

**FEDERAL COURT**

BETWEEN:

**NEIL ALLARD  
TANYA BEEMISH  
DAVID HEBERT  
SHAWN DAVEY**

Plaintiffs

and

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA**

Defendant

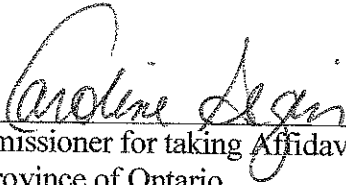
**AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN DAVID MILLER**

I, John David Miller, Professor, of the City of Ottawa, in the Province of Ontario, SWEAR THAT:

1. I am a Professor, employed by the Department of Chemistry, Carleton University, in the Province of Ontario and as such have personal knowledge of the matters hereinafter deposed to by me, except where same are stated to be based on information and belief and where so stated I verily believe them to be true.
2. I have been retained by the Attorney General of Canada in the above proceeding to provide an expert report for the Court. Attached at Exhibit "A" is my expert report.

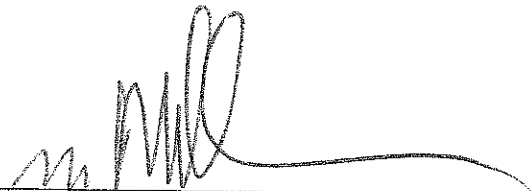
3. On June 3, 2014, the Attorney General of Canada provided me with an instruction letter to complete my expert report. Attached as **Exhibit "B"** is a copy of the instruction letter.
4. Further, on June 3, 2014, I was provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses. Attached as **Exhibit "C"** is a signed copy of the Certificate Concerning Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses.
5. Attached as **Exhibit "D"** is a copy of my current Curriculum Vitae.
6. Attached as **Exhibit "E"** is a copy of an article that I co-authored with Luke Johnson entitled, "Consequences of Large-scale Production of Marijuana in Residential Buildings."

SWORN before me at the City of Ottawa,  
in the Province of Ontario, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of  
October, 2014.



Caroline Dawn Seguin

Commissioner for taking Affidavits in and for  
the Province of Ontario



**Dr. John David Miller**

Caroline Dawn Seguin, a Commissioner, etc.,  
Province of Ontario, for the Government of Canada,  
Department of Justice.  
Expires November 27, 2016.

JOHN DAVID MILLER

Sworn before me this 3<sup>RD</sup> day of OCTOBER, 2014  
Assermenté(e) devant moi ce 3<sup>RD</sup> jour de OCTOBER, 2014

*Caroline Seguin*

A Commr. & etc. / Commissaire à l'assermentation

Federal Court of Canada

Caroline Dawn Seguin, a Commissioner, etc.,  
Province of Ontario, for the Government of Canada,  
Department of Justice.  
Expires November 27, 2016.

Re: Allard et al. v. Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada

I - John David Miller - am a Professor in the Department of Chemistry, Carleton University,  
Ottawa.

1 QUALIFICATIONS

2 I have a PhD from the University of New Brunswick in fungal physiology. I have a specialized  
3 MSc degree from the University of Portsmouth (England) in Biodeterioration of Materials, that  
4 is, the study of fungi and bacteria that degrade structures, materials, objects and plant materials.

5

6 I was hired by Agriculture Canada in 1982 and, in 1984 was instructed to begin a series of  
7 studies on mold and other exposures additional to my work on mycotoxins. I joined Carleton  
8 University as Professor & NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Fungal Toxins & Allergens in  
9 1999. From 1999-2008, I held a partial appointment in the Air Health Effects section of Health  
10 Canada until I have published > 300 papers on the impact of fungi and fungal toxins on  
11 population health, circa 30% of which relate to indoor environmental quality. I have co-  
12 written/edited 8 books, including on medical mycology and on mold and dampness in the built  
13 environment. I have been involved in and/or co-managed the large Health Canada studies on  
14 dampness in the built environment from 1985 to 2007.

15

16 Since 1987, I have served on many expert panels addressing indoor environmental quality at the  
17 national and international level. At present, I serve on a panel of the American Academy of

1 Allergy Asthma and Immunology that has so far published four medical practice parameters on  
2 allergens in the built environment. At Health Canada, I was a drafting author of the 2004  
3 guideline in mold in buildings and assisted in the guidelines on mold (Health Canada 2007) and  
4 formaldehyde. As a member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association Biosafety and  
5 Environmental Microbiology committee, I have been active in developing the best practice  
6 guidelines for investigations of damp buildings used in the USA and Canada starting with the so-  
7 called New York Guidelines” in 1993. In particular, I was the senior editor of the current practice  
8 guideline “Recognition, evaluation and control of indoor mold” (2008).

9

10 I have considerable experience in toxicology, having serving on key committees of the World  
11 Health Organization and the US Food & Drug Commission that address man made and fungal  
12 toxins. More detail can be found in my CV.

13

14 I note that while at Health Canada, the issue of marijuana cultivation in the built environment  
15 was one of the files I addressed with respect to both the residential built environment and  
16 occupational exposures for first responders, including the RCMP who are covered by the Canada  
17 Labour Code. I spoke at the National Grow op conference in Ottawa in 2004 on occupational  
18 health issues for the RCMP, Fire Fighters and other first responders. I helped with the  
19 development of the protocols that are used by this community when entering a grow operation.

20

1 Under the Constitution Act, housing is a Provincial jurisdiction. However, the Government of  
2 Canada has an important impact on housing in three ways: the development of the National  
3 Building Code (first released in 1941), the facilitation of mortgage insurance and home design by  
4 Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (Acts from 1938-1954) and in energy conservation  
5 (1970s-; NRCan and predecessor agencies). The purpose of the National Housing Act is “to  
6 promote the construction of new houses, the repair and modernization of existing houses, and *the*  
7 *improvement of housing and living conditions*”. Albeit by varying procedures, Provincial and  
8 Municipal governments adopt provisions of the National Building Code that suit their conditions.  
9 As noted by Commissioner Barrett in “The renewal of trust in residential construction:  
10 Commission of inquiry into the quality of condominium construction in British Columbia”  
11 (1998; chapter 2, section II) building codes are “*intended to represent minimum standards*  
12 *regarding life safety, health, and structural sufficiency of buildings*”.

13

14 Part of my interest, therefore, was and is also to consider how the design and operation of  
15 housing affects the safety and durability of the housing stock.

16

17 In 2009, Carleton University accepted a contract from Health Canada to prepare a report on the  
18 consequences of growing marijuana in residential housing written and managed by me which  
19 resulted in a report and later a publication (Johnson & Miller 2012). This did not involve any  
20 personal remuneration i.e. the money was used to hire research assistants and other costs. The  
21 final report documented that in a high percentage of Canadian homes, the cultivation of  
22 marijuana on any scale would lead to serious moisture and mold problems, the risk of unusual

1 exposures to *A. fumigatus* and other contaminants which would pose health risks to occupants  
2 and visitors and in the case of multi-unit residential buildings, neighbours. Further, marijuana  
3 cultivation and drying, among other actions, would be predicted to result in damage to the  
4 buildings, some of which would not be easily seen by subsequent purchasers. The important  
5 findings were subsequently condensed and submitted to a peer reviewed journal Indoor Built  
6 Environment that was accepted in May 2011 and went on line in November.

7

## 8 ASSIGNMENT

9 Ms. BJ Wray asked me to address four questions:

10 - The consequences of locating marijuana growing operations in residential dwellings, including  
11 single family dwellings, condominiums and apartments.

12 - What would be required in order to deal with the consequences of growing marijuana in  
13 residential dwellings?

14 - The consequences of using marijuana that is contaminated by mold.

15 - What is required to prevent mold growth on marijuana?

16

### 17 **A. Consequences of locating marijuana growing operations in residential dwellings**

18

#### 19 **1. Actors**

1 In my opinion, the answer to Ms. Wray's question needs to be considered in relation to at least  
2 three actors: the party interested to grow marijuana in a residence, bystanders, notably children  
3 and visitors and finally, a purchaser of the property at some time in the future. My answers  
4 consider each.

