



**RESOLUTION 15-1
ABBOTSFORD POLICE BOARD
Health Canada Marijuana Grow Operations**

WHEREAS, there is strong evidence of abuse by organized crime of the previous Health Canada scheme of providing licenses to grow marijuana in private premises and these crime groups are using the scheme as a shield against enforcement and prosecution; AND

WHEREAS, Health Canada, in recognition of these issues and other problems with the former scheme for providing access to marihuana for medical purposes, has developed a new scheme which will authorize three key activities: the possession of dried marihuana as a prescribed drug for users, licensed producers of marihuana and regulated sale and distribution of the dried marihuana product; AND

WHEREAS, as Canada transitions to the new scheme, there will be thousands of properties that have been used for grow operations and that if not remediated, these properties will be a health and safety risk to any persons, especially children, who come into contact with it; AND

WHEREAS, if this new scheme is regulated and governed with vigilance, it has the potential to reduce organized crime involvement in illegal marihuana production;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Association of Police Governance urge the Federal Government and Health Canada to:

- a. Ensure that this protracted transition period be kept as short as possible to end the ability for organized crime to abuse the previous scheme;
- b. Provide local governments with the means to ensure that no former licenced marihuana grow operations continue to illegally produce marihuana; and
- c. Require remediation for the thousands of homes and other premises not designed for horticulture, where marihuana has been grown with a license.

Background

From 2001 to 2014, Health Canada oversaw the Medical Marihuana Access Program. This Program allowed for licences to be issued to people who had been prescribed marihuana to grow and possess marihuana. From a law enforcement perspective, the Program was unmanageable. The provinces and

municipalities had no way to ensure that the locations for growing marijuana were safe. For example, there was no way to ensure electrical safety to prevent fires, from ensuring residents, including children, were not exposed to dangerous chemicals, or from violent home invasions. In addition, and partly because of the very high numbers of plants that were authorized for each user, the licences came to be used as a shield by organized crime and effectively stopped police investigators from being able to execute search warrants on grow operations under their control. This easy source of revenue for organized crime is allowing these groups to flourish and making it very difficult for police to interdict. Organized crime, when provided with the ability to make a lot of money quickly, becomes very dangerous to a community. In Abbotsford a community of 140,000 people, there are over 800 of these licences. In addition, Health Canada, the only agency to know the location of these licences, chose not to put in place Inspectors to ensure they were being safely and appropriately utilized by licencees.

Understanding some of the shortfalls of this Program, in April of 2014, Health Canada replaced this Program with the Marijuana for Medical Purpose Regulations (MMPR). Under MMPR, commercial grow operations are licenced to grow and sell marijuana, distributing the product directly to the consumer through the mail.

A Federal Court has issued an injunction stopping the dismantling of this previous scheme. The trial for this matter is in progress. (Allard case)

Once the injunction is lifted, the process for dismantling the previous regulatory scheme needs to be handled in a way that protects the public. Particularly, residential properties that had grow operations will need to be remediated to ensure they are safe. Unsafe electrical wiring, contamination from dangerous chemicals and mold are some of the issues these properties are going to often have. Not every licensee will voluntarily comply with the new Regulations, particularly if they are associated with organized crime. How are communities going to ensure that these previously licenced grow operations are concluded and the properties involved are remediated?

RESOLUTION 15-02

DELTA POLICE BOARD

National Strategy for dealing with dementia-related illness

WHEREAS the number of Canadians suffering from cognitive impairment, including Alzheimer's and dementia, is approximately 750,000, and that number is expected to increase to 1.4 Million by 2031; AND

WHEREAS according to the Canadian Medical Association, 95% of adult Canadians are concerned that there is no national strategy to deal with our aging population; AND

WHEREAS due to cognitive impairment, dementia patients can become agitated, violent, and disoriented, necessitating police intervention; AND

WHEREAS violent contacts between law enforcement and those suffering from dementia will erode public trust in the police; AND

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Canadian Association of Police Governance call on Federal Government to create a working-group, consisting of all levels of government and relevant stakeholders to develop a national strategy for our aging population;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a representative from the Canadian Association of Police Governance represent police boards on the national working group.

