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CANNABIS NEWS AROUND THE WORLD



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Getty Images/ Bloomberg Creative

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OCTOBER 2018

# Quick Hits

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## Mexico's Relationship to Cannabis Leaves Citizens Uncertain About Legalization

Despite the progress of recent years, Mexico still has a lot of work to do in regards to legalization.

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## How Family Offices Are Pushing Cannabis Businesses to New Levels of Growth

The cannabis industry is attracting the attention of deep-pocketed, risk-oriented investors.

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## Cannabis grown from yeast: does the future of pot lie in a lab?

Much like making craft beer, some companies are now using yeast enzymes to synthetically create THC and CBD.

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## Rhode Island Approves Medical Marijuana as Autism Treatment

Rhode Island now allows medical cannabis therapies as a treatment option for those living with Autism.

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## Cannabis black market will thrive until small pot growers and sellers are included

Less-regulated medical dispensaries are more popular than highly restricted recreational stores five years after legislation

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## Restaurant-Worthy Edibles Don't Have to Be Complicated

As more states legalize recreational cannabis, gourmet infusions are being served from kitchens all over the country.

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## Is Canada's marijuana legalization a 'template' for the world to follow?

Will other countries follow Canada's move toward ending prohibition?

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## The Top Movers & Shakers In The German & EU Cannabis Markets

A list of some of the notable figures disrupting the European cannabis space.

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## Facebook Opens Its Doors To Cannabis Entrepreneurs

Until last week, Facebook prevented cannabis-related pages from showing up in its users' search results.

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## Smoking Marijuana Is Legal in Canada, Unless You're South Korean

South Koreans are subject to their country's criminal code no matter where they are in the world.

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## Advertising Rules for Cannabis in Canada are too Strict

Although legalizing cannabis, the government appears to be desperately holding on to the remnants of prohibition through these overly restrictive advertising rules.

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## Cannabis customers floored by the amount of plastic packing on their pot

Some cannabis customers are calling for less plastic and a recycling program

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## THE FUTURE OF EVERYTHING

# Not Everybody Must Get Stoned: Pot's Nonintoxicating Future

New legislation could legalize every nonintoxicating cannabinoid in marijuana plants, opening a market for sleep aids, stimulants and more. Here, the compounds with the most buzz.

REPOST: BY AMANDA CHICAGO LEWIS / WALL STREET JOURNAL / OCTOBER 25, 2018

CBD, a nonintoxicating compound found in cannabis, is everywhere these days. Coffee shops across the country offer “calming” CBD infusions for your cappuccino. Boutique makeup brands are churning out CBD moisturizers, touting the compound’s anti-inflammatory properties. As of October, 46 states have passed some kind of CBD legalization; the use and sale of the compound are not explicitly allowed under federal law, but the law is not often enforced.

In June the Food and Drug Administration approved Epidiolex (cannabidiol)—aka CBD—for the treatment of seizures associated with two rare forms of epilepsy. It’s the first FDA-approved drug to come from the cannabis plant.

Thanks to CBD’s popularity, consumers are realizing that not all cannabinoids—the active chemical compounds in marijuana and hemp—get you stoned. Research suggests that some cannabinoids may, in fact, increase focus, suppress appetite and keep users awake.

The steady wave of legalization has been thrilling for cannabinoid scientists, who say these compounds could help treat a variety of ailments, including autism and cancer.

As two National Institutes of Health researchers wrote in a 2013 study published in the *Federation of European Biochemical Societies* journal, cannabinoids “may have therapeutic potential in almost all diseases affecting humans.”

Now, with support from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, the 2018 farm bill might legalize every cannabinoid except the psychoactive compound THC.

“Everyone knows that this is about to explode and is developing their own products and processes,” says Rod Kight, a cannabis business lawyer in Asheville, N.C. Companies hope to have CBD products on shelves at mainstream, big-box retailers within a year, which has triggered breeding, production and research into other cannabinoids.

**CONTINUED ON PG. 5**

Marijuana's illegality has stymied research in much of the world; almost all peer-reviewed studies on cannabinoids published in respected journals involve mice, not humans.

The clinical trials that do exist are mostly small, but a March report from the World Health Organization found no adverse health outcomes for CBD and no potential for abuse.

Most entrepreneurs looking to sell CBD and other minor cannabinoids hope to get over-the-counter products on shelves before more pharmaceutical versions appear. But to sell cannabinoids as legal supplements, companies need to avoid making claims about medical conditions—which poses a challenge when most consumers have never heard of these compounds, let alone their benefits.

We're still in the early stages of research into minor cannabinoids, and many of the claims made by entrepreneurs require more studies to verify. Here, a guide to the compounds most likely to end up on shelves—or in your coffee.