5

## 6 **2. Grow operations**

7

8 The consequences of illegal grow operations in residential have been described many times by  
9 many people. Most reports describe serious mold damage, non-code electrical systems and  
10 structural damage resulting from alterations to facilitate the installation of equipment and ducting  
11 for odours and for the addition of CO<sub>2</sub> from combustion heaters. For example, Canada Mortgage  
12 & Housing Corporation conducted a study of 12 former illegal marijuana grow operations. The  
13 summary report notes that the houses had alterations to accommodate the equipment and changes  
14 to the electrical system. Of the houses, 7 had serious mold damage homes and a further three  
15 more had some or moderate damage (CMHC 2007). A commentary from an official of Institut  
16 national de santé publique du Québec, also calls out mold damage as an important in former  
17 grow operations in a litany of other consequences (D'Halewyn 2006). Similar observations have  
18 been made in the U.S.A. (e.g. Martyny et al. 2013). As a consequence, the American Industrial  
19 Hygiene Association has developed guidelines for investigating and remediating clandestine  
20 grow operations (Koch et al. 2010). Because of the potential for serious damage to the building  
21 and safety risks, many cities in Canada have by-laws that require inspection of former grow  
22 operations and some have detailed rules for how remediation and testing is to be done.

1

2 A publication of the Canadian Real Estate Association states that homes that grow marijuana  
3 under Marihuana Medical Access Regulations are at similar risk for mold and potentially other  
4 damage (CREA 2013). Whether this was the case became the subject of my analysis conducted  
5 in 2009 referred to above. In brief: ‘under what circumstances does growing marijuana result in  
6 damage to the building & risk to health in bystanders especially children and to people with a  
7 lawful right to enter’?

8

### 9 **3. Damp building fungi (mold) & health**

10

11 The fungi that dominate in outdoor air comprise mainly of species of two genera, *Cladosporium*  
12 and *Alternaria*, plant pathogens and mushroom spores. Species of *Cladosporium* and *Alternaria*  
13 cover the surfaces of healthy leaves of all plants (grass, trees, crops) and are hence called  
14 ‘phylloplane fungi’. When the wind blows, spores detach from the leaves and become airborne,  
15 sometimes at very high concentrations. Approximately 10% of the population is allergic to these  
16 fungi resulting in ‘hay fever’ and asthma burdens (Horner et al. 1995). Thus, the fungi that  
17 dominate in clean and dry buildings are or should be the same as those in outdoor air. The fungi  
18 that grow on damp building materials are entirely different, being a mixture of species that, aside  
19 from their respective allergens, produce various metabolites (Prezant et al. 2008), some of which  
20 are quite toxic.

21



1 The US National Academy of Sciences (NAS 2004); Health Canada (2007), the US Centers for  
2 Disease Control (NIOSH 2012) and the World Health Organization (2009; see also Mendell et  
3 al. 2011) among many other cognizant authorities state that living or working in a moldy  
4 environment exacerbates asthma in mold sensitive asthmatics and on a population health basis  
5 results in increased risk of asthma to allergens (mold, dust mites, pollen), increased upper  
6 respiratory disease and a number of non- specific symptoms. The threshold for detecting these  
7 effects in a given population appears to be on the order of  $>0.2 \text{ m}^2$  of mold and water damage in  
8 a single family dwelling (Cho et al. 2006; Dales et al. 2010; Miller et al. 1999), that is to say not  
9 very much evident damage.

10

11 Mold and dampness has become more common in single family residential houses over the past  
12 30 years. This is because ventilation rates were reduced to save energy, building materials that  
13 were more vulnerable to mold growth became common and building designs became less  
14 resilient to water intrusions (NAS 2004). When molds grow on building materials, spores and  
15 spore fragments become airborne and are inhaled. The allergens and toxins contained in the  
16 fragments affect lung biology and respiratory health of occupants. The estimated attributable risk  
17 for asthma from mold and damage from Canadian and US data was 20% (Dekker et al. 1991;  
18 Mudarri & Fisk 2006). The US government researchers estimated that mold and dampness  
19 increased direct health care costs by ~\$3.5 billion (Mudarri & Fisk 2006). In short, mold damage  
20 of residential houses is a substantive issue for public and population health and health care costs.

21

22 **4. Mold growth and cultivation in residential houses**

1 Single family dwellings

2

3 Mold damage in the grow operations in single family homes discussed in the CMHC report  
4 (CMHC 2007) was probably caused because of increased moisture added to the environment  
5 from watering and then drying the marijuana plants. Aside from the ambient moisture, if the  
6 house is new, moisture is added from the construction materials, and the occupants of homes add  
7 water to the air from cooking, cleaning, showers & etcetera (Christian 1993; NAS 2004). Unless  
8 the ventilation capacity of the building is capable of removing this water from the air, the  
9 building materials and house dust take up the water which then becomes available for mold  
10 growth. This mold growth cannot always be seen. The research that underpins residential  
11 ventilation rates in Canada and the United States includes the assumption that a home would  
12 typically have three house plants. A study looking at the effects of humidity sources in the home  
13 found that plants are a constant source of moisture (Hite & Bray, 1949). Using data from studies  
14 of 7 different small to medium sized then common house plants, *Asparagus plumosus*, Boston  
15 fern, Bowstring hemp, friendly vine, English ivy, umbrella plant, and Peperomia, watered  
16 thoroughly every day, Hite & Bray (1949) found that these plants added an average of 2.5 g/h of  
17 water vapor/plant.

18

19 Using these data, an analysis was done that revealed that each marijuana plant would release  
20 18g/h water vapour or 432 g/day (nearly one pound; Johnson & Miller 2012). This was  
21 consistent with an estimate made by researchers in the USA (Christian 1993). To assess the  
22 impact of adding marijuana plants, measured ventilation rates in winter were obtained from cities

1 representing different climates in across Canada (Windsor, Ottawa, Regina). There are extensive  
2 data (>20,000 homes from sea to sea to sea) on dampness and mold from Health Canada studies  
3 from 1988 (e.g. Miller et al. 1988; Dales et al. 1991; Dales et al. 2010).

4  
5 Each marijuana plant adds as much moisture to the house as ca. 7-10 house plants. As marijuana  
6 plants are added to a house, moisture release will overwhelm home ventilation capacity and/or  
7 worsen the damage from an existing moisture failure present in ~30 of Canadians homes mainly  
8 from inadequate ventilation. We found that homes built after 1980 in Ottawa are already at high  
9 risk of moisture damage, meaning that adding additional moisture sources would result mold  
10 damage. Many homes in Windsor (41%) had air change rates below the recommended  
11 ventilation standard and would be unable to handle more than one or two house plants. The data  
12 from Regina homes showed a similar pattern: 37% were inadequately ventilated. These estimates  
13 do not include the release of moisture from improper drying of the harvested plants (Johnson &  
14 Miller 2012) nor from leaks from leaks from the pots/hydroponics systems or plumbing.

15

#### 16 Multiunit residential buildings

17

18 Studies of recently constructed mid- and high rise residential suites in Canada found that  
19 measured total suite exhaust capacities were on average only 32% of the design capacities. Some  
20 25% of the building suites tested had air change rates far less than what is required for single  
21 detached dwellings (Hill 1997). Air change rates and exhaust capacities in multiunit residential

1 buildings are complex. Although air leakage rates may be 30 to 40 times above the desirable  
2 upper limit (Proskiw & Phillips 2001), additional makeup air may not always be available. Inter-  
3 unit air transfer could pose a problem for neighbors of units where marijuana is grown. Inter-unit  
4 transfer air flows are prohibited by the National Building Code of Canada. However in a study  
5 of 10 units in a multiunit residential building, only two were found compliant (Moffat et al.  
6 1998).

7  
8 These different data sets suggest that approximately 1/3 of single family homes are at an  
9 increased risk for moisture problems from growing marijuana plants due to sub-standard  
10 ventilation rates. Compounding the problem 10-30% of the housing stock in Canada have  
11 existing moisture problems due to leaks in the building fabric, condensation from inadequate  
12 ventilation, and, unattended plumbing leaks (Dales et al. 2008). Multiunit residential buildings  
13 typically are smaller with a correspondingly reduced capacity for adding water and ventilation  
14 often below design expectations. The existing data show the chance that contaminants and  
15 odours being transferred from one unit to another would be quite common. There would be a risk  
16 of damage to common walls among other potential consequences of growing marijuana in a  
17 multiunit residential building.

