he have a choice like 6months -1 year-3 years- 5 years- or lifetime for those people who are dying. I was on heavy pain killers (percacets, oxycottin) and now with medical marihuana I have cut my pain down in half, which I feel alot better . I would much rather have for my health. Why can't you have inspectors or private company go check the grow ops to see that everything is not being abused. I have also spent alot of money which I did not have to begin with to build a grow room so I could use my license. It cost us 10000 dollars to set this up right with equipment and electricians and carpenters. Now I hear that we might not be able to use this if you take this away and bring in commercial growers, all this expense we put out for nothing and then we could not afford to buy it from them and I am sure we are not the only ones that built rooms and the equipment to grow. We put the money out for this because you gave us the license to do this and now 4 months later you want to take this right away. This is not right.

counter: 1980

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-22-24 WWW Form Submission  
**Date:** 2011-07-22 03:34 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
( ) on Friday, July 22, 2011 at 15:33:58

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message: I have spent well over \$ 1000 setting up my grow room to produce my limit of all of 15 plants and now the feds are going to make me and hundreds or thousands like me become criminals just so we are able to deal with are pain. Gee now all we have to do is buy it as before. Will the feds compensate us for the money we have spent to set up a legal grow op??

counter: 359

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-22-30 response to proposed Improvement  
**Date:** 2011-07-22 12:07 PM

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I understand you wanting to make sure where out marihuana is grown..that it is safe from fires and beeing stolen..

I also like the idea that out license doesnt run out so we are left we no pain medication..the renewal of licenses seems to take forever and then you dont have any.. I understand the demand is higher now ..and understandable..I,m a 70yr old lady who has never done drugs of any kind or smoked marihuana . have not smoked in 40yrs..It was very hard for me to finally accept the pain...was not helping me and slowly killing me instead. the side effects of morphine,,deromol amd oxcondi n were just to much..so please help people that are like me with this program.. was for me to try this drug..but beeing able to enjoy my life better and my family .but useing marihuana has helped my value of life ..thank you for this program and I believe the changes will also help thank you [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-22-32 New Marihuana Medical Access Program  
**Date:** 2011-07-22 11:03 AM

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To Whom it May Concern;

I have been approved on the old program to grow my own marihuana for medical purposes since I suffer from cancer. I have spent quite a bit of money to purchase equipment and set up a good security system so that I could grow this marihuana in my home, this should eliminate any concerns regarding the risk of any home invasions. I would like to know who will reimburse me for all the money I have spent? I feel that all existing authorized persons should be grandfathered, so that we can continue to grow our own marihuana for medical purposes, since we have spent the money on this equipment.

I'm also concerned because right now I do not have to pay for this marihuana, you would be taking it away from me. What will this cost me to start purchasing it from a licensed commercial producer, will this cost be covered under a government health plan.

Yours Truly,

[REDACTED]



SIGNED : [REDACTED]

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND IF I HAVE OFFENDED IM VERY SORRY BUT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS IT WOULD BE A HONOUR TO ANSWER THEM. AS IM SURE IF YOU DONT KNOW THE TRUTH YOU WOULD BE SHOCKED OF WHAT A BIGGER MESS THIS WILL BE THAN GUN REGISTRY.

RETURN ADDRESS [REDACTED] BERWYN ALBERTA [REDACTED] CANADA

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-23-17 [REDACTED] Designated marihuana production licence holder  
**Date:** 2011-07-23 04:09 PM

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Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing this letter of protest on the proposed medical marihuana program changes.

Firstly on grounds that it is unfair to the patient, I feel their rights are being violated by proposed restrictions on where he can obtain his medicine. I know our current majority pro "Big Business" government is dying to give this industry over to their corporate pals so they can make a killing off of sick and disabled people in pain. I mean look at the disgustingly large prices the sick and disabled pay for all other medicines.

Secondly, large corporate entities and big businesses are all about record profits, so recipients will obviously receive a inferior and potentially harmful product grown with all the nasty chemicals in order to churn out as much product as possible, in turn increasing the bottom line, Whereas my licence holders know exactly what they want and what's in their marihuana at the price of helping with all expenses of growing and equipment, much cheaper than buying off the street and much safer too.

In regards to my own welfare I have spent a great deal of money and man hours on this program to get it started up, with many receipts to prove it!!!! What am I going to do about these expenses? Basically I feel that with these proposed changes, that there is a burglar at my door with a gun in my face ordering me to give him/her my money! Has government not thought about any of these concerns while drafting up these new proposals, please say it isn't so.

To close this letter, I will remind you that one of my licence holders is a paraplegic in a wheelchair, and the other has an extremely painful deteriorating back disorder. I myself have submitted a criminal record check proving I am not a felon, so please tell me why the government wants to steal this away from people such as ourselves and place it in the hands of a compassionless purely for profit entity.

Sincerely yours

[REDACTED]

Nanaimo BC

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-24-3 Proposed Changes to the Marihuana Laws  
**Date:** 2011-07-24 10:35 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My husband has a licence to possess and I am the person designated to grow for him. We do not agree with the proposed changes to the systems we have spent a considerable amount of time and money to set up our production site and buy equipment, plant food and all other necessary items as well as the cost of criminal record checks, photos, etc.

I feel it is cheaper and safer for us to produce our own marihuana as I can determine what products are used to fertilize the plants and if need be control pests, etc. Since my husband's immune system is very much compromised, I feel that we have the right to know everything about the plants that he uses and do not want to purchase this product from anyone else. Although I understand the concerns raised, I do not feel law abiding citizens, such as ourselves, should be penalized.

If the system should change, will Health Canada be compensating us financially for the money we have already spent? I think not.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-24-9 WWW Form Submission  
**Date:** 2011-07-24 06:57 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
( ) on Sunday, July 24, 2011 at 18:57:03

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message: My husband is currently producing his own marijuana, and we have spent thousands of dollars for all the equipment. He only received his medical permit last year. We don't oppose the new changes, but will there be any re-embursment for people who spent their own money only to have the rules change the very next year? We are upset about the fact of having lost all that money, and now what do we do with all the equipment?

counter: 422

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-24-17 Consultation  
**Date:** 2011-07-24 05:33 PM

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[REDACTED]

Vancouver B.C

[REDACTED]

604-[REDACTED]

July 24, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I am a Designated grower for two patients. One is a quadriplegic with very little use of his hands and no use of his legs. He is unable to feed himself. My other patient is a diabetic with major stomach problems. They both ingest marijuana as food hence their high gram per day prescriptions. They are very concerned about private companies setting prices so high they would both have to smoke because of affordability factor. That is NOT what would be best for them. Both have told me that my strain has changed their lives. I have invested a lot of \$ in equipment to produce medical marijuana and my strain. I have also outfitted the house with: a high tech security system and fencing , a very good cooling system and an air scrubbing ventilation system to combat odor escaping from my home. Then there is the countless months of work I put into the development of a strain that treats my patients needs extremely well. I am the only person in the world with this strain. I have done everything Health Canada required of me in my set up and I have developed a strain that my patients say they cannot do without. Let me add that my patients both have stopped taking the damaging prescription drugs they were once on. This is a direct result of using my medical marijuana strain as it was developed with their ailments in mind.

I have always worked within the strict guidelines of the designated licenses I was granted by Health Canada. My suggestion to combat crime and abuse of the program is to do more

inspections. I would welcome an inspection as many times a year as Health Canada would see fit. Why should a law abiding designated grower like myself and my Patients be punished because of the lack of inspections? I feel that more frequent inspections by Health Canada would surly stop any abuse.

In closing I would ask that Health Canada reconsider the proposal to end designated growers program .The end of this program would affect my patient's wellness immensely.

Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely Yours,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-24-21 cost  
**Date:** 2011-07-24 04:03 PM

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what will be the cost of commercial marijauna?  
and will personal licenced cultivators be reimbursed the costs of the equipment already  
invested in?

i live on a very small income and have no money as it is with my monthly budget.  
i have been producing my own marijuana for over ten years now and have required a lot of  
overhead to do so. and at this point i have the cost producing it down to very low cost.  
with the ability to make my own seeds and strains of medical marijuana product.

yours truly

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-24-25 proposed improvements?  
**Date:** 2011-07-24 02:19 PM

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Dear commitee

I currently hold a personal production license for my access for my pain medication, I do not wish to see this altered.

It's possible that the designated grower system is flawed and abused by some unscrupulous individuals , but I personally can say I've never gone over my allotment of plants, and have gone through the process professionally.

In developing my outbuilding growing space at quite a substantial cost to myself such as Alarm system, permits, electrician, building materials, grow lights and all the other cost's associated getting to this point would be very down heartening and plain mean, to have this right taken away.

Now to have to spend more money on finished product I can produce for myself is inherently asinine as well counterproductive as to cleaning up the drug problem; you will just be forcing

more people back underground. Take away designate licenses and make them commercial but don't take away personal use production licenses!

I am quite sure there will be many lawsuits brought forward as to this issue and I will be one of them. Pandora's box is open now ,lets put the lid back on.

Sincerly [REDACTED]  
Chemainus B.C.

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
Subject: 11-07-24-33 Proposed improvement?  
Date: 2011-07-24 11:43 AM

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I find it rather ironic that you call the changes that may come about to the medical marijuana program "Improvements" After ten years of Canadians fighting for legal access to a natural medication that they require, to me this is a HUGE step back NOT an improvement.

I also find it very insulting that one of the concerns being raised is individuals who will abuse their license and grow drugs for the illicit market. As a medical marijuana participant, I got my license to possess and grow so I would NOT have to do it illegally because I do NOT want to be labelled as a criminal. If I wanted to break the law, I never would have applied for a legal license to possess/or grow. Yes there may be a select few that have a medical license and choose to break the law and abuse the license and grow extra, but these people are criminals who want to break the law, whether they have a permit or not. Taking medical permits to grow away from everyone is not going to stop these people from breaking the law. Why do the rest of us have to pay the price for a select few?

You also raise concerns about indoor grow ops being dangerous and a public safety fire hazard and electrical hazards. Does this mean as Canadians we are no longer allowed to buy legal grow equipment from legal grow stores to grow indoor gardens such as vegetables too? Or is it only marijuana that we are not allowed to grow indoors? I personally spent a fair amount of money to set up my grow room last year when Health Canada told me I was licensed to grow marijuana. All the equipment was bought from a legal gardening store. So according to the proposed changes, I will soon no longer be permitted to grow my marijuana. My question to you is, since this is all legal grow equipment, am I supposed to now throw it out? Or am I allowed to use it to grow vegetables and herbs and just not marijuana? Also, does this mean that my equipment is safe or not? Personally I would have no problem with someone coming in to inspect my equipment, OR my marijuana.

My final and major concern is this. You mention your commitment to continuing to provide Canadians access to medical marijuana, yet you never once mention who is going to pay for it? I notice you say that Canadians can buy it from a commercial grower, but where do you think Canadians are going to get the money to pay the kind of prices they ask? In my experience, the majority of people I know that are ill enough to need medical marijuana are quite often too ill to work and on a fixed income like myself. I can assure you as a recipient of Canada Pension, my medical prescription of 4 grams of marijuana a day would cost more than my monthly pension. I've seen in the news of a few people that have already gone to court that are on social services asking for the government to pay for their marijuana because they can't afford it. I've also seen a few of these people win their case. The majority of people I know that

have their marijuana license however are able to grow there own. Take that away from Canadians, and how many people will be asking the government to pay for them? I for one would like to know, where do I apply? Seriously, I'd like know. I know that without my marijuana my health will take a serious dive for the worse. I am usually unable to get out of bed without it. I also know that I have no money to pay for it. So please tell me, what is our government going to do for people like us?

(902) 



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-25-40 reply to proposed changes to home growers  
**Date:** 2011-07-25 08:56 PM

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In response to your concerns and proposals,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am 60 years old. I have continuous chronic pancreatic attacks with severe nausea and severe curvature of my spine due to back surgeries resulting in excruciating pain at times. I am on prescribed methadone as well as other medications to dull the pain enough to give a low standard of life. I was on an expensive cancer drug also that worked well for nausea but costs so much. My Specialist suggested to take marihuana and it works well. The doctor is even reducing my methadone concentration to a reasonable level to reduce risks on heart and rising diabetes levels. The marihuana has been such a blessing for me as it gives fast relief for the unbearable times that I need something. It has taken the stress off of me for coming up with money to pay for a cancer drug, as I can now grow my own medicine 15 plants.

In response to: ***the potential for diversion of marihuana produced for medical purposes to the illicit market;***

I can only grow 15 plants. This is what I need to obtain the medicine required that has to last 4 months. Don't see how any left over for criminal market, not that it should.

In response to: ***public safety risks, including electrical and fire hazards, stemming from the cultivation of marihuana in homes;***

The grow room is built to and wired to code. Tried and tested.

In response to: ***public health risks due to the presence of excess mould and poor air quality associated with the cultivation of marihuana plants in homes;***

The grow room and area is ventilated and humidity controlled.

In response to: ***the complexity and length of the application process for individuals who wish to obtain an authorization to possess and/or a licence to produce marihuana;***

I think this is a good thing that the government should check out the applicants.

Doctor approval only, in my opinion, would allow criminal activity easier. It took me over a year to obtain my licence.

In response to: ***the need for more current medical information pertaining to the risks and benefits associated with the use of marihuana for medical purposes, as a means of supporting discussions between physicians and their patients as to whether such treatment is appropriate.***

Marihuana is already reducing my methadone concentration with proposed reductions in the future to reduce heart and diabetes risks. Doctors already get updates as part of their profession. Why pay other people to do similar thing? Unless they are biased.

In closing I have invested for my health around \$2000 to set up. Would you reimburse this if proposed improvements were put into effect. How much would marihuana cost at distributor. Would it be same as cancer drug I was on? If so, we are back at square one, coming up with money that I don't have!

Marihuana is a Godsend to me and works very well for when I need extra relief from my continuous pain that I live with everyday.

I feel that the system , the way it is now works ok for me and I don't see benefits in changing. There are more important crimes that should be addressed with the funds available to Law enforcement. Marihauna is legal in other countries- there must be a reason for this.

**From:** Minister Ministre  
**To:** [REDACTED]@yahoo.com  
**Cc:** consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca  
**Subject:** 11-07-26-42 Re: NO to MM \"changes\"  
**Date:** 2011-07-26 12:46 PM

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Thank you for your correspondence of July 25, 2011, addressed to the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, regarding the proposed improvements to the Marihuana Medical Access Program. We have forwarded your comments to the following address consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca so that your feedback may be included in the consultation process.

