



## **BACKGROUNDER: BC Cannabis Summit – Priority Policy Resolutions**

Delegates attending the BC Cannabis Summit in Kelowna prioritized a series of policy solutions for federal and provincial governments to address the current regulatory barriers preventing BC's craft cannabis farmers, processors, nurseries and retailers achieve their full potential.

### Cannabis Act Review

#### **Be it resolved that the Government of Canada:**

- Ensure the scope of the upcoming *Cannabis Act* review include all elements of the Act and its regulations.
- Ensure an all-party Committee of the House of Commons leads the Act review in a timely fashion.
- Ensure BC craft farmers, processors and independent retailers are included in this review, the proposed strategy table and the drafting of revisions to the Act.
- Through the Minister of Health, initiate a series of immediate changes to the Act in advance of the pending review, including:
  - Doubling of the unreasonably low micro-production and micro-processing caps.
  - Shifting the security clearance process to the start of the licensing process and before any significant investments are required.
  - Increase purchase and procession limits from 30 grams.
  - Allow organic and craft certification labelling on cannabis products.

### BC Direct Sales Policy

#### **Be it resolved that the BC government:**

- Collaborate with the Association of Canadian Cannabis Retailers, BC Craft Farmers Co-op, and the Kootenay Cannabis Development Council to build the sector's capacity to fully implement and support the proposed direct sales policy over the coming year.
- Eliminate their 15% handling fee for cannabis being sold directly from farmers and processors to BC retailers.

### Medical Cannabis Access

#### **Be it resolved that the Governments of Canada and BC:**

- Provide health care benefits to help people suffering from opiate addiction and other chronic diseases access a safe supply of medical cannabis.
- Provide funding to support the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence for Cannabis Health Research in BC focused on:
  - Genomic analysis of cannabis strains and their unique effects
  - Population health impact on different groups
  - Impact of delivery vectors



- Impact of terroir on terpene and cannabinoid development
- Harm reduction
- Inebriation detection

### Cannabis as an Agriculture Activity

#### **Be it resolved that all relevant provincial and federal government agencies:**

- Officially recognize across all legislation that cannabis is a legitimate and legal farm activity and product

### Cannabis Licencing - Production and Processing

#### **Be it resolved that:**

- If significant improvements are not made to the Cannabis Act over the coming year, and Health Canada continues to approve craft cannabis production licences at the current rate, jurisdiction be transferred to an agency mandated to support the industry and help it flourish.
- This Agency transfer option includes consideration for Indigenous and provincial governments to take over responsibility for licensing cannabis production and processing within their jurisdictions.
- This transition includes the transfer of a more significant portion of cannabis tax revenue to these provincial and Indigenous government jurisdictions.

### Canada/BC Job Creation and Economic Development Partnership

#### **Be it resolved that the Governments of Canada and British Columbia:**

- Invest in the establishment of a BC Craft Cannabis Economic Development and Job Creation partnership in collaboration with Indigenous governments, municipal and regional authorities, sector associations, colleges, universities and community organizations to:
  - Facilitate expanded training and professional development opportunities
  - Dedicated initiatives to support women and Indigenous cannabis entrepreneurs
  - Implement effective workplace safety strategies and programs
  - Apply innovative agriculture tech solutions to help farmers, processors and nursery owners adopt alternative power supplies and sustainable agriculture practices
  - Fully implement BC's direct sales, farm gate and consumption policies
  - Invest in the expansion of organic and regenerative farming practices
  - Develop an export strategy and BC cannabis brand
- The Canada/BC job creation also includes:
  - Economic development grants for Indigenous, municipal and regional governments interested in facilitating the expansion of craft cannabis production and processing.
  - Access to capital, grants and small business loans available to other agriculture sectors.



## Cannabis Stigma and Expungement of Records

### **Be it resolved that the Government of Canada:**

- Introduce legislation to allow a person who has been convicted of cannabis possession to have their record expunged and that no fee be associated with this process.
- Work with Meta, Google, TikTok, and other digital platforms to allow Canadian legal and licensed producers, retailers and authorized industry professionals to publish content and discuss cannabis in an educational context on their platforms.