18  
19 Considering bystanders as I have defined this above, I note that exposure to dampness and mold  
20 is known to increase respiratory symptoms in mold sensitized individuals and mold sensitization  
21 is a risk factor for severe asthma. That is mold-sensitized people entering the building with  
22 sufficient mold damage are at special risk.

1 **B. What would be required in order to deal with the consequences of growing marijuana in**  
2 **residential dwellings?**

3

4 As discussed above, and assuming that marijuana producers do not duct emissions from their  
5 furnace or heater to increase CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations to accelerate plant growth, or use pesticides  
6 indoors, the major issue is water management. Adding point source ventilation to remove excess  
7 moisture from growing plants would be helpful. However, this would have to be done in a  
8 fashion that did not make rooms or the buildings negative to the envelope, crawl space and/or the  
9 basement concrete slab to prevent the introduction of potentially dangerous particulate (fungi,  
10 particles trapped in the building envelope or attic) and gaseous contaminants (volatiles, sewer  
11 gas, radon) through the slab or floor drain.

12

13 Aside from managing ventilation, the difficulties of managing the application of water and other  
14 inputs to the crop would require an engineered solution. Considering these factors, I cannot  
15 envision a generalizable solution to these difficulties for all homes in Canada that would stand up  
16 on re-sale of the house. A qualified professional engineer could presumably design suitable  
17 alterations and a balanced ventilation system coupled with an engineered plant drier to permit the  
18 cultivation of marijuana plants indoors without releasing moisture to the building for each house.

19

20 For multiunit residential buildings, I cannot envision an acceptable protocol to manage growing  
21 marijuana plants inside under any circumstance.

1 In summary, mold and dampness has become more common in single family residential houses  
2 over the past 30 years. This is an important population health problem in terms of increased risk  
3 particularly to vulnerable populations for respiratory disease and exacerbating existing asthma.  
4 Mold growth in homes is property damage and hidden mold damage is a concern for a purchaser  
5 of a home. The ventilation rates in single family homes were in part determined to prevent  
6 condensation and consequent mold damage and include the expectation that a few house plants  
7 will be typical. It is not reasonable to grow marijuana plants in the ~10-30% of Canadian homes  
8 with existing moisture damage. As plants are added to a house, the risk of condensation in the  
9 high percentage of Canadian homes with borderline ventilation capacities rises. Growing  
10 marijuana on any scale in a single family dwelling home would require a case by case engineered  
11 solution that would be very different depending on whether you lived in Canada. I cannot  
12 envisage growing marijuana on any scale in a multiunit residential building under any  
13 circumstances. Most units are small, have uncertain ventilation rates and the risk of odours and  
14 mold entering common spaces and neighbouring units is likely quite high.

15

## 16 **C. The consequences of marijuana contaminated by mold**

17

### 18 **1. Mold growth on drying marijuana plants**

19

20 As with the plants outdoors, when marijuana plants are healthy, the leaves are covered by  
21 various *Cladosporium* and *Alternaria*, so-called phylloplane fungi. Marijuana is at a much

1 increased risk for non-phyllplane mold growth during the drying period after harvest. Any dead  
2 plant material with moisture contents above ~ 12% has sufficient biologically available water to  
3 permit fungal growth. Moisture contents above 20% in dead plant material promote rapid fungal  
4 growth (Muller & Heindl 2006).

5  
6 The facultative pathogen *Aspergillus fumigatus* grows and dominates on decaying vegetation  
7 under warm conditions or where biological heating has taken place, including piles of leaves or  
8 compost. This fungus is very common on samples of dried marijuana often at high  
9 concentrations. In one study in The Netherlands, all samples of marijuana were quite highly  
10 contaminated by fungi. *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *A. flavus* as well as various *Penicillium* species  
11 and actinomycetes were present in the marijuana tested at concentrations from  $10^4$ - $10^7$  Colony  
12 Forming Units /g (Verweij et al. 2000). A study in the U.S.A. resulted in similar findings (Kurup  
13 et al. 1983). There is also indirect evidence of *A. fumigatus* contamination of marijuana. A  
14 study of marijuana users indicated a high prevalence of sensitization (allergy) to *A. fumigatus*  
15 (Kurup et al. 1983).

16  
17 The prevalence of *A. fumigatus* contamination of marijuana resulting from growing, harvesting  
18 or smoking marijuana poses a potentially serious health population health risk. These risks  
19 include allergic reactions; sensitized individuals with chronic high exposure may also develop  
20 allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis. Allergy to *A. fumigatus* in a population of Canadian  
21 asthmatics was common (Malo & Paquin 1979). People suffering from cystic fibrosis are at high  
22 risk of acquiring aspergillosis which is very serious, often fatal. *A. fumigatus* infections have also

1 been reported in marijuana-exposed populations, normally in seriously immunosuppressed  
2 individuals. This is rare, but may be under-reported (Gargani et al. 2011; Gates et al. 2014;  
3 Johnson & Miller 2012).

4

5 Concerns about high exposures to *A. fumigatus* in workplaces (e.g. municipal composting) and  
6 the consequent disease even to healthy people is such that strict engineering controls and  
7 personal protective equipment strategies are required. Health concerns about the open population  
8 in homes and public spaces and people at risk are much greater (e.g. Fairs et al. 2013).

9

10 The drying, handling and using improperly dried marijuana poses small but significant risks to  
11 mold-sensitized asthmatics that might be exposed in a house (children, visitors), and users.  
12 Protocols to manage these risks for more than a few plants in a robust fashion are not  
13 immediately obvious to me. The medicinal herb industry has equipment and protocols for drying  
14 that could presumably be adapted (Muller & Heindl 2006). In the context of marijuana  
15 production in an appropriately designed building, drying requires the purchase of suitable  
16 equipment properly sized for capacity, and properly maintained.

17

## 18 **2. Allergy to marijuana pollen**

19

20 Marijuana pollen is allergenic. At general allergy consultation practices in Arizona and New  
21 Mexico, 63 of 129 patients were allergic to marijuana pollen (Mayoral et al. 2008). A similar



1 test in the Midwest USA found that 78 of 127 subjects (61%) were skin test positive to  
2 marijuana. In a selection of 30 of these individuals, 22 (73%) claimed respiratory symptoms  
3 during the pollination period of marijuana (Stokes et al. 2000). Cannabis pollen has also been  
4 found in air in Italy during pollination. The association between skin test sensitivity, respiratory  
5 symptoms, and pollination period suggest that Cannabis is a clinically important aeroallergen  
6 (Torre et al. 2007). Bystander exposure to the pollen including in laboratory and production  
7 workers can result in allergy. A number of allergens have been described and allergy in users  
8 may be common in atopics in Canada (Nayak et al. 2013; Tessmer et al. 2011). Atopy is the  
9 genetic predisposition toward developing allergy in all its forms.

10

11 In homes and multi-unit residential buildings, exposure to potently allergenic pollen is an  
12 undesirable and unnecessary risk for atopic bystanders.

13

#### 14 **Summary**

15

16 Improperly dried marijuana is contaminated by the potently allergenic fungus *Aspergillus*  
17 *fumigatus* which is also a facultative pathogen capable of causing invasive disease in immune  
18 compromised individuals and people with cystic fibrosis. Occupational exposure to *Aspergillus*  
19 *fumigatus* can cause a serious lung disease. If the plant drying process is poor, the house will  
20 become highly contaminated as these materials are handled. I would regard this as a serious risk  
21 to occupants and some visitors and people with lawful right to enter the house. In the event

- 1 marijuana plants are permitted to produce pollen, atopic people are at high risk of acquiring
- 2 allergy to the pollen. In my opinion, this is undesirable and unnecessary.