----- Forwarded by Minister\_Ministre/HC-SC/GC/CA on 2011-07-26 12:45 PM -----

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]@yahoo.com) on Monday, July 25, 2011 at 14:26:16

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realname: [REDACTED]  
firstname: [REDACTED]  
lastname: [REDACTED]  
email: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com  
address:  
city: Long Point  
province: NS  
country:  
postal\_code:  
subject: NO to MM \"changes\"  
comments: Hello,

I doubt you are even going to READ these letters of protest, but I will try to get my 2 cents down anyway.

I have been on MM since 2008. I enjoy being able to grow my medicine. I have a safe grow room, and I keep my plants to my limit. I do not have mould or air quality issues. I do not advertise that I grow, so I have NO CRIMINALS coming around my home. I have locks, a secure location, even a guard dog!

Just because some IDIOTS grow too many plants, doesn't mean all MM growers do! That is a LIE! Most MM are honestly sick, and we have the RIGHT to grow our medicine as we see fit! We aren't hurting ANYONE! We are helping ourselves, and some are growing to help others. It's self-less!

I take GREAT OFFENCE to Health Canada changing the rules to get rid of personal and designated growers. This is against my RIGHTS!

I have spent THOUSANDS over the years to get my MM grow room the way it should be. It is safe and effective and LEGAL. I don't understand WHY Health Canada would CRUSH my right to grow my medicine! SHAME!

If these so-called \"changes\" come into effect, I will be very unhappy. I will be out THOUSANDS! I'm also a very poor person, and I could not/would not pay for my medicine from COMMERCIAL growers! Those JERKS would charge WAY TOO MUCH for MM. But you don't care about that, do you?! And I'm sure only MONSANTO will get the COMMERCIAL GROWER licenses to boot!

If I could get one of those COMMERCIAL LICENSES to grow for MM users, then I would be ALL FOR these changes... but you\'d NEVER let regular people with a GIFT to GROW MM have their chance to make some serious money, would you? NOPE! You\'ll give it all to corporations, and you don\'t even TAX them like you do EVERYONE else... so to HECK with all of you! It\'s bullpoo! Everything this Harper Government does is absolute BULLPOO! Canada is WORSE than Mexico, thanks to Harpo. I didn\'t vote for him, neither did over 60% of Canadians, yet here we are with a dictator!!! BOOO! To all of you!

Will there be a buy out option? I\'ve spent thousands over the last 3 years, upgrading and making my grow room safe!!! Are you planning on cutting me a big fat cheque?? I will NOT allow the Harper Government to CRAP on my Rights ANYMORE! Enough is enough!!!

Will there be subsidies for poor people so we can afford our MM? I doubt it! You\'re sucking all the funding from services and tossing it into WAR! BOOOO!

These \"changes\" are STUPID! You Health Canada people are just trying to opt-out because less than 20% of MM users are purchasing your shitty weed, and you can\'t even get proper licenses out in time for the MM growers/users! I\'ve been waiting since FEB for my new license!!!

Expect a class-action lawsuit, pal! These \"changes\" are BULLPOO!

PLUS, doing all this in the summer, when people aren\'t paying attention... is a LOW BLOW! Well, I\'ve tried to reason with you, you will do what you like.

I\'m usually a very nice person, but this affront on my rights is really making me upset!

I wish you people actually CARED about Canadians, and not corporations.... :(

Sincerely,

MM Grower since 2008...

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Reply To:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-26-51 Changes to the medical Marihuana  
**Date:** 2011-07-26 11:58 AM

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As a medical Marihuana user and a member of the program for years. I want to know how the government will compensate all of the people that the government of Canada allowed to buy equipment to produce the Marihuana that the government was incapable of doing. To keep my costs down I chose to grow my own and invested thousands. My question is how will you compensate us as we invested based on the government allowing it and now you want us to do what with the infrastructure that we have created to produce our medicine? Or is the answer that we will be grandfathered and allowed to continue our own production?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
Burnaby, B.C.  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-26-71 i oppose the changes  
**Date:** 2011-07-26 04:44 PM

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I'm a licensed medical marihuana user and grower and I oppose these changes for the following reasons:

- 1.) I already built my own grow room, spent a lot of money, which would be wasted, if I would not be allowed to continue growing. This would be a real hardship for me, as I don't have much money anyway because of my condition.
- 2.) The commercial growers will be able to set their own prices. This might cause me a lot of extra costs to get my medicine.
- 3.) There are more than 400 different strains of marihuana out there; all of those have different effects on the patient. The one I'm growing exactly fits my needs, but is not a good producer and therefore not the choice of a commercial grower. I might not be able to get this strain anymore, which helps me the best.
- 4.) My own grown medical marihuana is absolutely free of pesticides and residues from fertilizers. That is the main reason, why I grow myself. This guaranty no commercial grower will give me.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]  
License # [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca  
Subject: 11-07-26-76 WWW Form Submission  
Date: 2011-07-26 03:57 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
( ) on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 15:57:30

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message: I am so upset by this!!!! My grower is wonderful I want to keep him!!!!!!  
He cares about my health on a personal level! No one else will. We are close friends now as well. He talks to me, listens to my needs! He even researched my disease!! A commercial grower will NOT do any of these things, NOR will they give personalized service. It's not possible on a huge commercail scale.

My grower has spent \$35,000 and countless hours making his grow operation. He spent MONTHS waiting to hear, then WE spent months waiting for it all to grow and NOW you want to pull the plug on him??? Where do you get off doing that to us? Who will pay him back? Is he just supposed to go into bankrupcy now because of this? AND loose his job!!!

There would likely be a huge class action suit against the gov't for this reason alone. That takes money and time from the gov't as well. So many will be upset by this. This sounds like a government money grab not caring about the true patients. PLEASE don't do this!

Criminal problems exist everywhere. A PROPER grow operation followed by health canadas' reccomendations and checked by the RCMP is NOT a threat to neighbours or children. No one even is aware that it is there! They shouldn't be, and if done properly no one knows!

Punish those who do the crime not the rest of us by changing growers to commercial. Or let us who are VERY HAPPY stay with our current growers.

This is all that concerns me and what concerns me the most. I do not need to yet again be stressed out by this. It is bad for my medical condition.

I emplore you to not change to commercial growers. Why should we all be punished from this?? because that is what it feels like, also panic and stress!  
Or let us who want to stay with our growers, stay.  
Thank you for listening and allowing my say.

counter: 1842

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-26-86 WWW Form Submission  
**Date:** 2011-07-26 07:23 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
( ) on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 19:22:24

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message: I understand the need to take the criminal element out of the MMAR program and to ensure safe neighborhoods. However I feel the proposed changes will not address the above noted concern. More importantly it will no longer allow patients to produce their own medicine at a reasonable cost. I have invested much time and money in my production facility. I can now produce my medicine for roughly 50 / oz. To buy this quantity from a commercial grower or dispensary would cost 200/ oz. Not only would my medicine increase in price I would be out my original 5k investment. Currently my medicine is available when I need it, this may not be the case if one has to rely on a third party to produce it, and yet a further party to deliver the product. I have no issue with commercial growers supplying medicine to patients without the means to produce their own, but please do not take away ones right to produce their own medicine. Further I would have no issue and would support periodic inspections for personal production growers.

Respectfully yours

[REDACTED]  
counter: 1064

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
Subject: 11-07-26-89 WWW Form Submission  
Date: 2011-07-26 06:17 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
( ) on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 18:17:52

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message: I am a patient as well as a designated grower for my wife. I grow because:

- 1) I know and worked with [REDACTED] right after his son's funeral. [REDACTED] was father to [REDACTED] who was one of the four RCMP officers killed in Myerthorpe. I will not support criminal elements.
- 2) The Cannabis the government sells is not effective as a medicine.
- 3) We grow our own strains that help us with our ailments and we do it well. There are no mites or bugs, pesticides or foliar depositions that may taint the medicine.
- 4) Listen Carefully now: I WILL NOT BUY FROM OTHERS including your selected few corporations who ever they would be? I've invested too much time and treasure in growing medical Cannabis to become victim to a Canadian legislative version of Reefer Madness. What is really going on here is akin to making my own wine but for my health.

But the question is-What Do I do with My Surplus?  
The moment you say to a Designated Grower that he can sell his product for the medical use will be a happy day.  
From an economist's point of view the infrastructure to supply is already in place. One in one hundred homes have Cannabis growing in them. Some of these people must be honest. I smoke Cannabis and have no criminal record. I employ others at our company (we own a school). It would be a huge loss to revert to big corporate Bayer Squibb Johnson & Johnson Novo pharm who would buy greenhouse hire a few guys and provide. Here you can expect the same small market share as your current legal supplier has.  
There are lots of business models from which to choose. Wineries, microbreweries and distilleries are all regulated. There are dozens of methods of control but I think the best one would be a simple license to provide a volume at a price to a co-op or not-for profit supplying patients. Inspection of legal Cannabis growing operation assuring the facility cannot grow too much more than the license provides will have. Distribution of cannabis by the co-op or not for profit should be able to add a surcharge to cover delivery and collection costs. Police drug units can inspect licensed grow ops. and the various compassion clubs or 420 associations, which exist across the country, can be used. Be smart not reactionary. Build on the infrastructure that is there and squeeze the criminals out.

[REDACTED]  
Calgary

[REDACTED]@shaw.ca 403-[REDACTED]

PS your MMAR current administration

counter: 2404

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-26-93 Proposed changes to medical marijuana  
**Date:** 2011-07-26 11:24 PM

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To Health Canada:

I am a handicapped person with a license to grow my own marijuana. Your system to license commercial growers may help some users obtain a stable supply. However, this will make it impossible for people like myself to obtain marijuana since I am on a severely limited income. As it is now, my marijuana only costs me the price of electricity. I fail to see how this improves my supply as your legislation will simply add a middle man who will charge me well over one hundred dollars per ounce and this is simply unaffordable.

I am and have always been totally in compliance with the conditions of my license. I have a fire proof enclosure which was wired and inspected by a licensed electrician. Additionally I have a fire suppression system. Since I grow my own marijuana I know that it is mold free and is also free of pesticides and chemicals. I have no fear of being robbed in a home invasion as I don't have much marijuana on hand. More importantly nobody outside of my house is aware that I have a grow op. In short, any concern of home invasion is just plain silly.

The present system clearly suits my needs and revoking my license will seriously disrupt access to my medication. In fact, revoking my license would be unfair and would do absolutely nothing to improve public safety since my marijuana never leaves my property. Revoking my license is simply treating me like a criminal for doing nothing other than following all of the existing rules. You should be ashamed to be targeting a helpless disabled person and forcing him to pay money to some government licensed flim-flam artist who will charge me a ridiculous amount of money to sell me what I can already have at a reasonable cost.

The changes that would revoke my license would actually disrupt my supply and I feel are politically motivated. It is clear that public safety would in no way be improved by taking away the licenses of those producing for themselves. If the government wants to disrupt the illegal marijuana trade they should concentrate their resources on the large scale illegal grow ops which run by gangs and criminals and leave us law-abiding medical users alone.

Thank you,  
Please email me back if my name is needed.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-26-111 Proposed changes to marihuana laws.  
**Date:** 2011-07-26 06:53 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] mmap# [REDACTED]

I am writing to you today to express my utter dismay to the proposed "improvements" to the current MMAP.

I believe the "Key Concerns" you address are issues sensationalized by the media due to the fear/smear campaigns by a very small number of public officials against marijuana growing, in any shape or form. They cannot grasp the idea it can be done in a safe and responsible matter by people, who on a federal level, are within their rights and abide within the law. The advertised "dangers" of an indoor garden are not found in every instance of the currently licensed personal gardens, but only in a very small percentage. Health Canada would know this if "they" had actually done the inspections they implied were part of the licensing agreement. It's obvious that real statistics have not been applied to this issue. I, as a grower, consciously await an inspection and keep my garden within the guidelines accordingly. I can also state that I personally know several other licensed growers that are in the same situation. We have spared no costs in the constructions of our gardens, with safety and privacy in mind. We have had all work done by licensed professionals to code standards. All at a substantially higher cost than a black market style illegal gardener would bother to invest. To group us together is irrational and irresponsible.

This investment, my co-operative patients and I have made is quite substantial and has driven a few of us into debt. The financial pay off to this was to have access to our larger than average prescription medication dosages at a fraction of the retail prices we have been forced to pay in the past. It is at this point I would like to point out that if the laws are changed and my garden is outlawed, the medical marijuana patients that depend on it will be either a; forced into poverty due to retail pricing of the medication, b; forced to deal in the black market again because of the ability to get financing and major price reduction for buying in bulk. or c; become a federal criminal if they decide to risk their freedom by breaking the law and trying to provide for themselves with an illegal garden.

If Health Canada were to openly and freely grant current co-operative gardens a commercial production license, there would be fewer negative effects from these proposed changes. What concerns me is the chance that Health Canada will only license the largest and most productive facilities which most likely will be owned and operated by the organized criminals, who already have the financial backing and knowledge of how to do this on a commercial scale. As mentioned before, another horrible aspect of this scenario is the affordability of many users daily requirements. For myself alone, the bill for one day of medication would be over 100 dollars. I'm sure you are all well aware that there are no medicare subsidies in Canada for medical marihuana. These changes will effectively remove my access to the medication all together.

I plead with you as an organization to scrutinize the complaints and claims by these public officials who demonize what I am doing in the privacy of my home. Please use your own data to draw the statistics needed to truly gauge the situation. It seems that as few as a dozen

major offenders country wide have jeopardized the entire production program for thousands of its licensees. This is unfair, unjust and in my opinion a public witch hunt that targets ill Canadians.

I have been public in my opposition to these proposed improvements and will continue to be so. I truly hope you read and take into consideration each and every letter you receive from the mmap patients. You will find the majority of us are not gangsters or irresponsible destroyers of neighborhoods. We are the people that have been granted access to a medication that thoroughly improves our livability through our ailments at a cost that doesn't drain us financially. I fear Health Canada is about to take this from us to appease a few fanatical public officials. I would gladly give more personal insight to this if the chance were to arise.

Sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]  
To: [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
Subject: 11-07-27-155 proposed improvements  
Date: 2011-07-27 12:23 AM

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I am deeply concerned about the response by Health Canada to the various court decisions declaring its existing medical marijuana program unconstitutional. The proposals that have been brought forward fail to deal with the myriad of problems in the program. Specifically, I take issue with the following proposals:

Physician as "Gatekeeper":

R v Mernagh found that physicians in Canada have effectively boycotted the existing medical marijuana program, and therefore the program itself was unconstitutional. Health Canada's response does nothing to address this boycott beyond the promise of making information accessible to physicians. Any changes to the Health Canada medical marijuana program must abide by the findings in R v Mernagh and meaningfully expand the "Gatekeeper" role beyond physicians, preferably to include Naturopaths, Nurse Practitioners, Doctors of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Pharmacists.