Background:

People with dementia need to live in a stable environment that is equipped to deal with their complex emotional and physical needs. These individuals have a lower threshold for stress due to cognitive impairment, and are therefore less able to control their reactions. For some, this inability to deal with stress can lead to aggressive behaviour, including violence. While root causes of aggressive or violent behaviour are due to fear and frustration, police may be called if a person is a risk to themselves or the public.¹ Additionally, individuals suffering from dementia can be exposed to risk due to disoriented behaviours, including wandering away from home and becoming lost without the ability to care for themselves. Missing person files of this type can consume large amounts of police resources.

According to the Canadian Medical Association National Report Card on

Health², Canadians are concerned about the lack of strategic planning regarding the aging Canadian population (Attachment A). Rates of dementia will continue to rise in all provinces, and a national strategy is necessary in order to facilitate the needs of our aging population. As rates of dementia rise, police agencies across Canada will deal an increase in calls for service related to dementia. While these violent incidents between people with dementia and the police are extremely rare, media coverage of these occurrences are critical of the police and erode public trust (Attachment B).

¹ WorkSafeBC, *Dementia : Understanding Risks and Preventing Violence* (British Columbia: 2010),
http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/health_and_safety/by_topic/assets/pdf/bk125.pdf

² Patrick Sullivan, "Canadians want a national strategy on seniors care: report," *Canadian Medical Association*, (2014),
<https://www.cma.ca/En/Pages/Canadians-want-a-national-strategy-on-seniors-care-report.aspx>

Attachment A

Canadian Medical Association Report: Canadians want a national strategy on seniors care by Patrick Sullivan
8/18/2014

Canadians have voiced overwhelming support for development of a seniors strategy to address the health care needs of our aging population.

That was one of the key findings to emerge from the CMA's 2014 National Report Card on health issues, which focuses on seniors health issues and the immense impact an aging population will have on the country.

"The impact of seniors on Canada's health care system can hardly be overstated," [sic] says the report, prepared for the CMA by Ipsos Reid following a July 2014 telephone survey of 1,000 Canadians 45 years and older. For instance, life expectancy in Canada has grown by more than six years since 1979. It now stands at 81.67 years and ranks 14th in the world, and the proportion of seniors has grown from 8% of the population in 1970 to 17.3% in 2014.

The survey showed 95% of respondents support the need for a national strategy

for seniors health care. "As the Canadian baby boom generation looks down the road... it sees clearly that Canada desperately needs a seniors strategy, and politicians should pay attention during the next federal election. This should be an issue (those seeking office) would ignore at their own political peril," CMA President Louis Hugo Francescutti said.

The survey found that most older Canadians (81%) are concerned about the quality of health care they can expect in the future, and 78% are worried about their access to high--- quality home and long term care.

However, respondents' feelings about their own level of preparedness for retirement appear at odds with those concerns. Three--- quarters of them expect they will be able to die in dignity in a place of their choosing, and more than two--- thirds (69%) expect to leave money or other assets to their survivors. "In light of the high levels of concern expressed elsewhere in the research," notes the report, "it is tempting to view high levels of confidence in their own planning as wishful thinking."

The survey also found:

- The burden of providing care to aging relatives or friends is being "acutely felt" in Canada. More than a quarter of Canadians (26%) now provide such care, and the survey reported that 64% of respondents who provide such care experience a high level of stress because of it. As well, 71% said this responsibility conflicts with their personal life and work.
- A majority of older Canadians (61%) "lack confidence" that hospitals and long--- term care facilities will be able to handle the needs of the country's elderly; 60% are worried there aren't enough services to help seniors live longer at home.

"We should not accept that a country as prosperous as Canada has such a large portion of its population living in fear for the future as they age," said Francescutti. "We need to take immediate action to tackle this issue, and job 1 must be to get a seniors care strategy on each political platform as we approach the 2015 federal election."

Issues surrounding seniors care, particularly those involving end--- of--- life care, will be debated during the CMA's 147th annual meeting, taking place Aug. 17-20 in Ottawa.

The survey results are considered accurate to within +/---- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20.

Attachment B

Media Coverage of Incidents between Police and Dementia Patients (click on links)

- [Police use stun-gun, pepper spray on elderly dementia patient](#)
- [Tasering of 80-year-old woman with dementia alarms experts](#)
- [Dementia patient tasered by police alarming, says charity](#)
- [Peel Police facing \\$1.3M lawsuit over use of taser on 80-year-old woman](#)