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- 14



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June 3, 2014

By Email to [david.miller@carleton.ca](mailto:david.miller@carleton.ca)

Dr. David Miller  
Department of Chemistry  
Carleton University  
230 Steacie Building  
1125 Colonel By Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1S5B6

This is Exhibit "B" referred to in the affidavit of:  
Ceci est la pièce mentionnée à l'affidavit de:

JOHN DAVID MILLER

Sworn before me this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of OCTOBER, 2014  
Assermenté(e) devant moi ce 3<sup>rd</sup> jour de OCTOBER, 2014

Caroline Seguin  
A Commr. & etc. / Commissaire à l'assermentation

Caroline Dawn Seguin, a Commissioner, etc.,  
Province of Ontario, for the Government of Canada,  
Department of Justice.  
Expires November 27, 2016.

Dear Dr. Miller:

**Re: *Allard et al. v. Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada*  
Instruction Letter for Expert Report**

Thank you for agreeing to provide the Attorney General of Canada ("AGC") with an expert report in the matter of *Allard et al. v. Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada*. As discussed, this Federal Court litigation involves a constitutional challenge to the *Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations* (the "MMPR").

**Background Information**

The plaintiffs in this litigation, all of whom are medical marihuana users, are challenging the constitutionality of the MMPR on the basis that they cause several unjustified violations of their rights to liberty and security of the person under the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The plaintiffs' constitutional challenge in *Allard* focuses on four aspects of the MMPR that differ from the old medical marihuana regime: (1) the elimination of personal cultivation of marihuana in favour of requiring approved individuals to purchase from licensed producers; (2) the restriction that licensed producers may not cultivate marihuana in dwelling places or outdoor areas; (3) the limit on possession of marihuana to either 150g or 30 times the amount prescribed for daily consumption by the individual's medical practitioner, whichever is less; and (4) the failure of the MMPR to permit the production and possession of non-dried marihuana such as cannabis oils, salves, tinctures and edibles.

The plaintiffs have obtained an injunction from the Court that permits them to continue personal production of medical marihuana until the constitutionality of the MMPR is decided by the Court.



The AGC is the defendant and it is the AGC's position that the current medical marihuana regime is constitutionally sound, a position that will be defended by legal counsel on behalf of the AGC.

### **Facts and Assumptions**

The facts alleged by the plaintiffs are outlined in the Amended Notice of Civil Claim which is enclosed.

### **Questions for Your Expert Report**

Please address the following matters in your expert report:

1. Discuss the consequences of locating marihuana growing operations in residential dwellings, including single family dwellings, condominiums, and apartments;
2. Discuss the consequences of using marihuana that is contaminated with mould or other contaminants;
3. Discuss what would be required in order to deal with the consequences of growing marihuana in residential dwellings;
4. Discuss what would be required in order to deal with the prevention of contamination on marihuana.

### **Format of Your Expert Report**

Your report must be prepared in accordance with the Federal Courts Rules. As such, we ask that you do the following within the body of your report:

1. Set out the issues to be addressed in the report;
2. Describe your qualifications on the issues to be addressed;
3. Attach your current curriculum vitae as a schedule to the report;
4. Attach this letter of instruction as a schedule to the report;
5. Provide a summary of your opinions on the issues addressed in the report;
6. Set out the reasons for each opinion that is expressed in the report;
7. Attach any publications or other materials specifically relied on in support of the opinions;
8. If applicable, provide a summary of the methodology used in the report;
9. Set out any caveats or qualifications necessary to render the report complete and accurate, including those relating to any insufficiency of data or research and an indication of any matters that fall outside of your field of expertise; and,
10. Particulars of any aspect of your relationship with a party to the proceeding or the subject matter of your report that might affect your duty to the Court.

Please number each paragraph of your report as this will aid us in referring to your report in Court.

Please sign and date your report.

**Duty to the Court**

As an expert witness, you have a duty to the Court which is set out in the attached Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses. Please carefully review this Code of Conduct and, after doing so, sign the attached Certificate and send it back to us.

**Due Dates and Procedural Matters**


We are required to file our expert reports on or before November 1, 2014. The trial has been set for three weeks commencing February 23, 2015. You may be required to attend the trial for cross-examination and, if so, we will attempt to accommodate your schedule to the extent possible.

Please keep all correspondence pertaining to this assignment in a separate "Expert Witness Report" folder.

We look forward to receiving a draft of your report the **first week of September, 2013**. Please do not begin work on your expert report until your contract is in place.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 604-666-4304 if you require further information or have questions regarding the foregoing.

Yours truly,



BJ Wray  
Counsel

Enclosures: Certificate for Expert Witnesses; Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses; Amended Notice of Civil Claim

FEDERAL COURT

BETWEEN:

NEIL ALLARD  
TANYA BEEMISH  
DAVID HEBERT  
SHAWN DAVEY

PLAINTIFFS

and

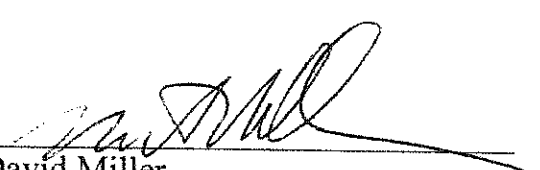
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA

DEFENDANT

Certificate Concerning Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses

I, David Miller, having been named as an expert witness by the Defendant, Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, certify that I have read the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses set out in the schedule to the *Federal Courts Rules* and agree to be bound by it.

Date: June 18, 2014

  
Dr. J. David Miller  
Department of Chemistry  
Carleton University  
230 Steacie Building  
1125 Colonel By Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1S5B6

This is Exhibit \_\_\_\_\_ referred to in the affidavit of:  
Ceci est la pièce C mentionnée à l'affidavit de:

JOHN DAVID MILLER  
Sworn before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
Assermenté(e) devant moi ce 3<sup>rd</sup> jour de OCTOBER, 2014

  
Caroline Dawn Seguin, a Commissioner, etc.,  
Province of Ontario, for the Government of Canada,  
Department of Justice.  
Expires November 27, 2016.

JOHN DAVID MILLER  
Sworn before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
Assermenté(e) devant moi ce \_\_\_\_\_ jour de \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

Caroline Seguin  
A Commr. & etc. / Commissaire à l'assermentation

Caroline Dawn Seguin, a Commissioner, etc.,  
Province of Ontario, for the Government of Canada,  
Department of Justice.  
Expires November 27, 2016.

J. David Miller

Department of Chemistry  
Carleton University  
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PLACE OF BIRTH Saint John, New Brunswick

EDUCATION

B.Sc. 1975 University of New Brunswick, Biology (Chemistry) 1975

M.Sc. 1978 University of New Brunswick, Biology (completed 08, 1977)

M.Sc. 1978 University of Portsmouth, Biodeterioration of materials

Ph.D. 1981 University of New Brunswick, Biology (O'Brien Foundation Fellowship)

NATO Science Fellow 1981-82 University of Portsmouth

EMPLOYMENT

Chemistry and Biology Research Institute, Agriculture Canada (03, 1982; SE-RES-02, 1984).  
Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre, Mycotoxin Program.  
*Fusarium* mycotoxin program study area leader 1988-1997.  
Senior Research Scientist (SE-RES-03) 1990; (SE-RES-04) 1991  
Visiting Professor, Carleton University, 1997-2000  
Visiting Scientist & Science Advisor, Health Canada, 1999-2008  
Professor & NSERC IRC 2001-2011

MAJOR ADDITIONAL TASKS (last 6 years)

- 2008- Member, American Industrial Hygiene Association Biosafety Committee  
Member, National Center for Healthy Housing/ CDC panel on healthy housing interventions  
Member, Practice guideline panel, American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology  
Member OGS scholarship panel
- 2009- Member, American Industrial Hygiene Association Biosafety Committee  
Member, Practice guideline panel, American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology  
Member, fungal toxins STP 158 panel, International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO)  
Member OGS scholarship panel
- 2010- Member, American Industrial Hygiene Association Biosafety Committee  
Member, Practice guideline panel, American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology  
Member, fungal toxins STP 158 panel, International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO)  
Chair, USDA ARS program review committee for aflatoxin research  
Member NSERC CREATE grant selection committee  
Chair, OGS scholarship panel