Personal and Designated Production:

Individuals have spent thousands of dollars and often years of time setting up production facilities and finding appropriate marijuana cultivars (strains) for their condition. Court cases including Sfetkopolous, Beren and Hitzig have found that denying production licenses on arbitrary grounds violates a patient's constitutional rights to access medical marijuana. Contrary to extensive misinformation campaigns in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia, led by the RCMP research chair at the UCFV, there is no evidence that medical marijuana production facilities contribute any more to public safety threats than a myriad of other permitted activities (including cooking at home, having expensive possessions, installing a hot-tub, growing tomato plants). Any changes to the Health Canada medical marijuana program must include the preservation of personal and designated production.

Patient Identification:

Authorized medical marijuana patients from across Canada report that local police often fail to recognize current medical marijuana authorization identification, detaining and even arresting patients and often illegally seizing their medication. The proposal to remove any formal identification for patients will only lead to more unlawful detention of patients by local police. Any changes to the Health Canada medical marijuana program must include patient identification and education programs to ensure police do not continue to unlawfully detain authorized patients.

For profit production:

The proposal by Health Canada to only allow medical marijuana to be produced for profit by a monopolistic group of license holders, at a price point those producers set, will be a disaster for patient access in Canada. Not only will patients be unable to acquire strains they have bred specifically for their symptoms, but they will be subject to exorbitant increases in price. Especially for patients who require large dosages this will result in an inability to access medication. The current holder of the Health Canada commercial production license has failed to create an adequate supply for Canadians. Patients report low quality, low efficacy, high prices and ineffective medical quality. There is simply no reason to believe that expanding the system of commercial production, based on current Health Canada requirements will result in any positive changes to patient access. Any changes to the Health Canada medical marijuana program must include alternatives to a purely profit driven system of production.

**Medical Marijuana Dispensaries:**

The current proposals by Health Canada do nothing to address the court sanctioned yet unlicensed system of medical marijuana dispensaries in Canada. These Dispensaries serve several times more patients than the current Health Canada program, and patients report much higher satisfaction with dispensary services. Any changes to the Health Canada program must include licensing the existing network of dispensaries.

The proposals by Health Canada constitute less than a bad faith response to court orders, they represent outright defiance. The current proposals do not meet the needs of medical marijuana patients in Canada, and will result in a further restriction of patient access to medical marijuana. I call upon Health Canada to return to the drawing board and come up with a program designed to succeed, not fail. I call on Health Canada to honor the spirit and intent of court rulings and create a meaningful system of workable access for medical marijuana.

Sincerely,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-28-72 Proposed changes to medical marihuana access program  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 02:00 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to address the "concerns of Canadians ", to tell you of my own experience and to suggest ways the current system could be improved to keep unsavory characters from giving people like me a bad name.

My health issues arise from a craniopharengioma brain tumor which developed over many years and attached itself to my hypothalamus gland. I suffer from a number of metabolic problems which make activities of daily living very difficult. I tried various medications to ease the muscle pain and leg spasms, insomnia, headaches, and early depression symptoms. The pharmaceuticals had a range of awful side effects. I had tried Cannabis a few times socially, but I tried it on a more structured program, like taking medication, and the results were immediate and lasting. I decided to apply for a licence from Health Canada, as I did not like purchasing it illegally. In addition to Cannabis, I still have to take several prescribed medications daily to stay alive.

I have children, I pay taxes, I try to participate in my community as much as I can. My house is well kept.

My Endocrinologist is senior staff at Vancouver General Hospital. I also discussed my Cannabis use with my Neurosurgeon, who is Head of that department. Neither man was in need of Cannabis education, and my Endocrinologist wrote me a lovely endorsement letter. Since receiving my licence, I have spent close to \$4000 over the last 3 years to create a safe, healthy indoor garden. I hired a qualified electrician, bought 3 excellent lower wattage large light systems (400w), a heater, an air conditioner, in-line fans, a generator in case of power failure, odour scrubbers, a surveillance system, and 16 low watt/high lumen cool running fluorescent bulbs for the young plants. I had help building a room within my garage, and then re-arranged the living space so that my bedroom was between the garage and the rest of our living space. Everything is locked up tight all the time. I am not "a risk to the children in my community".

I do not sell Cannabis! Given that 50% of my plants can be boys, I do not produce Cannabis in great quantity. I have, in the last year, become a designated grower for a neighbour who has had head injuries due to an automobile accident. He is a nice, family man who suffers from terrible head-aches. I do not charge him for Cannabis. He pays for the soil, organic fertilizer etc that his plants need.

The high profile cases of licence abuse are disturbing to me. I think these people should be charged like every other criminal.

I suggest that legal producers like myself be inspected every 2 to 3 months. We would pay , say \$40.00 for a 1/2 hour inspection which could be done by retired police or firefighters. The whole thing could be contracted out locally, and the producers pay for the mandatory service. If something is wrong, it can be addressed, and re-inspected. If someone can not bring conditions to an acceptable level, the licence can be pulled. Surely this would save money compared to changing the whole system!

Canada took a brave, compassionate step forward allowing this program. I have invested a considerable amount of money in my equipment and security to ensure my family's safety.

SICK people are usually POOR people. If this contract is farmed out to a business only in it for the money, I can assure you it won't be an organic medicine grown to suit the needs of the patient. I can also assure you that a lot of folks won't want to buy from that kind of operation.

I have tried to find out more information about the creation of these "factories". There are a lot of organic growers in my area ( Sunshine Coast, BC) and I would like the chance to bid on a production contract. The thought of wasting my equipment and experience is upsetting. Perhaps local people could band together to manage a co-operative site. This is not my first choice, however.

If the licences are going to be pulled all together, I hope there will be compensation for people like me who live well below the poverty line and have invested a significant portion of income to create safe indoor gardens.

Sincerely,

604-

, Gibsons, BC



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-28-95 Marijuana consultations  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 05:30 PM

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Port Coquitlam, B.C.  
[REDACTED]

**July 28, 2011**

**Number** [REDACTED]

Marijuana Consultations  
Controlled Substances and Tobacco Directorate  
Health Canada

Dear Sirs:

I am shocked by the new proposals Health Canada has planned for medical marijuana. The reason I use it is because it works better than oxycodone. The reason I grow it is because there is no way in the world I can afford to buy it at the street price or the price the compassion clubs sell it. I am on a disability pension and my health continues to deteriorate. I borrowed \$5,000.00 to have my shed brought up to building and electrical code and I assumed that I would have no problem supplying the medicine I require for the rest of my life. So now Health Canada is telling me the money I have spent on my shed has been a waste and soon I will have to buy from the now made legal bulk growers at the price they set. None of the poor and sick will be able to provide themselves with the marijuana they need if they cannot grow it for them selves.

Make no mistake about it but the bulk growers applying for the new licences will be the same ones who have been making massive illegal profits in the marijuana business for the last few decades.

Have you no compassion for the poor and sick? They can help themselves if you let them but handing the production of marijuana exclusively over to organized crime will reward rich criminals and harm sick poor people.

There are many better ways to do things than to do what you are planning. Please consider what you are doing to the poor and sick. They should be your first concern.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

[Redacted signature]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-28-101 FW: Marihuana consultations  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 06:51 PM

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I think it's really unfortunate that Health Canada is being bullied into changing the policies of the mmar. So many people have now dedicated so much of their time and money to the program, to see it change is sad.

I dont smoke marijuana and I wasn't aware of it's effect on patients with chronic pain until I met a man with terminal cancer. He told me the doctors all said he would be dead three years ago, and had him on morphine and other harsh drugs. But by gaining access to the mmar program, he was able to designate a grower and the medical marijuana improved his quality of life!

He didn't have to take heavy drugs anymore, and best of all he was able to manage his pain, whilst still being able to visit his family and friends and swallow food even though the tumors in his neck and throat were nearing baseball size.

When he showed me how great his life was now that he didn't have to take drugs that made him a shell of a human and basically comatose, I said - I want to help people too!

And my wife and I began to dedicate a large portion of our lives to learning how to cultivate for patients in need of the program.

We really enjoy doing it and are looking forward to helping more people.

No matter what the industry, there are always going to be people that make it look bad, maybe the requirements could be a little more strict, but that is not going to stop the bad press and the drug trade that people seem to think is the result of the mmar. I guess everyone needs a scapegoat.

We and countless others have spent a great deal of time and money to do something we really believe in and have seen the benefits of. We would be more than happy to submit to an electrical inspection or other types of inspections.

I am all for weeding out anyone who doesn't really need medication or someone who is not growing with any type of knowledge or pride - but to turn this into a corporate endeavor is a mistake.

I know of some patients that grow for themselves, and it's almost as if the gardening is therapeutic for them. They enjoy working on their plants all day long instead of moping around thinking about their illnesses. And those who can not do it for themselves enjoy getting to know their grower on a personal level as well receiving medicine with exceptional quality that is hand chosen and in some instances hand delivered to their home.

Not to mention the fact that most well deserving patients will no longer be able to afford the treatment that has been helping them for so long because the cost will definitely be unaffordable to them as most people who need the program are extremely low income.

So maybe the guidelines could change to become more strict or the applicants could be interviewed to make sure only legitimate people can gain access to the program. But changing the growers and designated growers part of the program is definitely a huge mistake that is not going to solve anyone's problems.

Thank you for reading my letter, I do wish you luck in trying to figure out a way for

people to stop pointing fingers when there are so many more important matters that require attention in this day and age.

Sincerely,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-28-111 Proposed changes to the marihuana laws  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 08:55 PM

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Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing on behalf of myself and [REDACTED] (designated grower) for [REDACTED], also [REDACTED] applicant who shares the same address for to grow their medicinal marihuana.

We are totally against the proposed changes to the medicinal marihuana regulations. We have invested a lot of time and money into preparing our facility and finding the appropriate strain of marihuana to help manage our pain. I can certainly say that most people that need medicinal marihuana are people who are disabled and are on disability incomes and are not able to afford to purchase from Health Canada or a commercial grower. It is a proven fact that the federal government is totally against marihuana and cannot provide the proper strain for ill patients. In the past year I have made my own business called [REDACTED]. I have paid income tax to the federal government and follow all legal regulations. I would like to know how the government expects people to afford to buy the marihuana when people are on fixed incomes. Is the government going to buy the marihuana from commercial growers and are they going to give it to the people that need it. I also would like to know how is the government proposing to reimburse the designated growers and applicants for their cost of their equipment and supplies that cost a lot of time and money to set up. If these proposed changes come into effect I plan to apply to become a commercial grower and supplier. Does the government plan to put forward a grant to help provide funding to help commercial growers?? I would like to start a cronic pain clinic to allow people to have a save haven to allow people comfortable enviroment to medicate themselves. i would appreciate your earliest reply to some of my concerns. I have no problem to allow regular audits and inspections. I do not feel everyone should be punished for other people actions involved with being an applicant or designated grower. Yours Truly [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-28-116 WWW Form Submission  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 10:03 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
( ) on Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 22:03:50

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message: In regards to the proposed changes I say NO. It has taken a long time to get here I am finally set up with all the proper and required equipment(at a great cost to me I might add) and things are on a great schedule where I can have my medication every 4 weeks. I don't want to lose all the time and money I have put into this. I would much prefer to take my own medication as opposed to someone else making it. Please DON'T change things, Improvements have already been made, lets not go backwards when we have come this far. I say lets see this through to the end.

Thank you for your time

sincerely [REDACTED]

counter: 619

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-29-23 Proposed Changes  
**Date:** 2011-07-29 11:46 PM

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Hello,

I received your letter yesterday and am very disappointed to see the deadline is one week for feed back

and submissions . I am a designated grower and your proposed changes directly impact me.

I am just completing major renovations at my productions site which is located at my residence and

reading the proposals over I see home designated sites are to be phased out.

The wording of your letter isn't very clear in this regard and there are other questions I have,

but again, with a one week window to respond and clarification on certain points being required,

I think more time should be allotted to stake holders for submissions.

I appreciate the opportunity to be part of the process, but I feel the process is being rushed for us.

The changes affect a lot of people and I understand the program may need some changes, but

all participants should have an opportunity to forward submissions and any changes should be agreed

to by all parties involved.

thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
Subject: 11-07-29-84  
Date: 2011-07-29 03:18 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I currently hold a license to cultivate my own medicine. My license number is [REDACTED].

After reading the 'Proposed Improvements to Health Canada's Marihuana Medical Access Program' I have the following questions and comments. Due to the mail strike, and the short amount of time in which to respond, I hope I have something constructive to add to this discussion.

-Will there be a Grandfather clause to allow those currently with a license to continue with the program as previously defined.  
-As a cancer survivor I eat only organic food and grew my marihuana in the same fashion. I knew what I was ingesting. I will lose this control if dependent on a commercial grower?

-I have found a highly effective way of dealing with my asthmatic condition is by mixing (juicing) the green leaf with vegetable greens, and other natural supplement. A commercial grower would be unable to provide the green leaf and an excellent pain killer would be lost.

-I have invested both time and money in building a safe, and healthy grow environment. Will there be compensation for said investment should I be required to stop cultivating my own medicine.

If I can no longer continue to grow for myself I would be interested in becoming a commercial grower. Where can the detailed requirements for each of the specifications outlined in the 'Proposed Improvements to Health Canada's Marihuana Medical Access Program' document be found.

As an addendum, I remember in the late fifties, early sixties when Kellogg's Asthma Remedy ( contain medical marihuana ) was available over the counter in drug stores.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
902-[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED].ca  
**Reply To:** [REDACTED].ca  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-29-95 proposed improvements to marihuana access program  
**Date:** 2011-07-29 02:46 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam, I think your proposed improvements have only negative impact on program participants. Participants like myself have invested money in lights, pumps, fans and paid licenced electricians to wire them for obvious safety reasons. I myself got involved in the Marihuana Access Program and invested this money to have control over my supply, in terms of quality, availability and cost. Previous to enrolling in this program this passed year I purchased my supply on the street costing same price as Marihuana Program marihuana less tax and shipping. I found this to be too expensive and I've found in my limited experience growing my own the cost to me is 15 to 20% of my previous cost. This lower monthly expense is significant to me being on pension. If concerns about criminal exploitation arise deal with them through the criminal court system don't drive the whole supply back underground. So this letter is not all negative I agree with improving physican access more accurate and up-to-date information, to help them make more informed decisions with their patients.

Sincerely, [REDACTED] Peterborough, Ontario.

From: [REDACTED]  
 To: [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
 Subject: 11-07-29-102 proposed improvements response  
 Date: 2011-07-29 02:27 PM

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

FIRST OFF I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT OUR GOVERNMENT HAS REALIZED THAT THE USE OF MARIHUANA FOR MEDICAL USE DOES HELP.....AND FOR THAT I PERSONALLY THANK YOU...IT HAS MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE....

