

...EVERY- BODY'S A VICTIM

JUST SAY 'KNOW' TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION!

Get the Facts! Discover the truth about Cannabis and Cannabis prohibition! Call us or use the post-paid coupon enclosed to get your FREE COPY of Freedom Party's JUST SAY 'KNOW' TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION.

Freedom Party of Ontario

P.O. Box 2214, Stn. 'A',

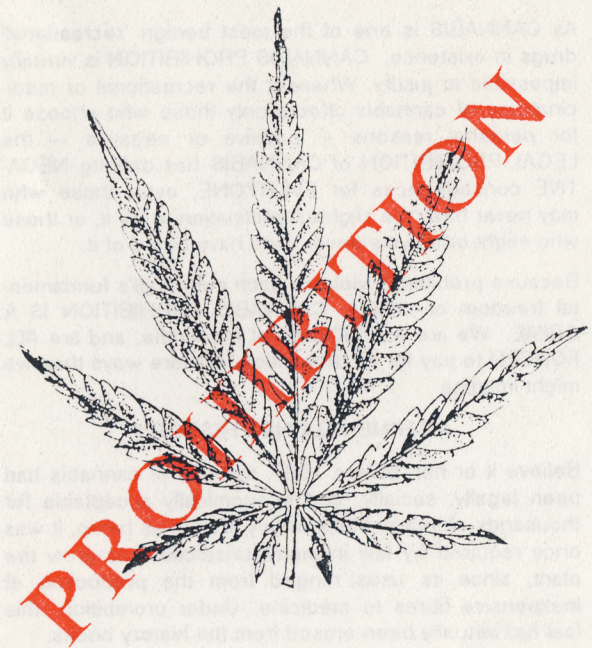
LONDON, Ontario N6A 4E3

(519) 433-8612

Freedom Party is an officially-registered Ontario political party. Contributions are tax-creditable to residents of Ontario.

Freedom Party does not officially condone --- nor condemn --- the recreational use of cannabis. Freedom Party does support individual choice.

Freedom Party believes that the purpose of government is to protect individual freedom of choice, not to restrict it.



IS A CRIME...

CANNABIS PROHIBITION IS A CRIME

As CANNABIS is one of the most benign 'recreational' drugs in existence, CANNABIS PROHIBITION is virtually impossible to justify. Whereas the recreational or medicinal use of cannabis affects only those who choose it for personal reasons -- positive or negative -- the LEGAL PROHIBITION of CANNABIS has definite NEGATIVE consequences for EVERYONE, even those who may never have the slightest inclination to try it, or those who might otherwise never even have heard of it.

Because prohibition violates each individual's fundamental freedom of choice, CANNABIS PROHIBITION IS A CRIME. We are ALL VICTIMS of this crime, and are ALL FORCED to pay for its prohibition, in more ways than we might imagine.

A CRIME AGAINST HISTORY

Believe it or not, before 1937, the use of cannabis had been legally, socially, and economically acceptable for thousands of years. More widely known as hemp, it was once required by law in many jurisdictions to grow the plant, since its uses ranged from the production of inexpensive fibres to medicine. Under prohibition, this fact has virtually been erased from the history books.

A CRIME AGAINST THE TRUTH

In an effort to ban cannabis from competing with products made from chemicals, synthetics, oil, and paper made from wood, key players in those respective industries promoted the unfamiliar word MARIJUANA to make it seem as if some new, unknown, socially dangerous substance had been unleashed on an unwary public. Hence, absurd and unsubstantiated claims of "reefer madness" were promoted by those interests who thus successfully managed to convince the politicians of the day to inhibit their industrial competition.

A CRIME AGAINST FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Whenever truth is compromised, the dissemination of evidence to defend it must, as a consequence, also be prohibited. Thus, literature that dares to contradict the official policy of the state, or that offers evidence proving that the state's claims against 'marijuana' is false and unsubstantiated, is often prohibited through CENSORSHIP. Thanks to recent 'freedom of information' legislation in the U.S. (where cannabis prohibition originated) much of the truth is finally being revealed.

A CRIME AGAINST FREEDOM OF TRADE

With the prohibition of the commercialization of hemp, many of those in the previously-mentioned industries enjoyed the status of establishing a virtual MONOPOLY of the means permitted to produce their respective products. Thus, with choices arbitrarily limited, our clothing, housing, fuel, and medicines are fewer in number and higher in price than would otherwise have been the case.

A CRIME AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT

With the prohibition of hemp as a source of everything from fuel to paper products, deforestation and pollution became two of the main unavoidable consequences of many monopolized industrial processes.

A CRIME AGAINST JUSTICE

Criminal penalties associated with the possession or 'trafficking' (i.e., trading) of cannabis often surpass penalties associated with murder, theft, rape, robbery, or arson, leaving the distinction between 'victimless' crimes and crimes against person and property less clear in the minds of many. Under prohibition laws, police are empowered to override many fundamental principles of justice which would not be allowed even in cases of murder.

A CRIME AGAINST LAW AND ORDER

As with past experiences with alcohol prohibition, the existing criminal element is always more than eager to service any new prohibition-created 'black market', thus ironically giving prohibitionists their own self-created circular argument that "marijuana use is associated with crime." When otherwise law-abiding citizens find themselves treated like rapists, murderers and thieves for a 'crime' that exists only in the mind of the prohibitionists, it's a small wonder that respect for legitimate and objective laws (and for police officers!) has fallen dramatically.

A CRIME AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY

The "war on drugs" is just like any other war: the greatest casualties are always innocent victims -- people in vulnerable positions who have nothing to do with the drug trade. Because prohibition drives up prices and reduces supply of the prohibited substance, such people often find themselves caught in the cross-fire of criminals 'competing' to monopolize what would otherwise be a benign social activity.

A CRIME AGAINST TAXPAYERS

The COST associated with the enforcement of prohibition is prohibitive in itself. One fact is clear: no matter how much money is taken from taxpayers to "fight drugs," it is never enough and the perceived "drug problem" always seems to get worse the more money that is spent on it.

A CRIME AGAINST HEALTH

Despite the proclamations of cannabis prohibitionists, the medicinal uses of cannabis are staggering. Many people whose medical conditions could be dramatically helped through the use of cannabis are otherwise forced to resort to expensive, patented (and often addictive!) drugs.

A CRIME AGAINST FREEDOM OF CHOICE

In a society that tolerates the individual's choice of tobacco and alcohol as recreational substances, it is more than suspicious that a substance known to be non-addictive and relatively benign in its direct effect on the human condition should have the mighty weight of PROHIBITION directed against it. In a free society with a free flow of information, people will, in the aggregate, responsibly choose what is best for them and will otherwise not place a burden on the rest of society. Under PROHIBITION, even non-drug users are forced to pay a price.

THE SOLUTION:

In a free society, ONLY ONE 'DRUG' LAW is necessary: "USERS MUST BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CHOICES." Individuals who, as a consequence of being under the influence of any drug (legal or illegal), act irresponsibly by interfering with, or violating the rights of others, should be dealt with according to the nature of their action(s).

GET THE FACTS --- AND THE OPINIONS! JUST SAY 'KNOW' TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION!

Every statement in this pamphlet is backed by research and documentation. To get your own copy of **Freedom Party's JUST SAY 'KNOW' TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION** publication, simply send in the post-paid coupon attached. You will see BOTH SIDES OF THE DEBATE presented as objectively and fairly as possible. Your input, comments and criticisms are welcome.

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