- 2011- Member, American Industrial Hygiene Association Biosafety Committee  
Member, Practice guideline panel, American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology  
Member, fungal toxins STP 158 panel, International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO)  
Member, NSERC CREATE grant selection committee  
Member, FAO panel on sampling methods for mycotoxins
- 2012- Member, American Industrial Hygiene Association Biosafety Committee  
Member, Practice guideline panel, American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology  
Member, fungal toxins STP 158 panel, International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO)  
Member, NSERC CREATE grant selection committee
- 2013- Member, American Industrial Hygiene Association Biosafety Committee  
Member, Practice guideline panel, American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology  
Member, NSERC CREATE grant selection committee  
Member, NIEHS grant selection committee  
Co-Chair, panel on public health interventions for mycotoxins in highly affected areas (IARC)
- 2014- Member, American Industrial Hygiene Association Biosafety Committee  
Member, Practice guideline panel, American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology  
Chair, expert panel "A health based agenda for reducing exposure to mycotoxins from groundnuts and maize aflatoxin and health in developing countries" (IARC)  
Member, Advisory Committee Pathways to Global Mycotoxin Control, World Bank

OTHER

- 1985-86 - Ottawa Biological and Biochemical Society - President
- 06/1990 - NATO Senior Guest Fellowship to University of Bari, Italy.
- 1990-99 - Associate Editor, Canadian Journal of Botany
- 1991-99 -Co-editor, Natural Toxins (John Wiley, New York)
- 1991-13 - Director, Toxicology Forum, Inc., Washington, DC
- 1991 - Elected, Member of the International Academy of Indoor Air Sciences, Sweden
- 1992-93 - President, Ottawa Bacteriological Society
- 1993 - Ag Excellence team award for mycotoxin research
- 1994 - Ministry of Agriculture of China, Science and Technology Award
- 1998 -George Scott Award (Toxicology Forum)
- 2002 -Applied Research Award, Ottawa Life Sciences Council
- 2002-2010 -Associate Editor, Mycopathologia
- 2004-2010 -Review Board, Environmental Health Perspectives
- 2008 -AIHA award for editing the top selling book (green book) in 2008
- 2010 -AIHA award for contributions to the profession of industrial hygiene
- 2012 -Co-Organized MYCORED NAFTA (Ottawa)
- 2013 Elected Fellow, American Industrial Hygiene Association

INVITED SPEAKER (partial list; last 6 years)

- 2008 AllerGen/ CHILD workshop (Banff)  
American Industrial Hygiene Association (Minneapolis)

Air & Waste Water Management Association (Ottawa)  
City University of Hong Kong  
Dipartimento di biologia Ambientale, University of Rome La Sapienza

- 2009 Toxicology Forum (Washington)  
University of Tulsa  
Air & Waste Water Management Association (Montreal)  
American Industrial Hygiene Association (Toronto)  
Syngenta (Greensboro, NC)  
Distinguished lecture, City University of Hong Kong
- 2010 American College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine (Orlando)  
International Mycology Congress 10 (Edinburgh)  
Canada Grains Council (Winnipeg)
- 2011 MYCORED Africa (Cape Town),  
University of Manitoba  
International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate (Austin, TX)  
Gordon Research Conference (Colby College, ME)  
Toxicology Forum (Aspen)  
Symposium on Global Public Health, US FDA (Little Rock, AR)  
MYCORED Latin America (Mendoza, Argentina)
- 2012 American Industrial Hygiene Association (Indianapolis, IN)  
Environmental Mutagen Society (Seattle, WA)  
City University of Hong Kong  
8<sup>th</sup> IUPAC International Symposium on Mycotoxins, opening plenary (Rotterdam)  
US *Fusarium* consortium (Orlando)  
Symposium sur les mycotoxines (Boucherville)
- 2013 G. Malcolm Trout Visiting Scholar Lecture, Michigan State University  
Mycored 2013, Martina Franca, Italy
- 2014 Department of Plant Pathology/Plant-Microbe Biology, Cornell University  
Sloan Foundation Building Microbes Symposium, U Colorado  
U Saskatchewan Symposium on *Fusarium* & Ergot  
IUMS, Montreal

#### PUBLICATIONS IN JOURNALS

1. Stanley SO, Leftly J, Miller JD, Pearson TH (1978) Chemical changes in the sediments of Loch Eil arising from the input of cellulose fibre. *Pergamon Ser Environ* 3: 409-418.
2. Miller JD, Brown CM, Pearson TH, Stanley SO (1979) Some biological important low molecular weight organic acids in the sediments of Loch Eil. *Marine Biology* 50: 374-383.
3. Cone DK, Miller JD, Austin WK (1980) The pathology of saddleback disease of underyearling salmon (*Salmo salar*). *Can J Zoology* 58:1283-1287.

4. Miller JD, Whitney NJ (1981) Fungi of the Bay of Fundy I: Lignicolous marine fungi. *Can J Botany* 59: 1128-1333.
5. Miller JD, Holland H (1981) Biodeteriogenic fungi in two Canadian historic houses subject to different environmental controls. *Int Biodetn Bull* 17: 39-45.
6. Miller JD, Whitney NJ (1981) Fungi of the Bay of Fundy II: Some observations on fungi isolated from seaweed. *Botanica Marina* 24: 405-411.
7. Miller JD, Whitney NJ (1981) Fungi of the Bay of Fundy III: Geofungi in the marine environment. *Marine Biology* 65: 61-68.
8. Miller JD, Schneider MH, Whitney NJ (1982) Fungi on wood fuel chips in a home. *Wood and Fiber* 14: 54-59.
9. Miller JD, Whitney NJ (1981) Fungi of the Bay of Fundy IV: Thraustochytrids. *Nova Hedwigia* 35: 407-416. (published 06, 1982).
10. Miller JD, Fleming LC (1981) Fungi associated with an infestation of *Pseudocarcinonemertes homari* on *Homarus americanus*. *Trans British mycology Soc* 80: 9-12.
11. Miller JD, Jones EBG (1983) Observations on the association of Thraustochytrid marine fungi with decaying seaweed. *Botanica Marina* 26: 345-351.
12. Greenhalgh R, Neish GA, Miller JD (1983) Deoxynivalenol, acetyl deoxynivalenol, and zearalenone formation by Canadian isolates of *Fusarium graminearum* on solid substrates. *Appl Environ. Microbiology* 46: 625-629.
13. Miller JD, Young JC, Trenholm HL (1983) *Fusarium* toxins in field corn. I. Parameters associated with fungal growth and production of deoxynivalenol and other mycotoxins. *Can J Botany* 61: 3080-3087.
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15. Miller JD, Whitney NJ (1983) Fungi of the Bay of Fundy V: Fungi from living *Spartina alterniflora* Shreber. *Proc Nova Scotia Inst Sci* 33: 75-83.
16. Miller JD, Ivarson KC, Kaepfner MW (1984) Growth of *Scytalidium acidophilum* on defined media, whey and acid sulphite waste. *Int Biodetn Bull* 20: 27-31.
17. Miller JD, Moharir YE, Findlay JA, Whitney NJ (1984) Marine fungi of the Bay of Fundy VI: Growth and metabolites of *Leptosphaeria oraemaris*, *Sphaerulina oraemaris*, *Monodictys pelagica* and *Dendryphiella salina*. *Proc Nova Scotia Inst Sci* 34: 1-8.
18. Greenhalgh R, Hanson AW, Miller JD, Taylor A (1984) Production and X-ray crystal structure of 3-acetoxy-7, 15-dihydroxy-12, 13-epoxytrichothec-9-en-8-one. *J Agric Food Chem* 32: 945-948.