I HAVE READ THROUGH THE NEW PROPOSAL ....STILL TRYING TO UNDERSTAND ALL THE INFO.....I HAVE INVESTED MY OWN MONEY TO SUPPLY MY SELF WITH MY OWN QUALITY PRODUCT , I NO LONGER HAVE TO PURCHASE IT ELSEWHERE AND WORRY ABOUT WHAT IM GETTING , OR PURCHASING BAD QUALITY AT THE EXUBERANT HIGH PRICES . EX. I PURCHASED THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT AT A VERY HIGH PRICE AND THE QUALITY WAS TERRIBLE , IT WAS A WASTE OF MY MONEY.

I HAVE A SMALL SET UP CONSISTING OF 3 LIGHTS AND BY REMOVING MY ABILITY TO GROW AND CONTROL THE COST AND THE QUALITY OF MY OWN MEDICAL MARIHUANA AND FORCING ME TO PURCHASE OFF GOVERNMENT GROWERS , WE WILL AGAIN BE PAYING HIGH PRICES AND YOU GET WHAT YOU GET..... I BELIEVE THIS IS A LARGE STEP BACKWARDS.....

MY SUGGESTION FOR WHAT ITS WORTH :

1) ANNUAL FEE EX. \$250.00

A) HIRE AGENTS ( COMMISSION ONLY EX.\$50.00) DUTIES:

- THEY GO TO APPLICANTS PLACE
- INSPECT ROOM WHERE THEY WISH

TO SET UP THEIR OPERATION

- FILL OUT ALL PAPERWORK, COLLECT
- DELIVER LICENCE WHEN APPROVED

FEE PAYABLE TO APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICE

AND REINSPECT

B) I BELIEVE IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE CRIMINAL ASPECT THIS WOULD HELP ELIMINATE THAT PROBLEM.

I DO BELIEVE IF YOU GO AHEAD WITH THIS NEW PROPOSAL YOU WILL BE STEPPING BACK IN TIME AND OPENING UP THE UNDERGROUND AND CREATING A LARGER CRIMINAL ELEMENT ONCE AGAIN.....

YOURS TRULY

[REDACTED] ID # [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 11-07-29-103 Proposed Changes to Medicinal Marijauna Laws  
**Date:** 2011-07-29 02:23 PM

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Thank you for taking the time to read my response. I have two major problems with the proposed changes:

1. I was told by health Canada that I was expected to supply my own marijuana. So I spent over 7000 dollars ensuring that I bought the best equipment, air system and security system so that none of the concerns outlined in the proposal apply to us. Less than 2 years later personal production is to be phased out? Would health Canada like to pay me back that very large investment that it just recently told me to make?

2. If we were to have to buy marijuana from an approved grower who sets their own pricing, it will surely skyrocket costs similar to prices in our "Compassion Clubs". Prices here go as high as \$15-20 per gram and that would mean that many buyers would have to turn again to the streets to afford the medicine we need.

There are problems with Health Canada's current model, this is proven. This proposal is simply a way in which Health Canada can wash it's hands of these problems rather than resolve them. This is not a solution, it is avoidance. With respect to the current economic climate, I believe a program integrating commercial growers who are licensed AND home production can be successful with minimal additional cost or trouble to Health Canada. Further, Health Canada can investigate the best way to apply fees for licensing and to commercial growers (who obviously stand to profit from the proposed changes) to make the bottom line palatable to tax payers.

Without my personal production license, I would stand to pay upwards of \$800 dollars per month for my medicine (which is what the cost was when I purchased from a Compassion Club). It can only go up with commercial growers if they are permitted to set their own prices. This is an unreasonable burden on my family. I should not have to choose between my medicine and the needs of my wife and children. We own our home, I have taken every precaution to ensure that my grow room is safe and not a danger to my family or my neighbours. I had wiring installed by a licensed electrician, I had a proper ventilation system installed with filters to eliminate odour indoors and outdoors, I have sealed the room completely and clean and inspect after each grow cycle to ensure there is no mould damage, I installed a security system to protect my family from a possible home invasion and am very private about where I obtain my medicine to not draw attention to myself and I dispose of any plant materials in a safe manner.

In regards to illicit activity, it makes no sense to assume any measures you take will affect that market. If anything, the illicit market stands to profit from the proposed changes as many users will simply return to that market if costs set by commercial growers become exorbitant. The illicit market can always reduce costs in any manner they need to in order to maintain control. A person

who wishes to grow for the illicit market may try to apply for a license and sell some product for profit but if you revoke his license, it is unlikely that he will stop producing. He was already operating illegally only trying to cover that fact by applying for a license and operating fraudulently. Taking a license away won't stop him from continuing in the same manner. If he cared about operating inside the law, he wouldn't have been breaking it!

I believe by setting some regulations for home growers and by offering commercial growers as a secondary option, we can make the system function in a way that works for everyone. Primarily, a home grower should be required to own and live in the home they are growing in. This addresses many concerns relating to faulty grow operations as no one wants to live in a mould infested house that might burn down while they are sleeping. And commercial growers should not be able to simply set their own prices but rather be required to justify their prices by submitting detailed reports on their expenses and costs, production numbers and how much profit they are earning in this business. They should not be permitted unlimited profits off the backs of sick individuals as I know of no drug plans which currently cover the cost of medicinal marijuana up front. More importantly, here are some thoughts I have on addressing the specific concerns raised in the proposal:

- 1) The potential for diversion of marijuana produced for medical purposes to the illicit market;
  - Personal use growers could be required to report on each grow cycle and how much they produce. They should be subject to inspection to confirm the reports.
  
- 2) The risk of home invasion due to the presence of large quantities of dried marijuana or marijuana plants;
  - Personal use growers would have to install a security system from a reputable company within a certain time frame upon receiving their license. They would be required to submit documentation that this was accomplished.
  
- 3) Public safety risks, including electrical and fire hazards, stemming from the cultivation of marijuana in homes;
  - Any electrical work would have to be certified by a professional electrician (again, within an allowable time frame), and paperwork would have to be supplied supporting this fact.
  
- 4) Public health risks due to the presence of excess mould and poor air quality associated with the cultivation of marijuana plants in homes;
  - Proper ventilation systems should be installed by an HVAC technician and supporting documentation (again) provided.
  
- 5) The complexity and length of the application process for individuals who wish to obtain an authorization to possess and/or a licence to produce marijuana;
  - The people applying for a licence for production would go through a longer application process

but that is only reasonable as we are asking for another licence. People who do not meet the criteria to operate a personal production license or who are physically unable to undertake the task, could have the option of simply going direct from doctor to commercial grower as proposed without Health Canada's involvement.

6) The impact of increasing participation in the Program on the efficiency and timeliness of the application and review process;

- If Health Canada or another agency elected to supervise only those people who wanted a Personal Production license, then only those persons who wished to have that license would be subject to the wait times. People who wished to simply use a commercial grower (which I think, many would) could go direct as proposed without the wait process. The people who want a personal production license could still have that option while waiting for the longer application to be approved. This would take the burden of a simple personal use license out of the equation for Health Canada and might actually improve the wait times.

7) The fact that Health Canada only supplies one strain of dried marijuana

- Agreed. Not helpful. Health Canada could certainly stop offering dried marijuana as a resource altogether. This is an unnecessary burden anyway. I think having a commercial grower option OR a personal growth option is more than enough. The growers will supply variety or people can grow their own varieties.

8) The need for more current medical information pertaining to the risks and benefits associated with the use of marijuana for medical purposes, as a means of supporting discussions between physicians and their patients as to whether such treatment is appropriate.

- I think this would be very helpful, but find it odd that this is last on the list and the most important issue. How can Health Canada removing their involvement AID research and improve access to medical information for doctors? Should Health Canada not be involved in studies to this effect? Perhaps fees and taxes on new programs can help finance studies of this nature.

On a productive note, here is a plan that I could see working for the patients:

As I stated, a plan to allow growers to continue with more supervision combined with commercial growers is the best option. Home growers would have more obligations but this cost would not be undertaken by Health Canada as the onus would be on the personal grower to prove that their facility is up to par and if they cannot within a reasonable time frame, then their personal production license would be revoked. That way people like me, that can't afford to pay the cost of a Compassion Club without taking money out of our families pockets, would have the option to do it right.

Option 2 would be to buy from a commercial grower if you are physically unable to grow your own, you don't own your own home/property on which to grow your own marijuana, you don't

have the upfront cost to build your own grow room.

Then you could obtain your medicine from registered grower who was regulated and monitored by 2 entities, both Health Canada officials and a "compassion board" consisting of members of the program, representing the interests of the patient, not the board. I would be happy to volunteer for such a board.

The price should be set by Health Canada around 5 – \$7 per gram, REGARDLESS OF which strain we are talking about. Telling people to buy medicine they cant afford or to buy what is cheap because of less quality would be a HUGE mistake. If we were able to buy this marijuana at a fair price (roughly the cost of growing, around \$100 per ounce, 28 grams) then this would be a reasonable option.

Lets break down the price for marijuana:

Cost for growing (Including seeds, soil, power, supplies) Roughly 100 per ounce, 100/28 grams = roughly \$3.5 dollars per gram

Cost of buying on the street – roughly 200 per ounce – 200/28 grams = \$7.14 per gram

Cost of buying from compassion clubs Regular supply (Not premium) = \$280 per ounce/28 grams = \$10 per gram

Cost of Compassion club premium = \$420 per ounce/28 Grams = \$15 per gram

Finally, we are chronically ill and/or dying Canadian citizens, all, merely by virtue of qualifying for this treatment. We have already endured injury or disease, loss of livelihood, loss of health, financial and familial hardship; most are on disability pensions or limited income, some destitute, some hospitalized; all having to pay dearly for the right to use organic plant matter to medicate with as opposed to toxic, addictive pharmaceutical narcotics that, more often than not, debilitate us even further than the condition itself. We have the right not to suffer in Canada. If I can't afford my own marijuana, then I fear I would be forced to turn to painkillers, which do irreparable harm. Painkillers impair my ability to function. Currently, I am able to work and support my family. I live in great fear that if I am forced to take conventional painkillers, if marijuana prices soar beyond my family's budget allowances, then I will be forced to give up my job and take a disability pension. Health Canada may be saving effort by removing themselves from the medicinal marijuana program but I will be an additional burden elsewhere. This program works for me and has already improved my quality of life. To have access to safe, quality medicine, to save money, to not live in fear of prosecution, my life is better finally where I had difficulty for so long and when I am feeling better, my whole family's life improves!

My biggest fear with a commercial grower program is cost....would we tell a terminal cancer patient that they can only have more morphine if they can afford it? What about people having surgery, if an anesthetic cost too much would we cut someone open without it? Marijuana should be like any other drug in Canada and be provided to the patient based on their drug plan or free of cost if they have no coverage. It shouldn't just be available if you can afford it.

██████████  
705 ██████████

Cell 705 ██████████

[REDACTED]@hotmail.com

[REDACTED]  
[www.\[REDACTED\].com](http://www.[REDACTED].com)  
(705) [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-29-112 My Response to Proposed Changes --  
**Date:** 2011-07-29 01:25 PM

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Hello,

I have been using medical Marijuana for 5 years now.  
I am a paraplegic -- due to a spinal cord injury; I am confined to a wheel-chair.

I have spasms, pain, depression, anxiety, and seizures.

It has taken me 5 years to reach where I am.

#1) For each of my ailments, I have tracked down and located a strain that helps the specific ailment. This has been in the works for five years. Some of those strains are crosses that I've had friends breed for me specifically, in order to obtain certain traits (taste, effect, smell, harshness)

-- It will be an impossibility for the commercial producers to provide me with these strains. They do not yield well, but they have the effect I desire.

#2) I have taken out loans, borrowed money and invested into my own Hydro setup. I ensured it is wheel-chair friendly, safe, accessible, and error-free. What am I to do with that? who will help me take it apart? who will reimburse me for all the equipment I'll have laying around my home?

Look. "DG" is a problem.

The way this program should work is 2 ways

#1) The patient has the option to acquire their medication from a commercial producer (and this should be covered under health plans, like any other drug with a DIN number)

#2) The patient can opt to grow their own.

Grows should face inspections. Anyone with a PPL should register their address with the authorities.

HEALTH CANADA should hire inspectors and send them out to grow ops (commercial or personal) once a year, or routinely, or even just ONCE. To check up on the safety requirements, and the general setup.

I don't appreciate these changes you are proposing, and I don't appreciate having to worry about where I will go to get my medication.

Please do not escalate this any further; This will be a horrific PR nightmare. There are 1000's of people with ARTHRITIS, FIBROMYALGIA, CANCER, SPINAL CORD INJURIES -- old folks, young folks, people who use walkers, people who use wheelchairs -- THE SICK CANADIANS. Do you really want to go to court with Sick Canadians over our right to medicate and live comfortably? Because that is just what will happen.



Unless the dispenseries are COVERED, provide ALL the strains I demand, then there is no way I will ever give up growing my own medication. My life is uneventful and I live in the moment. I medicate and live in the moment of no ailments. If you try to take that away from me, I will have no chance but to defend myself legally. I have no family or children or that sort of responsibility. I would put everything I have into making sure every Canadian knows my story and the stories of other sick Canadians who are being treated this way.

Please be reasonable. YES there are people who are abusing the program, but tht doesn't mean you should extend it to EVERYONE.

Thank You.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-30-26  
**Date:** 2011-07-30 09:32 PM

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I would like to take this time to voice my opinion.

There are several things in this proposal that I do not agree with which in the end will cause me great stress and financial hardship. By commercializing the growth and distribution of medical marihuana it opens the door for more abuse. It takes away the control I have over my own medication as far as strain, amount, purity, accessibility, not to mention the unbelievable cost for me. I am on a fixed disability income and there is no medical coverage for medical marihuana. So being able to produce my own at no cost is imperative, I could never afford the cost.

Allowing commercial producers to set the price creates a platform for price gouging and many of us can not afford it at all. Also the quality will never be the same and can not be guaranteed unless you grow it yourself. I also disagree with having it shipped to patients, I personally don't want it sent to my house by bonded courier or not. I also do not buy anything I can't see and I live in very Rural Northern Ontario.

I also don't agree with this proposal to phase out licensed growers. It cost me great deal of money for equipment and supplies to begin to be able to produce my own and I did things the right way and had everything installed by an electrician which will be money spent for nothing.

I agree production should be done in a none residence and think that producers should be subject to regular inspection and follow guidelines which would improve and wean out the abusers as well as safety issues. Don't punish the rest of us for a few bad apples. I also feel that possibly some sort of "granny claus" may be beneficial and or a Northern exclusion for accessibility purposes.

I have taken all the precautions for safety and security. I live in Rural Northern Ontario and personally don't worry about home invasions. We have dogs, locks and cameras and don't feel this is any less secure than a commercial producer with employees that can steal. I think it will be very hard to control production and theft ratio in a commercial setting.