19. Miller JD, Young JC, Sampson DR (1985) Deoxynivalenol and *Fusarium* head blight resistance in spring cereals. *Phytopathol Zeitschrift* 113: 359-367.
20. Miller JD, Greenhalgh R (1984) Nutrient effects on the biosynthesis of trichothecenes and other metabolites by *Fusarium graminearum*. *Mycologia* 77: 130-136.
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22. Blackwell BA, Miller JD, Greenhalgh R (1984) <sup>13</sup>C NMR study of the biosynthesis of toxins of *Fusarium graminearum*. *J Biological Chemistry* 260: 4243-4247.
23. Greenhalgh R, Meier RM, Blackwell BA, Miller JD, Taylor A, ApSimon JW (1984) Minor metabolites of *Fusarium roseum* (ATCC 28114). *J Agric Food Chem* 32: 1261-1264.
24. Miller JD, Jones EBG, Moharir Y, Findlay JA (1985) Colonisation of wood blocks by marine fungi in Langstone Harbour. *Botanica Marina* 28: 251-257.
25. Greenhalgh R, Miller JD, Neish GA, Schiefer HB (1985) Toxigenic potential of *Fusarium* isolates from southeast Asia. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 50: 550-552.
26. Miller JD, Strongman D, Whitney NJ (1985) Observations on fungi associated with spruce budworm infested balsam fir needles. *Can J Forest Res* 15: 896-901.
27. Miller JD, Young JC (1985) Deoxynivalenol in an experimental *Fusarium graminearum* infection in wheat. *Can J Plant Pathology* 7: 132-134.
28. Miller JD, Blackwell BA (1986) Biosynthesis of 3-acetyl- deoxynivalenol and other metabolites by *Fusarium culmorum* HLX 1503 in a stirred jar fermentor. *Can J Botany* 64: 1-5.
29. Greenhalgh R, Levandier D, Adams W, Miller JD, Blackwell BA, McAlees AJ, Taylor A (1986) Production and characterization of deoxynivalenol and other secondary metabolites of *Fusarium culmorum* (CMI 14764, HLX 1503). *J Agric Food Chem* 34: 98-102.
30. Greenhalgh R, Meier RM, Blackwell BA, Miller JD, Taylor A, ApSimon JW (1986) Minor metabolites of *Fusarium roseum* (ATCC 28114) Part 2. *J Agric Food Chem* 34: 115-118.
31. Strongman DB, Miller JD, Whitney NJ (1986) Lignicolous marine fungi from Prince Edward Island with a description of *Didymosphaeria lignomaris* sp. nov. *Proc Nova Scotia Inst Sci* 35: 99-105.
32. Strongman DB, Miller JD, Calhoun L, Findlay JA, Whitney NJ (1986) The biochemical basis for interference competition among some lignicolous marine fungi. *Botania Marina* 30: 21-26.
33. Prelusky DB, Trenholm HL, Hamilton RMG, Miller JD (1986) Tissue distribution and excretion of radioactivity following administration of <sup>14</sup>C-labelled deoxynivalenol to white leghorn hens. *Fund Applied Toxicology* 7: 635-645.



34. Miller JD, Arnison PG (1986) Degradation by suspension cultures of the *Fusarium* head blight resistant cultivar Frontana. *Can J Plant Pathology* 8:147-150.
35. Prelusky DB, Trenholm HL, Hamilton RMG, Miller JD (1987) Studies on the transmission of <sup>14</sup>C deoxynivalenol to eggs following oral administration to laying hens. *J Agric Food Chem* 35:182-186.
36. Lauren DR, Ashley A, Blackwell BA, Greenhalgh R, Miller JD, Neish GA (1987) Trichothecenes produced by *Fusarium crookwellense* DAOM 193611 in liquid culture. *J Agric Food Chem* 35:884-889.
37. Wang YZ, Miller JD (1987) Effects of *Fusarium graminearum* metabolites on wheat tissue in relation to *Fusarium* head blight resistance. *J Phytopathology* 122:118-125.
38. Newell SY, Miller JD, Fallon RD (1987) Ergosterol content of salt-marsh fungi: effect of growth conditions and mycelial age. *Mycologia* 79: 688-695.
39. Greenhalgh R, Blackwell BA, Savard ME, Miller JD, Taylor A (1988) Secondary metabolites produced by *Fusarium sporotrichioides* DAOM 165006. *J Agric Food Chem* 36:216-219.
40. Prelusky DB, Hartin KE, Trenholm HL, Miller JD (1988) Pharmacokinetic fate of <sup>14</sup>C-labelled deoxynivalenol in swine. *Fundamental Applied Toxicology* 10: 276-286.
41. Newell SY, Miller JD, Fell JW (1987) Rapid and pervasive occupation of fallen mangrove leaves by a marine zoosporic fungus. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 53: 2464-2469.
42. Miller JD, Laflamme AM, Sobol Y, Lafontaine P, Greenhalgh R (1988) Fungi and fungal products in some Canadian houses. *International Biodeterioration* 24: 103-120.
43. Lauren DR, DiMenna ME, Greenhalgh R, Miller JD, Neish GA, Burgess LW (1988) Toxin-producing potential of some *Fusarium* species from a New Zealand pasture. *NZ J Agric Research* 31: 219-225.
44. Trenholm HL, Prelusky DB, Young JC, Miller JD (1988) A practical guide to the prevention of *Fusarium* mycotoxins in grain and animal feedstuffs. *Arch Environ Contam Toxicology* 18: 443-451.
45. Dowd PF, Miller JD, Greenhalgh R (1989) Toxicity and interactions of some *Fusarium graminearum* metabolites to caterpillars. *Mycologia* 81:646-650.
46. Newell SY, Fallon RD, Miller JD (1989) Decomposition and microbial dynamics for standing, naturally positioned leaves of a salt-marsh grass. *Marine Biology* 101: 471-481.
47. Clark C, Miller JD, Whitney NJ (1989) Toxicity of conifer needle endophytes to spruce budworm. *Mycological Research* 93: 508-512.
48. Savard ME, Miller JD, Salleh B, Strange RN (1989) Chlamydosporol, a new metabolite from *Fusarium chlamydosporum*. *Mycopathologia* 110:177-181.

49. Miller JD, Savard ME (1989) Antibiotic activity of the marine fungus *Leptosphaeria oraemaris*. Proc Nova Scotia Inst Sci 39: 51-58.
50. Miller JD (1990) Contamination of food by *Fusarium* toxins: studies from Austria-Asia. Proc. Japanese Association of Mycotoxicology 32: 17-24.
51. Greenhalgh R, Fielder DA, Blackwell BA, Miller JD, Charland SP, ApSimon JW (1990) Some minor secondary metabolites of *Fusarium sporotrichioides* DAOM 165006. J Agric Food Chem 38: 1978-1984.
52. Greenhalgh R, Miller JD, Visconti A (1991) Toxigenic potential of *Fusarium compactum* R8287 and R8293. J Agric Food Chem 39: 809-812.
53. Miller JD, Greenhalgh R, Wang YZ, Lu M (1991) Trichothecene Mycotoxin chemotypes of three *Fusarium* species. Mycologia 83:121-130.
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55. Laflamme AM, Miller JD (1992) Collection of spores of various fungi by a Reuter centrifugal sampler. Int Biodet 29: 101-110.
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57. Calhoun LA, Findlay JA, Miller JD, Whitney JD (1992) Metabolites toxic to spruce budworm from balsam fir needle endophytes. Mycological Research 96: 281-286.
58. Miller JD (1992) Fungi as contaminants of indoor air. Atmospheric Environment 26A: 2163-2172.
59. Rotter RG, Thompson BK, Trenholm HL, Prelusky DB, Hartin KE, Miller JD (1992) A preliminary examination of potential interactions between deoxynivalenol and other selected *Fusarium* metabolites in growing pigs. Can J Animal Sci 72: 107-116.
60. Blais LA, ApSimon JW, Blackwell BA, Greenhalgh R, Miller JD (1992) Isolation and characterization of enniatins from *Fusarium avenaceum* DAOM 196490. Can J Chemistry 70: 1281-1287.
61. Visconti A, Blais L, ApSimon JA, Greenhalgh R, Miller JD (1992) Production of enniatins by *Fusarium acuminatum* and *Fusarium compactum* in liquid culture: isolation and characterization of three new enniatins, B2, B3 and B4. J Agric Food Chem 40:1076-1082.
62. Rapior S, Miller JD, Savard ME, ApSimon JW (1993) Production de fumonisins et de fusarins par des souches européennes de *Fusarium moniliforme*. Microbiologie-Aliments Nutrition 11: 327-333.
63. Miller JD, Savard ME, Sibilila A, Rapior S, Hocking AD, Pitt JI (1993) Production of fumonisins and fusarins by *Fusarium moniliforme* from southeast Asia. Mycologia 85: 385-391.