I agree the physicians need to be educated with the latest up to date information and that patients can obtain the required declaration from the primary physicians without a specialist. I also feel that proper I.D. card is most important one that can't just be copied. Standard letterhead from the doctor is to easy to reproduce.

I hope that some more consideration goes into this proposal as it is going to greatly impede the livelihood of many patients. I do not feel commercializing is the right way to go.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-30-93 Consultation on Marihuana  
**Date:** 2011-07-30 12:50 PM

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Hello,

I grow and consume marihuana legally.

I would like to comment on the proposed changes to the Marihuana medical access Program. I have invested considerable funds and time to learn about growing my own marihuana. The proposed changes would make these investments of no value at all.

I grow the marihuana free of pesticides, and in an efficient low cost manner. I will no doubt have to pay more to purchase marihuana from a commercial farmer. I am retired, and I am unable to return to work to fund the increased cost of marihuana by having to purchase it. The bigger the farming operation, the more likely that pesticides will be needed.

No one other than my spouse knows that I grow and consume marihuana. Opening up access to this information to a whole supply chain increases the potential for involvement of a criminal element and home invasion.

I have found a type of marihuana that suits my needs. It is unfair to force me to try out different strains produced by commercial grower to find one that provides relief without slurred speech, staggering, hallucinating, impaired cognition and giddiness.

I have a Heat Recovery Ventilation system in my home. I use low temperature lights, and I have not increased the risk of fire or unhealthy mold growth.

My personal marihuana growth does not endanger children or my community.

- there is no potential of diversion of the marihuana I grow to the illicit market
- the risk of home invasion increases with the increase in the number of people who know that I have access to marihuana and may have some in my house. The proposed program is seen as a real risk of increasing involvement of a criminal element.
- I am very careful about fire and safety hazards.
- I am aware of, and take care not to have, excess mould or poor air quality.
- I was not aware of the complexity and length of the application process as being a problem. It works very easily for me. I don't know why it has to be done annually, and I am sure that it can be done less often if people find that the complexity and length of the application process is a problem.
- I don't understand what is meant by the bulleted item on the key concern of the impact of increasing participation in the Program. Too much jargon for me.
- The issue of the government only providing one strain is easy to address, by providing more strains. It is not necessary to add a layer with more growers offering choices.
- The proposed program does not reduce the need for more current medical information pertaining to the risks and benefits associated with the use of marihuana for medical purposes. By making it a hands-off process, there is an even larger gap.

Another comment I have is that in some provinces, the primary health care provider, who can diagnose health needs and prescribe medication is a nurse practitioner. Nurse practitioners should have the same ability to prescribe marihuana as physicians.

I have not had sufficient time to make a more professional commentary on the proposed program. The letter came too late for me to consult with others and to understand a

consensus on attitudes towards the changes.

If you would like me to provide more details on any of the above issues, I am available to do this.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-30-124 comments on proposed changes  
**Date:** 2011-07-30 12:52 AM

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To whom it may concern;

As a newly registered legal grower of marijuana (May 3rd 2011) I invested over 10,000 dollars of my locked in pension to build a grow room so that I can afford my medication. I find that only one strain that is grown in a indoor grow room works for me the best. I cannot afford the cost of the marijuana as I have had to pay up to 9 dollars a gram for marijuana which puts my cost at 45 dollars a day. I think that all of the growing operations should be inspected regularly for adherence to the rules and to make sure that they are safe and secure from the public. I have myself invested over 1000 dollars for the security system alone and it is constantly monitored 24/7 with the instruction to call the police if they get no response from the numbers left with them. Giving the municipality the right to inspect might also be a solution for compliance to the rules.

Yours respectfully

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-31-46 Feedback re proposed changes to Marihuana Access Program  
**Date:** 2011-07-31 10:28 PM

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I have Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis and receive great benefit from the use of medical marihuana as it allows me to cope with my disease both mentally and physically on a daily basis. In July 2010, I received permission to possess and produce medical marihuana and made the application to produce as I felt this would be a form of therapy in dealing with my disease, and would prove to be a cost savings over time as my income is limited. This has been proven as it provides me with a function I can tend to within my limited scope of ability and I invested a substantial amount of funds (\$2,000+) in grow equipment as I considered my investment would be returned over a period of time as I would not need to purchase the medical marihuana. The steady progression of my disease has not permitted me to work on any level as my symptoms greatly limit my ability to perform the simplest of functions, and I consider the privilege of producing marihuana for personal use as being a form of therapy (work) that I receive great benefit from relating to mental and physical stimulation.

The delayed receipt of your correspondence dated June 20th (received July 19th) has not permitted me much time to respond, but I have reviewed your proposal for improving the process for this program - 1) Simplify process for applying, and 2) Implementing new Distribution System, and agree there is a need to improve the application process but do not agree with the elimination of personal production in my case and see this as a GREAT loss to me. I am on a limited income and had elected to produce medical marihuana for my personal use only as I saw this as a means to control my costs and have made a significant investment that I believe should be reimbursed should your decision to remove this privilege be acted upon.

Thank-you for this opportunity to provide my feedback, and trust my concerns relating to my personal position be considered, and look forward to future consultation.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
Subject: 11-07-31-50 Changes to current regulations!  
Date: 2011-07-31 10:20 PM

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<mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca>

My name is [REDACTED], I would have responded sooner I just found the letter..... I feel the new policy is Only designed to have a way that the government can make more money from something they don't have their hands in now. I broke my back, my brother was killed, my father died of pancreas cancer 3 months after my uncle of the same disease. My mother had breast cancer, I ended up with breast cancer too. The cancer has left me with a system that can't digest food proper, pain in every joint, migraines, vomitting, dizzy, can't sleep, just went through a divorce and don't have one day I wish to get out of bed. I have tried 3 times to stop smoking marihuana, all 3 times went from 112 pounds to 102 pounds in 2-3 weeks.

I was just accepted for the program last Nov.2010 and it took me "7" months to get \$5000 saved to buy the equipment, balists, lights, air tight room built, fans, filter was \$450 just to stop any odor the marihuana from getting outside, new locks, doors dead-bolts!!!!!!!!!!  
had an electricicion check the system for fire hazzards, set up the system to grow hydroponic to no dirt for mould !!!!!!!!!!

I am now also on Nabilone, and for one month Blue Cross pays average \$2400 per month and last year I passed the \$25,000 max amount they allowed me for prescriptions. So how will I be able to afford to pay my medication and now am to pay on top for the marihuana I need to smoke so I can preform normal duties like eat, sleep, try to keep working and not loose my house?????

Are you willing to Pay me to reimburse the \$5000 cost to build the room to grow, fix the room I distroyed in my basement to grow the plants that you approved me to grow?????? No one will take back all I had to purchase, and now will you pay to have a carpenter fix my house to how it was before, and will you give me subsidy to pay for my marihuana???

As for saying that it is to have a greater variety of choice as to what type we wish to smoke..... we can grow and I have 3 types of plants that were chosen specifically for my depression and anxiety, stress, hurt, pain..... I took me so long to save for the room that I just started to grow the plants 3 weeks ago. So tell me just how your new proposed program is in any way at all designed to help me with any area of my life?

It is for that I say My feeling is that the program is designed for the government to make more money!

Most Sincerely,

[REDACTED] Calgary Ab  
Ph. (403) [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-31-93 Recommendations on Proposed Improvements to Health Canada's Marihuana Medical Access Program  
**Date:** 2011-07-31 08:11 PM

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[REDACTED]  
Beamsville, ON

[REDACTED]  
905 [REDACTED]

Leona Aglukkaq  
Canada's Health Minister

**Input regarding new supply & distribution system for MMAD patients**

As a licensed grower for a MMAD patient for 3 years, a cardholder myself, and the owner of a Hydroponic Retail Outlet, I feel qualified to provide the following recommendations and invite you to contact me for further input.

I believe that the MMAD program needs fine tuning, not a complete overhaul. The regulations to become a licensed grower are already strict and held to a high standard.

- a clean record is needed
- yearly police check
- must be a property owner

In order to control and regulate independent growers the government should mandate at minimum, yearly inspections of individual gardens. Such as scheduled visits done by government regulated inspectors. Who would cite violations, make recommendations, and fine/warn those who are not complying with regulations.

Changing the current system in such a dramatic fashion, as has been proposed, has serious consequences to people who need access to their medicine:

- Patients have invested heavily in setting up indoor gardens within the guidelines set by Health Canada. The average medical marijuana start-up costs anywhere from \$1000-\$5000. If these people are no longer able to produce their own medicinal marijuana, will they be forced to incur this huge loss?
- The majority of MMAD patients have to grow their own marijuana, because they cannot afford to buy it. Most of these people are on disability and/or extremely fixed incomes. The new plan will not work for these people, because they cannot buy the quantities they have been prescribed.
- When you grow your own medical marijuana you control what goes into it, (i.e. keeping it organic/chemical free).



- Different strains of marijuana have varying properties. People who grow their own medicinal marijuana have the ability to grow precisely the type of medical marijuana that they need, for their specific illness or condition. Some of these are speciality strains, that are extremely hard to grow, or yield very little product. One must assume that these varieties, because of the difficulties involved in producing them, would be too expensive for MMAD patients to purchase from large scale distribution systems, if they were even available. Just like any other person on prescribed medicine, changing medicines is very serious issue.

The core of this debate is accessibility. The monthly cost of a grow room that has been set-up and is fully functioning for one garden is approximately \$200-\$300 a month. This figure includes hydro and plant requirements, such as nutrients. The estimated cost of a patient getting the same amount of medicinal marijuana from a dispensary would be \$100 - \$300 a day. These figures are outrageous, and impossible. The vast majority of patients would not be able to afford their prescribed marijuana. They would have to choose between not taking their medicine, or they would be forced to either grow it illegally, or purchase it through illegal means on black market.

In my own personal and professional experience with Medical Marijuana growers and users, the vast majority of people do not abuse the system. They grow within their limits for their own personal medicinal use. I hope these recommendations are useful and please feel free to contact me regarding these issues.

Regards, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
Subject: 11-07-31-101WWW Form Submission  
Date: 2011-07-31 07:44 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
( ) on Sunday, July 31, 2011 at 19:44:48

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message: To whom it may concern:

I am writing in response to a letter I received about the changes to the medical marijuana program. I have had my licence for just 7 months, and feel that no changes are needed to this program for myself. If it is the criminal element as you say you are trying to deter I just think this is naïve, they are criminals and will only find other ways to continue. I have multiple issues that I use marijuana for and am so thankful for this program, but the point of it for me is that for it to be real medicine, I want to know how it is grown and where it comes from, I do not want someone else growing my medicine, least of all some huge pharmaceutical company who will grow it in huge amounts for many people.

I also feel it is unfair to take away my license to grow my own medicine after all that I have put into it so far, I have spend countless hours researching, and put a substantial amount of money into the infrastructure (which Health Canada will not reimburse), not to mention all the time, love and energy that goes into making this medicine something that I want to take. I only use organic fertilizers and specific strains for my personal issues, I put lots of my own time into growing my plants and play them classical music to help them grow. Will Health Canada put this much care and love into my medicine? I think not. So I think that it is only fair to grandfather my licence over, and then any new applicants can be put into this new program, which I do not agree with, the whole point of using alternative medicine like this is that it is alternative, not Government grown. I believe strongly in this plant as a medicine and have seen it cure many ailments including cancer, and feel that the way it is grown and the care and love that goes into any medicine is a huge part of the healing process.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope to continue to work with Health Canada to see the changes I am asking for and for you to realize how important this is.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

counter: 0

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-31-143disagree with new changes  
**Date:** 2011-07-31 04:56 PM

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Port Coquitlam, BC  
[REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED] and I am prescribed Medicinal Marijuana to help with my muscle spasms. A car accident left me a quadriplegic, and after trying prescription meds I found Marijuana the best for me. With prescription meds I need to have my liver and kidneys checked yearly due to the potency of these meds. I feel much better about producing my strain of Marijuana that is chemical free and easy on the body.

Hearing about these proposed changes does not sit well for me. I have invested time and money to find the right strain that works for me, not to mention the production site which I have signed a five year lease on. I made sure not to have my production site in an urban area where it can bother anybody or have security problems. I've set up physical security standards, at my expense, which was part of the designated production application. You stated in your new proposed changes that a commercial grower will be able to produce any strain(s) of marihuana, thus giving individuals greater choice as to which strain(s) they wish to use. A commercial grower will not have my strain as I have created my own between two different strains. You also state that commercial producers would set the price for marihuana for medical purpose. This is also disturbing as they could over value the product, like big medical companies already do.

Instead of revamping the whole program because of a hand full of bad people abusing their licence, why not have better regulations and inspections. There are some doctors who are handing out licences to people without disabilities. Why not have just the top disabilities on your eligibility form. Severe pain and/or persistent muscle spasms from multiple sclerosis, a spinal cord injury; Severe pain, cachexia, anorexia, weight loss, and/or severe nausea from cancer or HIV/AIDS infection; Severe pain from severe forms of arthritis; or, Seizures from epilepsy.

Nausea and glaucoma, without having cancer, is an easy way to scam the program. You need to find the doctors who are handing out above average amounts of licences and question or punish them.

You want couriers to deliver medicinal marijuana, but would they want to? and at what cost? Would the couriers fear for their safety?

Inspection teams should be in place to do regular number counts on plants. If you are above your allotted number, your licence is gone.

I am finally happy with my quality of life and now you are messing with it. There's a saying that goes "a few bad apples don't spoil the bunch"

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca; bob leduc  
**Subject:** 11-07-31-168Re: Proposed changes to the marihuana program  
**Date:** 2011-07-31 02:47 PM

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**PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS EMAIL SO I CAN ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE BOTH READ AND RECEIVED.**

As Consultants you have not allowed the Sick Canadians benefiting by this program ample time to respond. The letter for response was sent out whilst mail was still being affected by the postal strike, at a time when most people take holidays and in addition to this only allowed 3 weeks to respond.

I am one of the first exemptees and ask please do NOT DO WHAT you are proposing. You are taking away my (and others) the right to be healthy.

You are removing my rights to adequate and affordable medicine and placing it in the hands of private corporations with only their agenda in place. The program to PURCHASE MEDICINE from this source already exists; however is not currently being utilized by myself or a majority of us exemptees as what is provided is cost prohibitive and of poor quality. What you are merely doing by this is forcing us into using a program that does not work. You are taking away my constitutional rights (outlined by the courts) to have adequate access to my medicine and to be healthy. I am not new at this and I have fought hard and long for this PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE ... PLEASE do not take this away from me my life would be devastated ...

You as a government have been so progressive in allowing us Sick Canadians access to Marijuana as a medicine and allowing us the right, Please do not go backwards and put our health in the hands of private corporations. That have little concern should I not be able to afford it, nor have the proper strains and quality.

The changes that you are contemplating, if implemented, would be a disaster for me. First of all I am strain specific, that is, some strains work and some do not. Even the ones that do work will only do so for approximately 3 months then I developed a tolerance for them and they become ineffective. The solution is to replace them with 3 new strains. In order to determine which strains work they must be tested in advance. Health Canada cannot provide me with the number of strains I require. Also, I have an enormous amount of money invested into grow equipment. I can't get my money back nor sell it. For the most part I had to borrow money to purchase the equipment I needed and I still have yet to pay it all back.

If I do not get the meds I need it becomes a life threatening situation. Recently I did not take my meds on time and I had a seizure resulting in three fractured vertebrae. I could have just as easily killed my self from this seizure. Forgetting to take my meds is no different that not having the right meds. That is what will happen if I am not allowed to continue as I am now!!! I also suffer from disabling psoriasis and IBS cannabis also keeps these conditions under control.

Before I discovered that cannabis worked my life was a living hell. PLEASE ... PLEASE do not make any changes. It is definitely not in my best interest nor any exemptees. We have just returned from holidays and find we have only a week left to repond it seems a little odd that you have choosen this time of year and gave such little time. Therefore we have had very little time to respond and do not feel that this email adequately describes the enormous affect that your proposals will have on our lives.

**Due to my illness I am unemployable and I cannot collect disability as my wife works. The private corporations would not be able to provide it to me at an affordable price (it is not covered by any MEDICAL PLAN) and you the government does nothing to help me monetarily as a sick person your proposed changes would cause my wife to go BANKRUPT!!!!!!!!!! And all our investments into providing me with medicine will go down the toilet.**

Regards

██████████

Note my wife also strongly supports what is written here.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-08-01-24  
**Date:** 2011-08-01 01:43 AM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED], I have had my licence to produce marijuana for personal use for 3+ years now. I object to the way I will be affected by the changes being considered. After 8 years seeing a pain specialist for a neurological chronic pain disorder and taking several different pain medications and anti seizure meds I was fortunate enough to be blessed with a doctor who saw the benefits of marijuana to help alleviate many symptoms.

I am able to grow my medicine for as little as \$250 a pound which makes it affordable for me. I have spent the money and a lot of time in order to make this happen. Every step of the way I have followed the rules and guidelines to ensure I am 100% within my legal limits etc. I can not afford to buy my medicine for upwards of \$2000+ per pound from a commercial grower. I don't agree that everyone should be penalized because of a few cases of abuse.

I am also concerned with how the government plans to help big money players monopolize medical marijuana and profit off sick and often dying people. Who are these big money people that want to profit off me? Many of them are definitely those very same people that have been exploiting the medical marijuana system from the start. Now the federal government is giving them an avenue to turn those ill gains into a cash cow. How many sick and dying people do they plan on likely turning into criminals if they lose their right to grow and control what goes into their own medicine.

It has cost an awful lot of money in order to comply and to grow my medicine. Will I be compensated for the money and time spent so that I can grow my medicine in a safe and secure environment? Will the federal government supplement the difference between the \$250 a pound it costs me to grow my own compared to the \$2000-\$4540 per pound being what they would charge?

I also ask why every person with a licence that would be affected was not contacted? I found out second hand and was disappointed that a department of the federal government did not have the resources to contact me. My opinion is money is being wasted hassling the honest and that nothing is being done to ensure that the program in place now functions.

Thank you, [REDACTED] 780 [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
**Subject:** 11-08-01-43 MMAR Programme  
**Date:** 2011-08-01 12:34 AM

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Hi there. I am currently a MMAR program personal use and production licensed person. I had only received the information regarding changes one week ago! After reading the proposed changes, I still see too many issues regarding commercial growers. My main objection is quality control. It is not just the percent of the drug, but the proper nutrients and control of what is being used to produce it. Will it cost more for organic etc? and how pricing and paying for the product would come into effect, will our provincial Gov't fit the bill? If prices and quality aren't cheaper and better than what's on the street, all you are going to do is create a system that will continue to fail. I don't believe making commercial growers is the option! losing complete control over the personal production for me is not going to save me any pain relief only cause me more grief. If there was such a thing as quality control and the products were tested by authorized experts having many different strains, it would only work if there were people growing the strains I rely on that work for me. Having to search again for proper quality etc, the stress would kill me!!! So what is the difference as a designated grower? None. The problem with trying to create a few strains to work for many people is impossible because Marijuana works on so many different ailments and you cant put it into a bubble. This is why some folks get relief from cesemet and most don't. Then you have shipping issues and theft it would be chaos. There is something else that bothers me, I have spent thousands of dollars on purchasing equipment for myself, who is going to reimburse me for all that I have? I am a landscaper by trade and could apply to grow commercially but I don't think this is the answer. Looking at how Colorado has adopted their system, appeals to me. Having storefronts I believe is the way. Having a sterile environment with someone assisting you in a medical uniform smocky thing works for me, and I am sure there are many folks who would be more likely to use Cannabis for relief, as well as make it digestable for most of the population. I never have liked the Hippie style grubby, bum, stereotyping that medical marijuana users receive, because of the movement that brought Marijuana to the forefront in the sixties. If you look at how in the Bavarian beer country they have their breweries and there labels at their own pubs, allowing access to everyone who is of age to drink, but the brewmasters have been doing this for years. Having commercial Marijuana growers not having a clue what they are doing is a great disservice to hurting people. Who is going to make sure that the laws will be followed? there has to be more comprehensive steps if you are going to bring in mass comercial growing operations. Thank you!

Sincerely! [REDACTED] Medicine Hat alberta..

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marijuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marijuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** changes to the medicinal marijuana program  
**Date:** 2011-07-27 03:18 PM

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Let me start my saying "thank you" for allowing me to state my feelings on the upcoming changes to the medicinal marijuana program.

I have a few concerns with the changes that I will state below:

The way the program is now, allows me to grow my own marijuana without anybody else knowing that I am doing so. I NEVER tell people that I have a license, so therefore, it guarantees my privacy. Privacy is my biggest concern. I live in a small town that does not understand the benefits of marijuana, nor do the family doctors in this area. In order to get into a new doctor here, I had to tell the doctor that my paperwork for medicinal marijuana is filled out by a specialist who completely understand the benefits of marijuana. I had to make numerous phone calls and visits in order to just get into a family doctor here. I was quite shocked that in this day and era that a family doctor was worried about his practise because I had a medicinal marijuana license. So I feel that even though you may be able to educate some doctors to the benefits, there will be ultimately some that just will not agree, and when family doctors are SO hard to find in my area, this is a huge concern. I am certain that my Chronic Pain clinic here would be more than willing to continue to fill out my paperwork, thus not unnerving family physicians.

Another concern that I have is the cost that I have incurred to grow my own medicine. It was a HUGE cost to try to grow my own medicine, and when the changes come in, what am I to do with all of this equipment that I have purchased over the years. It is not like I can sell the products. Not to mention, when I did decide to give growing it for myself a try, I was able to decide how I would go about it, meaning I chose to grow organically. This is a major concern to me. I have had to purchase medicine off of the street, and through health canada when I first received my license. Let me say both avenues were horrible. The stuff that is bought from health canada was useless medicine. It did not help my pain whatsoever, and the stuff bought on the street was even worse because I have no way of knowing what was used to grow the plants and how they were dried, etc., and most street dealers are out for themselves, both financially and production wise. I have smoked so called medicine that would make you cough so bad that you thought you would pass out. I believe this is from whatever they use to grow, and this can be deadly to me. I understand that I take the risk of using marijuana myself and myself alone, but at least when I have the opportunity to grow the medicine myself, I can guarantee what is used in it as far as chemicals go, I guarantee how it is dried properly, and I store it in the safety of my own home.

The next issue I have are the licensed commercial producers. They can produce whatever strain THEY like. I have found that there are certain strains that help my specific pain issues. Will the information be available to me to find out what growers are growing what strains? Will information be available to me to find out if the grower is an organic grower, what chemicals they use? Also the growers can set their own prices? Do you realize the prices that may be used? I cannot afford to pay \$10/gram or even higher. You are setting up a monopoly. All the growers know how much they can get for their so called medicine, so they are going to get the most for the money, forget about the people who use this for pain relief. Do you realize the pain that I will go through trying to pay for this medicine? Right now, I pay the electricity bill for my medicine and a few chemicals (organic) and that is it. And believe me, it is not that expensive to grow if you do it properly. Also, as I stated above, nobody knows that I grow. Nobody!!!! After the stated changes are made, I will have to find a producers that can hopefully meet my needs. That itself could be a long process, and what if I find a producer, purchase the medicine, and find that it is not helpful to me. I just wasted a shit load of money on medicine that is supposed to help my condition, and it turn makes it worse. The way things are now, I feel, are the best the program could be. I do not know why Health Canada could not set up these producers for the people who cannot grow for themselves, thus allowing them to get the medicine that they need, and just let me and others who produce for ourselves be. Right now my privacy is protected, but if I have couriers



and/or have to pick up products from the local mail station, you don't think people will find out what is going on, and then my privacy is completely gone. People in post offices talk, I have seen it for myself, not to mention the looks you get when picking up your parcel of medicine. The wrong people talk and guess what, my house is being broken into because somebody told somebody else that this person has marijuana in their house. I need my privacy with this issue. I do not want people knowing that I use medicinal marijuana let alone growing it.

I hope that you seriously look into the issues I have brought up. I appreciate the fact that I have a legal license to produce medicinal marijuana, but unfortunately, people (and doctors) are still not educated to the benefits of marijuana, and I am still made to feel like a criminal, but at least the way the program is now, I can produce and help my own pain issues without anybody else knowing that I am doing so.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and again I appreciate the fact that you asked for our opinions before making all the changes.

  
Medicinal Marijuana Participant.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** Feedback regarding Changes to Health Canada's Medical Marihuana Medical Access Program  
**Date:** 2011-07-18 01:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.gif](#)

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Dear Health Minister,

My family, friends and even a couple of physicians are infuriated about the proposed changes to Health Canada's Medical Marihuana Medical Access Program. We are so incensed about these changes that we are even considering relocating to a more democratic and just society pertaining to marihuana laws.

I have invested thousands of dollars in equipment so that I may provide RELIABLE medical marihuana to myself and my mom and my girlfriend (we all have our MMAR permits). The marihuana provided by the Canadian government is sub-par to say the least and I sense that most patients do not want it, due to its lack of quality. Having been accepted into Health Canada's Marihuana Medical Access Program came as a great relief to me and my family. The equipment and nutrients needed to provide high grade organic marihuana is expensive. Will the government pay us back for our investment; somehow I don't think so. We will probably be stuck with thousands of dollars worth of equipment and nutrients because of a criminal element we have nothing to do with.

At this point in time, I only want to rely on myself for providing the medicine I so desperately need. It is not fair that I should face financial burdens due to un-used equipment I bought. Further, the price of purchasing medical marihuana from a commercial grower will probably be too costly. I would not be able to afford Medical Marihuana from a licensed grower or from the Medical Access Program; this proposition is far too costly for me and I doubt the quality would meet my high standards. Also, it should never be illegal to grow a plant that helps you maintain a healthier lifestyle, patients depend on this extraordinary plant, it would be unconscionable to proceed with the proposed changes to Health Canada's Medical Marihuana Medical Access Program.

The MMAR program should facilitate the ability for patients to obtain marihuana from various sources including: patients growing it for themselves, designated growers and the government...this should be left up to the patient. I believe anyone's grow-op should be visited and checked for quality and cleanliness, and growers who produce marihuana with mold and or other severe deficits should not be allowed to continue growing marginal to dangerous marihuana. The reality is there is a great difference between properly grown marihuana and improperly grown marihuana; this is something that usually only someone who is familiar with the plant would realize. Not all marihuana plants are created equally. Presently, thousands of marihuana strains exist. It would be virtually impossible to have all of these strains available either from a local grower or the government and each individual

patient has a preference for what strain helps them deal best with their unique disorder.

I am proud to be Canadian; however I am ashamed of how our government is intending to deal with this aforementioned re-alignment of Health Canada's Medical Marihuana Access Program. My friends and family are not criminals; we work, pay our taxes and contribute to our society in meaningful ways. Consider the decriminalization of marihuana.

Decriminalization of marihuana in countries has not increased usage nor have more youths started using marihuana recreationally. I think the cache and criminal aspect of cannabis makes marihuana an appealing prospect for many young people.

In conclusion, please do not invoke more hardships against Medical Marihuana Patients. We should not have to suffer because of the criminal element attached to this medicinal plant. Marihuana Prohibition occurred because major petro-chemical companies (ie: Dupont) and pharmaceutical companies lobbied the government to eradicate marihuana, since these industries felt threatened by this multi-purpose plant. The cannabis plant can be used for fuel, cloths, high protein food, Mercedes is using hemp in their cars and Canadians have been allowed to produce agricultural marihuana since 1998. In today's society people from all walks of life use marihuana either recreationally or medicinally. I know professionals such as doctors, lawyers, engineers and others who maintain a regular intake of marihuana for various reasons. To not allow someone easy and safe access to the medicine they require is unconscionable and a serious infringement on our personal rights and freedoms.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Montreal, Quebec,

[REDACTED], CANADA

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** Feedback  
**Date:** 2011-07-27 02:02 PM

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Hello. I currently have a " PERSONAL-USE PRODUCTION LICENCE, DRIED MARIHUANA FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES " licence to help me deal with my severe arthritis. From what I understand, I will not be able to continue to produce for myself in my residential neighbourhood if this paper comes in to law.

I am a pensioner on a FIXED INCOME. I spent most of my savings [several thousand dollars] on an electrical upgrade to my home, with permits, and grow equipment, to be self sufficient.

I am not an substance abuser or a criminal and would welcome regular inspections of my home if I could continue on my own.

If I am unable to continue, the savings that I invested in electrical upgrades and equipment become worthless, and I will be forced to purchase my medication on what is left of my fixed income.

It would be a shame for the large percentage of law abiding citizens, who grow their own medication in their own homes to suffer financially because of a very small percentage of criminals.

Thank you for your time, and I hope for a positive response from you.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Consultations-marihuana  
**Subject:** Further comment  
**Date:** 2011-06-22 12:23 PM

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I would also like to comment on the fact that I spent 1000's of dollars to turn part of my home into a grow room, that all alterations were made by a licensed electrician and contractor. I also spent 1000's more on state-of-the-art equipment to moderate my electrical use and insure proper air circulation and ventilation to prevent mould and mildew. I made these investments because the alterations were not to be temporary and I expected to be able to grow my own meds for years to come. If I will no longer be allowed to use that space for growing my meds I will be faced with \$15,000-\$20,000 in renovation bills to bring the property back to it's original condition. I expect nothing short of full restitution not only for my equipment but also for the renovations I will have to undertake to make the space liveable again.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** marihuana changes...  
**Date:** 2011-07-30 03:34 PM

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Marihuana Consultations  
Controlled Substances and Tobacco Directorate  
Health Canada  
Mail Room, Federal Records Centre - Bldg 18  
1st Floor, 161 Goldenrod Driveway, Tunney's Pasture  
Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

[consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the medical marihuana program.