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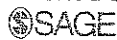
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# Consequences of Large-scale Production of Marijuana in Residential Buildings

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## Key Words

Health · Marijuana grow operations · Ventilation rates · Moisture

## Abstract

Based on the data from the breadth of Canada (~4300 km), one-third of Canadian homes have ventilation rates below the recommended standard of 0.3 air changes per hour and are at risk for moisture problems. For the purposes of this investigation, a literature review was performed on the health risks associated with exposure to living and drying marijuana plants and the fungi associated with large numbers of indoor plantings. Analysis was made of the impact on Canadian homes if used to grow marijuana. These are commonly called "marijuana grow operations" based on measured ventilation rates from homes in Windsor, Ontario and Regina, Saskatchewan (representing diverse climates) and derived moisture loadings from published data. The growing and drying of marijuana plants contributes considerable amounts of water vapour to the indoor environment. Depending on the scale of production, considerable mould damage in the building can result. There are also a number of abiotic hazards resulting from marijuana production

including pesticides, carbon monoxide, and products of unvented combustion appliances. Both indirect and direct evidence are described for the health impact of living in these conditions. This has a number of implications in terms of documentation and personal protection for industrial hygienists, home inspectors, and public health officials.

## Introduction

Canada is second to the USA among industrialized nations in marijuana production, although it is illegal to produce and sell this plant in both nations. This demand has caused an increase in the number of illegal "marijuana grow operations" (MGOs) in homes [1,2]. To 2003, the average number of seized plants in Ontario MGOs was *ca.* 340. The exposed population to these conditions is not well defined. As a proxy for the total, *ca.* 1000 children were found in a 3-year period in MGOs in Ontario and the estimated total number might be considerably larger, 10,000 [3]. A study from the greater Vancouver area indicated many MGOs are "guarded" by immigrant families including young children (*ca.* 20%), and that these families are accessing the health care system [4]. Across Canada, there is an increasing number of former



MGOs that were not detected by the police. These homes are often purchased by unsuspecting people who face both health and legal challenges, although the exact number of affected people is not known [5,6].

In 2001, the Canadian Medical Marijuana Access Regulation (MMAR) [7] came into effect. In terms of population size, there were 4900 license holders of whom 3600 grow between 2 and 292 marijuana plants for personal use in January 2010 (<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/marihuana/stat/index-eng.php>). This option is not available in the USA. The percentage of licensees that grow their own plants has been stable at ~70% for some years; the remaining individuals pool their permits to a maximum of three. The average number of plants grown by individuals is 25. Approximately, 2000 physicians issue permits under these regulations. The larger, legal MGOs in Canada potentially pose many of the same risks as illegal MGOs.

There are two main sources of moisture associated with the cultivation of marijuana indoors (1) moisture from the cultivation of the plant and (2) moisture arising from the drying of the plant. These sources are additional to those associated with the normal operation of the house or apartment building. These may include occupant sources, water leaks and ventilation failure leading to condensation [8–11]. Increased moisture results in growth of the saprophytic fungi characteristic of damp building materials [12,13]. Such growth is a function of internal moisture source strength [9]. Cultivation and drying of marijuana in residential dwellings may result in extensive environmental contamination and damage to the building. A study of illegal MGOs across Canada found that 11 of 12 had serious mould and moisture damage and evidence of the use of large amounts of pesticides and fertilizers. An attempt is made to keep grow operations warm and humid, and the odour of growing marijuana is distinctive, i.e. detected by authorities and/or neighbours. For both these reasons, efforts are made to seal the buildings to avoid detection [6]. This reduces the designed ventilation rate for the homes and hence moisture removal.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the potential damage and public health consequences of the input of additional moisture to the air within residential housing from the growth and drying of different numbers of large plants indoors in the existing housing stock in representative cities in Canada. We calculated the moisture load that a typical marijuana plant adds to a house. This is interpreted in relation to how this relates to mould growth on the building fabric and the effects of saprophytic mould on population health. Except under controlled conditions,

the dominant fungus on drying plants is *Aspergillus fumigatus*, an allergenic species and a facultative pathogen. Additional literature reviews were conducted in order to evaluate the health risks more specific to the conditions associated with marijuana production in residential environments.

## Methods

Moisture release of potted plants varies from 7 to 15 g·h<sup>-1</sup> [14]. Based on the moisture release rate of a related plant [15] and scaled for mass after Kaa [16], a full-grown marijuana plant was calculated to release 18 g·h<sup>-1</sup> of water vapour (432 g·day<sup>-1</sup>). This value is consistent with an estimate by Christian [17].

Typically, moulds require a water activity ( $a_w$ ) of at least 0.80–0.85 to promote rapid growth [13,14]. Like all “medicinal” plants, marijuana is at a much increased risk of mould growth during the drying period after harvest unless appropriate equipment is used. During this time, water previously bound to cells becomes available to fungi as the plant begins to decay. Dead and drying plant material with moisture contents above ~12% has an  $a_w$  sufficient to promote fungal growth. Moisture content >20% in drying plant material promotes rapid fungal growth [18]. This formed the indirect evidence to exposure from moulds on the plants, which were more directly answered by looking at concentrations of moulds on the marijuana and from patient reactions to smoking it.

Measured ventilation rates in winter were obtained from CMHC and Health Canada for 59 homes in Windsor and 103 in Regina (Wheeler, Heroux, Fugler, unpublished data). This was done by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory method; also, see Ref. [19] for an explanation of the method. Conditions in Windsor, Ontario (hot and humid in summer, moderate in winter) and Regina, Saskatchewan (moderate in summer; cold and dry in winter) were calculated and measured data were obtained for Ottawa (hot, often cold in winter) [20,21]. These cities represent communities with different climates in Canada. Growth of fungi on drying plants was assessed from the literature and from objective data.

Information on health effects of dampness and housing was taken from recent cognizant authority reviews [22–27]. A literature search of published peer reviewed journal articles was conducted in early 2009 for additional hazards that might relate to marijuana production in houses. The following databases were included: Web of Science, PubMed, EMBASE, MEDLINE, the Cochrane Library.

Sci Finder, government documents and those of professional groups. The search included publications from 1978. Boolean searching was used to combine up to 20 keywords and/or MESH headings. Keywords were classified as fungal (e.g. fungi, mould, *A. fumigatus*), environmental hazard (e.g. pesticides, herbicides, defoliant), relating to marijuana grow operations (e.g. marijuana, cannabis, MGOs), health (e.g. rhinitis, dermatitis, lung function), and moisture. Studies were assessed for relevance and whether they met all the Klimisch criteria [28]. The primary screening process involved one reviewer screening *ca.* 5000 articles. Two reviewers conducted the secondary screening process applying the relevance and quality criteria independently for the 300 studies selected. Biological and chemical contaminants arising from medium to large-scale cultivation of marijuana were identified during this process.

## Results

### Moisture Burdens

As plants are added to an MGO, moisture release will overwhelm home ventilation capacity and/or worsen the situation, if ventilation failure already exists. In Canada, the recommended combined infiltration and mechanical ventilation is 0.3 air changes per hour ( $\text{ac}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ) for a household of typical occupancy [20]. Air change rates are a function of outside air infiltration and mechanical ventilation in comparison to house volume. The recommended rate is meant to handle the daily moisture load produced by a typical family, prevent mould growth and reduce other airborne contaminants. A five person family releases  $15\text{ kg}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$  water vapour [29].