Although I acknowledge that Health Canada wishes to have greater control over the production and distribution of marihuana, I have grave concerns over the proposed methodology they hope to employ. I have been a producer/medically-approved user for 5 years. From my perspective, it has provided an affordable and extremely effective method of dealing with my chronic pain and illness.

Your proposed changes threaten to disrupt all that upon which I have come to depend and substitute a highly regulated alternative that is commercially prepared. No doubt, consistent with all other categories of 'drugs', the costs will be prohibitive!! Will the resultant 'drug' be available for inclusion under a prescription drug plan?

I would strongly recommend that a system of 'grandfathering' the current 'producers' be included in the proposed amendments. Your proposed changes would be financially crippling to me, as a person on a disability pension. I have made changes in our home to accommodate the production of my licensed supply. To arbitrarily decree that I can no longer produce my requirements is the equivalent to coming along and destroying my small, necessary operation and possibly making it impossible to afford the new, commercially produced supply. The end result would be red-tape and government regulations and profiteering on the part of the newly established companies. After all, they would expect the same consideration enjoyed by other 'drug companies'. In

the ensuing melee, one can see it would be 'to hell with the needs of the patient'!

It is the way of life in the year 2011 .....

Also, my product is organically produced, with no added chemicals. If such a supply were to become commercially available, one can only imagine the exorbitant prices that would be charged for such a product, based on all the other products in our society. Not to mention the fact that my body is stressed enough with my disabilities -- I do not need chemicals and additives to produce an inferior product when I am already receiving one with high standards and excellent results.

### SECTION 3

Proposed change: "....." These licensed commercial producers, who would be inspected and audited by Health Canada so as to ensure that they comply with all applicable regulatory requirements, would be able to cultivate any strain(s) of marihuana they choose. Finally, the production of marihuana for medical purposes by individuals in homes and communities would be phased out.".....

Concerns: What if the grower does not use the same kinds of organics that I use, am I allowed to send them my own mixture to use on the plants that are mine? I am assuming that the procedure to find a grower, will be to look at a list and pick one that has a strain you think you may like. Send your application to them, get approved, and receive your product. What happens if none of the strains are to your liking? Are you then allowed to send your papers to the next grower and see if they have what you are looking for? Will you be allowed to get sample packs from many growers till you find the one that is right for you?

Or will the process become depersonalized and dehumanized just like the many other drugs available?

#### 4.2 Dried Marihuana Production and Distribution

Proposed change: "The only legal source of dried marihuana would be commercial

producers, who would be licensed by Health Canada to produce and distribute dried marihuana. Individuals would purchase their supply of dried marihuana from one of these licensed commercial producers.

Licensed commercial producers would be able to produce any strain(s) of marihuana, thus giving individuals greater choice as to which strain(s) they wish to use.

The distribution of dried marihuana by licensed commercial producers to program participants would be by registered mail or bonded courier only"

Concerns: One can see the exclusivity being built and the expensive distribution method -- this will greatly influence the cost!

#### 6. Impact on Current Program Participants Who Hold a Personal-Use or Designated-Person

##### Production License

Proposed Changes: That said, as the Government of Canada is committed to ensuring access to an uninterrupted legal source of dried marihuana, it will notify all holders of personal-use and designated-person production licenses well in advance of the coming-into-effect of any improvements to the Program. A detailed transition plan will be shared with stakeholders when proposed regulations are pre-published in Canada Gazette, Part I.

Comments: 'Notification well-in-advance' and 'detailed transition plan' may be comforting words to regulators and bureaucrats but to a patient dependant upon being able to afford this product, it is scary and unsettling and extremely disturbing and stressful! Before this drug became available to me, my life was extremely uncomfortable and unhappy. Since beginning the program, I have learned to regulate my pain and enjoy my home and family life. You are threatening my comfort and my way of life because I will not be able to afford to purchase the necessary supplies! You are, in essence, coming along and effectively destroying my small family business, (albeit, with a customer of one).



7. Opportunity for Those Interested in Becoming a Licensed Commercial Producer  
Dried Marihuana Production, Distribution and Disposition  
Personnel  
Record-keeping and Reporting  
Compliance and Enforcement

Comment: The above are extremely costly words and processes!! Currently, there are people interested in participating in the program but information about procedures is difficult to obtain and it is costly to invest in the necessary equipment, which limits the amount of producers available. With the proposed requirements for production, distribution, record-keeping, etc., one can envision that only large investors would qualify. This would further escalate the price and reduce the choice of a supplier. Profit would be the motivator, not the life of the patient!

So the choice of growers is going to be very limited. So I may have a very hard time finding just the right produce for me. Depending on the patient/client's medical condition, some strains work best for some things and others do not provide the relief needed.

The proposed changes do not seem to address alternative situations: What if a person owned a rental property, would they be granted special permission to turn it into a grow operation, and not have to go through the hassle and expense of setting up commercially zoned area?

If the main reason for the proposed changes is poor air quality, security, and fire risks. Why not have inspectors come and check out the growers operation. That way a person like me is not going to have their life turned upside-down. Let the people that buy from Health Canada get theirs from a commercial grower. A system of 'grandfathering', which is standard procedure in many situations, would alleviate some of these problems for people like me.

More detail on the opportunity to become a grower is needed. I know of someone who is interested in becoming a grower, but they would only want to do it if it is worth their while.

If a person decides to become a grower, how many clients are they allowed to have?

They will have to be allowed enough clients to cover the step-up and monthly costs. To cover all the expenses you would have to have a good size operation and that takes time to run. The person would have to make it a full time job and would need to have an income for their own living expenses. Basically they will be starting a small business, but will need many clients to make it work. Will there be government grants available to get started?

Or, are the changes designed to exclude individual enterprise? To be pre-tailored for larger drug-producing operations as a subsidiary of existing companies? And as a future tax-producing, 'cash cow'??

CONCLUSION: Please provide a clause that enables personal-use growers to continue with the product they now use. My marihuana is organically grown and I know the purity of the product. New users will probably not have the knowledge to feel disadvantaged by the new system and will be satisfied with commercial production. Notification and detailed transition will not help us to cope with losing our labour-intensive supply which is affordable and trading for an extremely costly and regulated product that might be outside our financial range.

I would appreciate consideration being given to the fact that I am an individual with a medical problem and no business degree. I have coped very well for the past 5 years and am scared that you will turn my life upside-down with your plans and regulations.

Thank you.

  
Saint John, NB

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marijuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marijuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@shaw.ca  
**Subject:** Proposed changes suggest ending personal APPL would cause undue stress and hardship!  
**Date:** 2011-06-22 05:14 PM

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Dear Health Canada:

I have already submitted an email on the proposed changes in the MMAR. However, I would like to expand on what I already submitted:

I will place a copy of my first email below so you can put it all together.

I am currently prescribed 12 grams per day. I know that I will require a larger amount as my pain and health continue to diminish. In my first email I explained how I, while trying to survive on a measly disability pension, could not afford to purchase my medication from any of the acceptable sources because the cost was much too prohibitive to me.

**My two disability pensions total approximately \$2,260.00. How can I purchase 360 grams every month at \$5.00 per gram Which by the way is the lowest price I can find anywhere. It would cost me over \$1,800.00 every month! How would I eat, pay mortgage, utilities or afford anything for that matter when all my income would go to covering the cost of my medication!**

You may balk at the thought of 12 grams per day but believe me it is not much and many more patients require much more than I do. I have had several operations on my spinal cord. Multiple tumors have grown around T3-T6. I have over 40% of my discs herniated or protruding. I have a brain tumor. I suffer from frequent bouts of Diverticulitis. I was 250 LBS just over 2 years ago currently I fluctuate between 145 - 160 LBS. Suspect cancer, still investigating. These are just a few of the basic hardships that I have to deal with on an ongoing basis.

While I am doing my gardening I am able to keep my mind off the pain with the help of the medical marijuana but also because growing the marijuana is therapeutic in nature.

I would like to suggest that those who are enrolled in the MMAR program under a Category 1, (Meaning their health is NOT going to improve but regress until death) who already have a APPL license for growing their personal prescription be allowed to keep it for LIFE! Have this provision grandfathered into the regulations. Of course their personal gardens would have to meet and continue to meet all fire and safety protocols!

Have a read of my first email below. I have gone to the brink of bankruptcy and suffering a complete breakdown because of the immense stress that was caused when I was not able to access my medication because of the prohibitive costs of my required medication. My wife and I made one final sacrifice, selling just about everything that wasn't necessary for survival so I could build a legal safe grow room. It cost me \$16,000.00 in the first year with small maintenance cost and hydro bills after that.

**Now I only have to come up with \$500.00 to \$750.00 for the monthly hydro bill. Under the current arrangement I can afford my medication. However, with the proposal of eliminating personal grows I will be unable to buy enough medication which would thus result in serious harm and injury to my body. As such I would have no choice but pursue relieve through the court system.**

Please reconsider the part of personal production for those who currently qualify. The new changes would put many of us back to the point where we were at before the original court case; **not having access to safe AFFORDABLE marijuana which we have a medical prescription for would infringe on our human rights, under the Canadian Charter of Rights!** I would have no choice but pursue this course as I could not even begin to bounce back after loosing another \$16,000.00 to caring for my health because of Health Canada's ever changing MMAR program. Your playing with peoples lives here! We are sick! we NEED our medicine! Now you want use to buy our medicine from strangers who know nothing of my ailments nor who has any care that we may be spending our very last penny on poor quality medicine! You think it can't happen, why do you think people stopped purchasing from PPS? The other commercial setups will be no different! We will end up paying exorbitant prices for a strain of medication that may or may not address my medical needs.

**The change would cause me undue financial hardship and result in serious harm to my physical and mental well-being!**

Sincerely  


Please reconsider the personal grows that are currently in place!

This new proposed system whereby a patient can no longer grow for their own personal requirement will be the final blow that KILLS ME!!!

I was a good soldier took the narcotics as prescribed, ruining my liver but not treating the pain in full. Tried Cesamet...joke! Then prescribed 16 vials of SATIVEX a month...YIKES! After just a year I was already \$30,000.00 in Debt. Then the switch to the real medicine...under a MMAR thanks.

I am currently prescribed 12 grams a day @ 30 days = 360 grams per month. To achieve this amount I am allowed up to 59 plants at any given time maximum.

Problems quickly started under the current MMAR program though. I had to buy large quantities of medical marijuana /marihuana, as mentioned above 12 grams per day would require that I purchase 360 grams per month to take care of my excruciating spinal cord pain along with the wicked muscle spasms that accompanied it!

My choice get it from a "Designated Grower" {DG} and/or so called "Compassion Clubs" {CC} I am a member of 3. I had to pay at at least \$7.00 per gram to get what they called decent medicine! Their Medical Strains often missed the mark but I couldn't even begin to imagine paying more.

Do the math please. That is \$2,520.00 per month! I and most people would end up losing

their home and all of their belongings! Even at \$5.00 I would still have to pay \$1,800.00 a month. I just don't have it! I am struggling to survive on a disability pension how can I afford to put that kind of money out every month after month? I would be crazy and selfish bringing my wife and I down to a life of utter poverty! We had to pay it for a year!

I had to resolve this once and for all! So I changed my MMAR status to personal-use production, thereby legally growing my own AFFORDABLE MEDICAL MARIJUANA / MARIHUANA. I spent over \$16,000.00 to build a properly wired and safe grow room. Now the only hefty cost every month is the hydro. But I would gladly pay \$750.00 for hydro to grow my 360 grams every month, then be robbed of \$2520.00.

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The SAME WOULD BE TRUE under the NEW PROPOSED REGULATIONS!

Under the new regulations: A patient requiring large amounts of MEDICAL MARIJUANA / MARIHUANA would NO LONGER HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR MEDICINE. The cost would be too prohibitive! They would once again be forced to break the law and find other more affordable ways.

Health Canada the original mandate was to make Medical Marijuana / Marihuana accessible to the ill who need it to live.

To meet /equal the \$750.00 hydro that I currently pay every month to grow my medicine the Medical Dispensary would have to sell my medicine to me for \$2.10 per gram. You and I both know that will not happen, not at that low price! Not now nor in the past 10 years has the price for marijuana /marihuana been that low. How are people like me and other patients that require even more medication then I do, how are we to afford our medicine? How please I need to know? Who is going to reimburse those of us who had to build our own grow rooms? On top of my daily medication that you expect me to miraculously afford at uncontrolled prices you expect us to suffer financial lose as the equipment etc has no further use.

(To meet /equal the \$750.00 hydro that I pay every month to grow my medicine the Medical Dispensary would have to sell it to me for \$2.10 per gram)

Please for those of us who have already done the work jumped through all the hoops (their were plenty) and who's health will not improve but regress, please leave us be. If your worried about safety I would be glade to stand for inspection.

I am truly sorry I want to write more but I am writhing in pain as I have been sitting up too long. I hope that I made my point clear:

I would NO LONGER HAVE ACCESS TO THE PROPER AMOUNT and QUALITY of MEDICINE that I am ENTITLED under my PRESCRIPTION. THE COST WOULD BE TOO PROHIBITIVE FOR PATIENTS WHO HAVE LARGE PRESCRIPTIONS!

Concerned & Sincere



PS1: The card is important as without one many imposters will just say they are a MMAR

patient and light up! How will one distinguish the difference. Put yourself in our shoes having a card can quickly bring to end any doubt ones right to medicate with Medical Marijuana / Marihuana

PS2: I would truly appreciate a personal response to my concerns by email or letter.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** Proposed Improvements to the MMAP  
**Date:** 2011-07-18 05:31 AM

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To Health Canada's medical marihuana access program.

As for the imposed changes too the licensing of persons to grow their own medical marihuana.

First I am left with questions.

For the people that have spent thousands of dollars to build their gardens, do we get reimburse?

If you do not have the ability to grow your own, do you have to go pay full premium prices to get your marihuana from a commercial grower? This will put the cost of marihuana very high and very unaffordable for most. When before we could designate which is much more cost affective.

Will single person consumption and cultivation license that have been issued before the change, that are in non-residential areas and are non-threatening be allowed to retain their licenses? For these people may not wish to grow for anyone but them self. For these people may wish not to consume anything in which they have not grown them self!

The new regulations seem to punish those who wish to use a different type of medicine, all because some people are abusing this right. I think that some reform is needed. Production sites should be in non-residential areas, should not be built in houses and should be regulated by inspectors.

I feel that the amount of money that people have invested putting their gardens together should count for something. For those who don't wish to grow for anyone but them self to be told they must stop growing and buy from a commercial grower is wrong and unfair. People who don't have the ability to grow for them self will be worked and will be paying too much. The proposed Improvements will take from people who already have their growers licenses. I feel those who already have their licenses to produce should be allowed to retain them if they were issued before 2012 and fallow regulations.

Thank you,  
Licensed Marihuana Grower

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-06-21-19 Proposed Improvements to Health Canada's Marihuana Medical Access Program  
**Date:** 2011-06-21 06:37 PM

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I agree there are changes to be made with regards to the Marihuana Medical Access Program however I do not feel that abandoning personal use production sites would have ANY benefit to medical users.

I have spent a considerable amount of time, and money into my personal production site – almost \$10,000 if I tally up the total costs in hopes that I would be able to produce a safe product that I am %100 aware of from seed to harvest. Much like today's society that is every-concerned where its Poultry, Fish, Meat, Vegetables are coming from I too have these same concerns with my medical Marihuana. This "investment" that I have made is something that is recent to me, and I am appalled to hear that my charter of right as a Canadian Citizen are being infringed.

I am willing to entertain the idea of commercialized growing however this is something that MUST be implemented in a stage by stage process, simply abolishing the right of Canadians to produce Marihuana for Medical Access is un-just.

Some example concerns that I have with commercialized growing operations are:

I do not know what bug repellants they use (if any)  
I'm unaware of the anti mold agent they would use (if any)  
What fertilizer is in use  
Who's hands have touched my medicine  
The Medium it's grown in, Hydroponically vs. Soil  
How can I guarantee the genetics of my medical request?  
How can I guarantee it's potency?  
I have NO relation with the Commercialized Grower, how do I know they're not having a bad day and take it out on my medication?

I could go on for days with a laundry-list of concerns however there is one that sets the president.

**THEY SET THE PRICE OF MY MEDICATION!**

I have chosen not to purchase my medication from Health Canada specifically for some of the reasons listed above, I simply wish to control my grow from Seed to harvest, much like my Lettuce, tomatoes and cucumbers I grow in my gardens, Fresh & Organic and under the control of 1 person!



In best efforts to ensure safety with my set-up I have hired Professionals to install my electrical, heating and ventilation and followed all/any British Columbia/Canadian Building Code(s) and Electrical code(s) to ensure safety, perhaps Health Canada should re-consider its proposed changes and amend them to include More Staff for Health Canada's MMAR division. Perhaps there could be some collaboration with current medical users and growers to gather input and suggestions on regulations, and perhaps a Standard(s) and or Code could be written with regards to production, storage & safety, only then will the government truly gain my respect and vote towards these said proposed changes.


I am not in support of our changes and would greatly like to participate in the regulation and standardization of the current Medical Marihuana Access Program that obviously requires vast improvements.

[REDACTED]  
604 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Squamish BC

Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database  
6227 (20110621)

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>

**From:**   
**To:** [Health Canada](#)  
**Subject:** 11-07-23-15 Consultation  
**Date:** 2011-07-23 04:47 PM

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My thoughts and feelings with regard to any changes are very simple and basic as the legal issues should be. If you are growing more and supplying other than yourself then you should be punished accordingly. If you grow more than you are supposed to then pay the price with the legal system. People should not be allowed to get away with growing more and labelling innocent growers with a bad reputation.

At least growing my own 'pain management' I am in complete control from a plant, rather than taking all sorts of prescription drugs that have all sorts of horrendous warnings - been there done that.

I spent considerable time and money to make sure I was doing everything legally and securely to make sure that I could be pain free in the long term with a life long disease that I will never be free of. The cost to set this up alone with a disability pension was not cheap. But I personally needed to know that I was doing this within the law and was not going to get into any trouble legally or otherwise. My building is well within our property line and very well secured and this is not a conversation that I would have with anyone other than Doctors and my husband.

For me to find myself in a position where I had to buy this or be supplied by someone else with an inferior product would be grossly unfair after researching this to a great extent, I would be disgusted that the legal system is not able to punish those that are abusing this.

Stories that have made the press of late where people have been caught or arrested for this should be punished severely and not penalise other law abiding sufferers from being able to supply themselves with pain management that at the end of the day is a plant. Punish those heavily that abuse the system.

When I applied for my license it took about 6 months as Health Canada was very understaffed and I would think under great pressure always playing catch up. My understanding is that they now have more staff and the process is quicker. So would think if they see any irregularities with an amount being obsessive requested that they would be able to address it.

As for keeping children and communities safe, why is the system not coming down with stiffer penalties for people who do abuse it or the criminals who do not have a license and also produce an awful lot nastier stuff - that is where efforts should lay.

Also a consideration that people that are licensed be randomly checked to ensure that they are complying with all the regulations set out.

To put a commercial grower at the head of this could still create problems. Do you honestly think that even they could find some illegal way to make an extra dollar and that would be at the Governments expense.

Why should I be penalised because of people that do not follow the law.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent By:** [REDACTED].com  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-26-107 marihuana changes  
**Date:** 2011-07-26 07:54 PM

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Marihuana Consultations  
Controlled Substances and Tobacco Directorate  
Health Canada

To whom it may concern,

I am shocked to read that Health Canada is deciding to revise the Marihuana Medical Access Program. I have been suffering from a chronic illness for many years and have been told I will continue to suffer for more years to come. I am only 33 years old and I am not ready to go out like this. I have been using marihuana for years, smoking as well as eating it, as I have found it helped by body and made me cope through the day more than any other medication the doctors have been giving me. Marihuana is not hard on my body like some of the other drugs that causes things like liver damage. Marihuana is so expensive to buy, especially in large quantities that I am having a hard time finding good quality marihuana for a reasonable price. This causes stress as well, which is not good for any person with or without a medical condition. However, with the amount I smoke, I end up needing more before I even have the financial funding to buy it. Since applying to the Marihuana Medical Access Program, I have been able to supply myself with enough of a crop that I can feel stress free financially as well as knowing I will have enough marihuana for days to come and even more for my bad days. The bonus of growing on my own property is all the trimmings of the marihuana leaves can be used for cooking down into butter or oils which I can orally use. I know exactly what chemicals I am using, how much and how often, what kind of marihuana strains I have, and know what my body can handle and what it can't. No one can do that for me better than myself. I feel comfortable knowing that I am responsible for what I am growing and what I am putting into my body. How can any commercial grower beat that. How am I to afford any kind of medical marihuana without the benefits of having the whole plant to use. This is the only way any it can be affordable to anyone dealing with an disability that has to deal with affording medication, travelling to doctors, any aid devices or people helping them through the day. Health's Canada Marihuana Medical Access Program is one of the best thing that has happen to me since I have been diagnosed with this illness. I am positive everyday that I can move and have the ability to help myself cope without thinking about the pain.

I live in a small town and run a very high profile business in which I do not want people knowing what I do in my private time. I do not feel comfortable buying marihuana from a unknown source and have it shipped through the post office or registered mail. Now everyone will know what I do. But what security do I have in protecting my shipment if someone steals it or the police confiscated it, do I get my money or shipment back? What laws is there to protect the courier if they are held up by criminals.? How can I go back to buying medical marihuana when it is so expensive to buy in large quantities in which I need a ounce every week in order to keep my body in less pain. And now I can't make butter or oils, but need to buy it from other sources if there are any other source. How is that going to keep my cost down? Is the government going to help us financially with buying our 'medications'. What about all the equipment I just bought to produce my medical marihuana, how am I to get my money out of that? I think the government should really take a look at what a disabled person goes

through in order to get good quality marihuana, how it is used, and how much is used before making changes to a program that is benefiting the majority of disabled people. No licensed commercial producer is going to give away their plants leaves for free to make oils and butter.

I believe the government is going at this the wrong way on making these changes. Instead of hurting the people that really needs this, the government should be going after the ones that abuse the medical marihuana program. I do believe there should be tighter rules on how you should set up a medical marihuana grow room, laws on how to electrically set up fuse box and wires so Firemen are protected when they come in. There should be regular checks on grow ops to see that they are complying with the rules set out in the medical marihuana program. There should be tighter security rules and maybe even the police should know where these medical grow ops are to protect them even more from thieves.

I really hope you take another look at these new 'improvements' before taking away the only natural source of relief that I need to get me through my day. I don't expect you to understand what I go through, but please don't take away my only hope. Please look at what these new improvements will really do to everyone that needs medical marihuana and how it will effect them in everyway possible.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Marihuana Consultations: [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 11-07-27-92 Comments on "Proposed improvements to Health Canada's Marihuana Medical Access Program"  
**Date:** 2011-07-27 03:56 PM

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[REDACTED] Ham., On., Can. [REDACTED]

Voice: (905) [REDACTED] Internet: [www.\[REDACTED\].com](http://www.[REDACTED].com) E-mail: [REDACTED].com

July 27, 2011

Via eMail, Fax & Canada Post

Marihuana Consultations  
Controlled Substances and Tobacco Directorate  
Health Canada  
Mail Room, Federal Records Centre-Bldg. 18  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 161 Goldenrod Driveway, Tunney's Pasture  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9  
eMail: [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
Facsimile: (613) 946-4224

Dear Representatives,

RE: Comments on "Proposed improvements to  
Health Canada's Marihuana Medical Access Program".

**Facts:**

1. The Petitioners herein, Reverend Brother [REDACTED] and Reverend Brother [REDACTED], are Ministers Plenipotentiary of the Assembly of the [REDACTED] who, as per the dictates of said Church and with the knowledge of the State, use Gods Tree of Life, (or as it is referred to by Health Canada, "Marihuana" and the Controlled Drug and Substance Act as "Cannabis", within their religious practice and beliefs. The Petitioners are also Medicinal Marijuana patients who use said plant as prescribed by their Physician.

a. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL USES OF CANNABIS AND  
THE CANADIAN "MARIJUANA CLASH"

Prepared For The Senate Special Committee On Illegal Drugs By Leah Spicer,  
Law and Government Division 12 April 2002, Library of Parliament

At page 22

"Also of recent significance are court challenges that have arisen in Canada regarding the religious use of marijuana. In Canada, Ontario's **Church of the Universe** has been arguing for the religious freedom to smoke marijuana in various cases since 1989. Since the ruling in the Terrence Parker case, **Brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]** have filed a challenge that the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act is not only unconstitutional for people who need it for medicinal purposes, but also unconstitutional in their continued battle for the recognition of their rights to use cannabis as a sacrament.

"One of Two"

**Recommendations:**

2. An exemption for Medicinal/Religious users of Marihuana (*or as it is also known, Hemp/Chanvre /Cannabis/Marijuana*) to obtain Organic Marihuana, grown out-doors, by themselves and/or acquired from a grower of their preference.
3. An exemption for Medicinal/Religious users of Marihuana (*or as it is also known, Hemp/Chanvre /Cannabis/Marijuana*), who practice a Religious Belief with said plant, referred to in the Holy Bible as "God's Tree of Life", and a Sacrament of

their Religion.

It is to be grown on an individual basis and/or in respect of the laws of the Church governing the sharing or serving of food prepared in accordance with dietary laws of the Assembly of the [REDACTED] by its Members and Clergy, in the same manner as exemptions are made for those of the Jewish faith regards conformity to dietary laws; i.e. ritually pure: kosher meat.

a. Halsbury's Laws of England  
Third Edition Volume 13  
At page 539

**11162. Slaughter of animals.**

Animals slaughtered without unnecessary suffering by the Jewish method for the food of the Jews by the Rabbinical Commission constituted for the purpose do not come within the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

4. We protest the failure of the legislation to recognize the necessity and right of Church Members beliefs to produce or share in the production of (Kosher) religious sacrament, Marihuana. The refusal creates a life threatening situation for our Members.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful considerations.

Be well and prosper.

In peace, bless you, bless us all.

Reverend Brother [REDACTED]  
Reverend Brother [REDACTED]  
Reverend Sister [REDACTED]  
The [REDACTED]





*"Two of Two"*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** 11-07-28-88 medical access program  
**Date:** 2011-07-28 04:01 PM

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This new legislation will only make life more difficult for pain sufferers growing their own marijuana.

Allowing medical marijuana only to be produced by licensed commercial growers will put the affordability out of reach for patients. They become the victims of those few criminal elements, who take advantage of the system.

Allowing commercial growers to set the price only creates big business and big profits for the licensed producer. It will drive the prices up for the legal growers as well as the illegal growers.

The commercial grower makes money, the illegal grower makes money and the government makes money on taxes, at the cost of my illness. Where is the common sense and rights to my quality of life.

I am on a disability pension because of cancer. I have lost my ability to work, my life savings and all my material possession that I acquired over my lifetime that I've worked for. Now the rights to produce my own medication will also be taken out of my hands.

BC health care now pays for my ostomy and prescription costs. Will the cost of being forced into purchasing my medical marijuana from a commercial grower be covered as well.

It is reality of life that there will always be a criminal element in society. Whether its drugs, alcohol, gambling, fire arms, extra, extra. We don't take away the rights of the majority who abide by the rules because of the few who break the rules. It is disproportioned to target such a small percentage of the population. Especially the ill.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:consultations-marihuana@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
Subject: 11-07-28-93 Consultation  
Date: 2011-07-28 05:16 PM

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I have two immediate concerns; Cost and variety. Because different strains control different symptoms, a wide variety is essential if multiple symptoms are present. For instance, I use an Indica dominant plant for control of the dyskinesia associated with my Parkinson's disease, and a Sativa for nausea and vomiting and for depression. Because different patients respond differently to different strains, and because tolerance to one variety may require changing to another strain a complete cross-section of cannabis meds need to be made available. Sometimes dry flowers are not as effective as another form of cannabis, such as oral dosing, extracts and tinctures. You should consider lighting up on these exclusions. Method of dosing should be the purview of the patients doctor

Another concern I have is price. By using volunteer help, Compassion clubs are able to provide a wide range of medicine at a very reasonable price.

Compassion clubs are non-profit. A system like the one you propose would be motivated by nothing but profit. Turning the pricing of needed medicine over to the free market would result in medicine that would be unaffordable to the people who need it most.

I need a suitable variety of cannabis medicines at an affordable price. I don't see how your proposal helps me. A better idea would be to legalize marijuana, period. Since that is not going to happen, just leave us alone and stop punishing us for being sick. To refuse to allow us to even grow our own medicine is tyrannical. Several fair-minded judges have come down in favour of marijuana as medicine. If my doctor says it is appropriate medicine, then that should be enough. Matters regarding dose or format belong in the doctors office, not the courts. If you really want to help sick people then just help. Stop being obstructionist and let us grow and use cannabis according to our doctors instructions.