In general, homes built after 1980 in Ottawa are at high risk of moisture damage if used as MGOs. Air change rates much higher than those normally found in new homes would be required to tolerate the additional moisture. Many Windsor homes (41%) had air change rates below the recommended standard and would be unable to handle more than one or two house plants (Table 1). The additional moisture released by 100 plants would result in mould growth in all the Windsor homes. The average air change rate for Windsor homes tested was  $0.45\text{ ac}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$  (range  $0.11\text{--}1.98\text{ ac}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ), at this rate  $\sim 16$  plants could be theoretically tolerable. Data collected from Regina homes showed a similar trend. Many homes (38 of 103, i.e. 37%) were inadequately ventilated. Air change rates ranged from 0.072 to  $3.02\text{ ac}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$  with a median of  $0.463\text{ ac}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ . Of all 103 homes tested, only eight could theoretically tolerate the moisture released by  $>100$

**Table 1.** Maximum tolerable number of marijuana plants for houses in Windsor, ON

No.	Air change rate ( $\text{ac}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ )	House volume ( $\text{m}^3$ )	Maximum tolerable number of marijuana plants
1	0.105	680	a
2	0.106	566	a
3	0.118	1019	a
4	0.121	657	a
5	0.147	498	a
6	0.162	521	a
7	0.167	566	a
8	0.174	770	4
9	0.185	612	a
10	0.186	634	a
11	0.225	748	14
12	0.227	680	10
13	0.243	634	10
14	0.244	634	10
15	0.247	453	a
16	0.253	408	a
17	0.256	453	a
18	0.258	177	a
19	0.258	408	a
20	0.269	295	a
21	0.271	453	1
22	0.286	362	a
23	0.311	181	a
25	0.336	634	27
26	0.337	725	36
27	0.347	544	20
28	0.354	227	a
29	0.355	222	a
30	0.369	227	a
31	0.422	476	24
32	0.427	725	55
33	0.466	227	a
34	0.468	295	a
35	0.482	283	5
36	0.495	453	30
37	0.513	227	a
38	0.521	215	a
39	0.527	430	31
40	0.535	680	71
41	0.544	340	19
42	0.549	340	19
43	0.553	453	38
44	0.556	630	67
45	0.571	680	78
46	0.571	385	29
47	0.595	906	122
48	0.603	362	29
49	0.612	249	9
51	0.650	272	17
52	0.657	272	17
53	0.697	261	18
54	0.723	204	8
55	0.748	283	27
56	0.877	227	23
57	0.923	396	72
58	0.934	204	21
59	1.982	227	96
Average	0.442	451	19

Note: <sup>a</sup>Existing risk to moisture problems.

marijuana plants, assuming that the home did not have an existing mould problem. On average, houses in Regina could theoretically tolerate 31 marijuana plants; however, when homes with air change rates above  $1 \text{ ac}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$  (7 homes) are excluded, the number of home drops to 19 (data not shown), comparable to Windsor data.

These estimates cannot include the moisture released from drying. To assess this, the presence of mould on the product was used as an indicator of the percentage that is not dried properly (which would demonstrate the use of an appropriate drier indoors). Most samples (>90%) of dried marijuana test showed evidence growth of the allergenic and opportunistic pathogens such as *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Mucor* species, and various *Penicillium* species. In most samples tested, mould contamination was high ( $10^4$ – $10^7$  CFU·g<sup>-1</sup>) [30–33].

## Discussion

Infiltration was essentially the sole source of air change within Canadian homes built before World War II (WWII). These poorly insulated, air leaky homes have (or had) air change rates well above  $0.3 \text{ ac}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ . Since WWII, however, there has been a need for greater energy efficiency and hence better insulation in homes. To maintain air change rates, mechanical ventilation was developed; however, many new homes have been left with inadequate ventilation [20].

Leaves of all plants bear various phylloplane fungi. The spores of these dominate outdoor air during the growing season and primarily comprise the fungus *Alternaria alternata* and a number of species of *Cladosporium*, but mainly *Cladosporium herbarum* and *Cladosporium cladosporioides*. A large percentage of the population is allergic to these fungi [34]. *A. fumigatus* grows and dominates on decaying vegetation under warm conditions or where biological heating has taken place, including piles of leaves or compost. It is cellulolytic on delignified materials including leaves as well as paper and fabrics. The prevalence of *A. fumigatus* contamination of marijuana resulting from growing, harvesting, or smoking marijuana poses a health risk. These risks include allergic reactions [13,35]. Aside from respiratory disease, those allergic individuals with chronic high exposure may also develop allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis or ABPA [35,36]. *A. fumigatus* infections have also been reported in marijuana-exposed populations [37–41].

Dales et al. [8] note that apart from floods, there are four major sources of mould growth in residences: leaks in building fabric (rare in Canada because it is cold to very cold in winter and for the particular reason noted previously, uncommon in MGOs), ventilation failure leading to condensation, unattended plumbing leaks and household mould (e.g. mould growth on kitchen and bathroom surfaces, hidden food spills, etc.). Some degree of mould damage is present in ~30% of Canadian homes [42,43]. Inadequate ventilation for the internal moisture sources in a house accounts for most mould growth [9,10]. As noted, field experience indicates that mould damage in MGOs is often extensive [3–6].

Reviews by cognizant authorities, Health Canada (2004) [22], INSPQ (2002) [23], the Institute of Medicine, US National Academy of Sciences [24,25], an expert panel of the United States Centers for Disease Control/National Center for Healthy Homes [26] and the World Health Organization [26] emphasize the effects on population health of mould in the context of building dampness. These include increased allergic and upper respiratory disease. Health Canada [44] and Krieger et al. [26] state that there is sufficient evidence for health benefit from remediation of mould and dampness. Fungi are associated with new onset asthma in both adults and children and with non-atopic asthma [45,46].

The field data that exist reveal a number of poorly quantified abiotic factors. The cultivation of marijuana requires the large-scale use of liquid fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides [3,4,6] not authorized for indoor use. Residues of the pesticides are detected on marijuana [33]. It is common for operators of detected MGOs in Vancouver to disconnect the furnace and re-vent the exhaust into the grow area to increase the carbon dioxide concentration (60% of detected MGOs) [4]. Virtually, all these houses had illegal wiring, and by-passes to the electrical meters [3,4]. Aside from the potential for CO poisoning, heating is also done with unvented combustion appliances thus increasing NO<sub>2</sub> and particulate exposures which are harmful to respiratory health [8]. There has been little systematic study of these contaminants.

From Ontario to British Columbia, the large majority of MGOs are occupied by families including children [3,4,47]. It is reasonable to anticipate that this is also the case in the USA. In response, Alberta enacted the *Drug-Endangered Children Act*. This legislation states that children exposed to an environment where manufacturing occurs, may need protection on health grounds. In the rest of Canada, Medical Officers of Health, the Provincial Health Department, and other authorities can act to

protect child health. Documenting the environmental conditions is required before taking any legal action.

Of particular concern is that at least one-third of Canadian homes could not theoretically tolerate the additional water vapour released by marijuana plants. Considering the number of plants found at illegal MGOs (and MMAR), few, if any, homes in the cities examined would be able to tolerate additional moisture. There are few data on ventilation rates in multi-unit apartment buildings. However, the available data suggest that they are likely lower than assumed and that odour transfer problems are not uncommon [48,49]. Again, this assumes that the home or apartment does not have an existing mould problem, which is an uncertain assumption. Both US and Canadian studies indicate that the attributable risk for asthma and respiratory disease from mould growth in homes is on the order of 20% [50,51]. Some risk to population health is associated with exposure to *A. fumigatus* and is related to the extent of marijuana drying that is done in a MGO. In the case of marijuana production under MMAR, houses and apartments would have to be evaluated on a case by case basis and special rooms built to permit the cultivation of the plant indoors.

It is important to note that well-maintained house plants (which are much smaller than marijuana plants) are not a particular risk. The assumption has been made that homes have fewer than three plants [29]. However, as the

number increases and if the plants are not well maintained, this can increase both moisture burdens and the growth of *A. fumigatus* [52].

## Conclusion

When addressing situations where families are discovered living in MGOs resulting from police action as well as public concerns of the inadvertent purchaser of undetected former MGOs, primary care physicians and municipal public health officials need to be aware of the issues discussed in this paper. These include (1) the cultivation of marijuana typically leading to moisture and mould problems, (2) risk of unusual exposures to *A. fumigatus* and, potentially, (3) chemical residues. Similarly, more information on these hazards may be needed for industrial hygienists, home inspectors, police and other first responders and public health officials in Canada and the USA.

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