## The Compound: THC-V

### The Claim: Weight loss and wakefulness

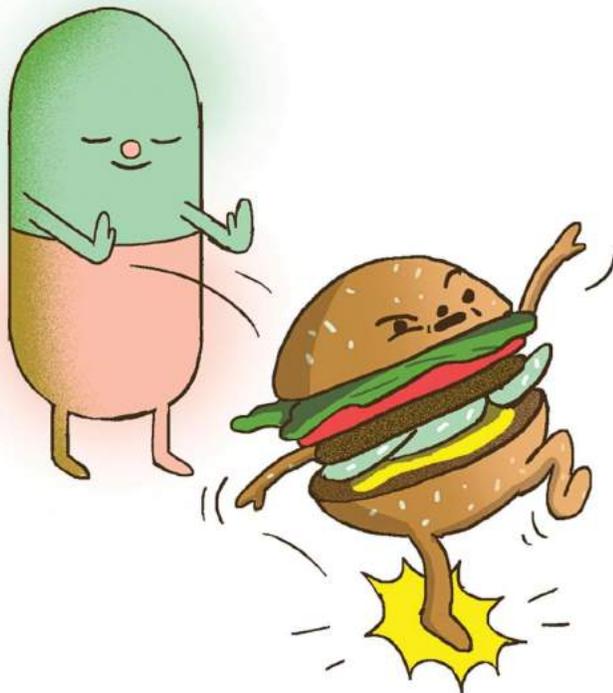


ILLUSTRATION: DALBERT B. VILARINO

Studies in mice have shown that THC-V suppresses appetite and may help regulate blood sugar levels and reduce insulin resistance.

California Cannabinoids is selling the first legal THC-V products in California dispensaries, including a vape pen. Founder David Lampach says people compare the stimulating and appetite-suppressing effects of THC-V to speed but without the anxiety.

His company is working on a clinical trial focused on narcolepsy, to better measure anecdotal reports that the compound keeps users awake.

**CONTINUED ON PG. 6**

## The Compound: CBN

### The Claim: Better, deeper sleep

CBD and THC are widely used as sleep aids, but some researchers say CBN is more effective. The nonpsychoactive compound is abundant in pot plants; most cannabis produces CBN as it degrades.

“CBN is the next one on the list,” says Kight, adding that several of his CBD clients are prioritizing the development of CBN products.

“Think about the sleep-aid market and how big that is, and now imagine there’s a natural product. That could disrupt the entire marketplace.”



ILLUSTRATION: DALBERT B. VILARINO

## The Compound: THC-A

### The Claim: All the benefits of THC (including pain and nausea relief) without the high

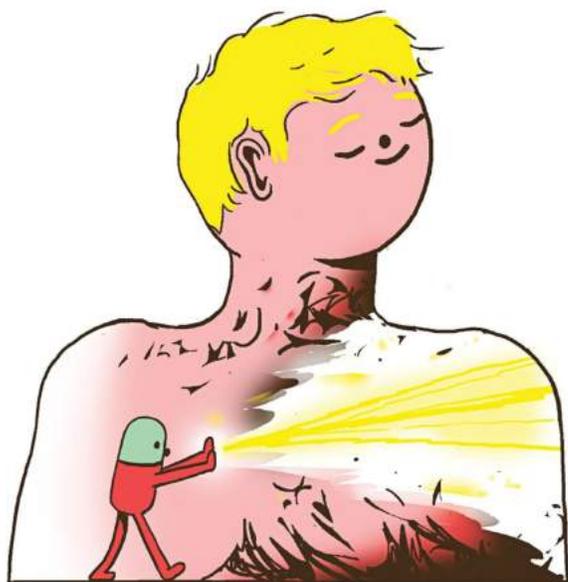


ILLUSTRATION: DALBERT B. VILARINO

THC-A, when heated, becomes THC, which gets you stoned. But some researchers say THC-A could help those uncomfortable with intoxication.

“It has all the benefits of THC without the psychoactivity,” says Brandie Cross, who runs the Pot Lab, a research and development lab in Los Angeles.

“The most striking thing about THC-A is it’s a potent anti-inflammatory, so for every 100 milligrams of THC you’d use, you need only 10 milligrams of THC-A,” Raw cannabis juices touted for their high THC-A content are already available in pot-friendly states like Colorado and California.

**CONTINUED ON PG. 7**

## The Compound: CBG

### The Claim: A potential cure-all, pending more research

Like CBD, CBG is readily available in existing cannabis strains, and companies are eager to bottle and sell it.

But no one is quite sure what it does. Some researchers tout the compound's anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties; others point to preliminary studies in mice showing that CBG promotes the creation of new brain cells.

The compound could be marketed as a natural cognitive enhancer, but only time—and more research—will tell. Demand for CBG isn't in question.

"A kilo of CBD oil is worth \$5,000," says Alfonso Navarro, a Santa Barbara-based agricultural engineer who specializes in cannabis.

"But a kilo of CBG could be worth \$100,000." 🌿



ILLUSTRATION: DALBERT B. VILARINO

# MARIJUANA SUPPORT GROWS:

TWO OUT OF THREE AMERICANS BACK LEGALIZATION, GALLUP SAYS

REPOST: by Tom Angell / Forbes / October 22, 2018

Two-thirds of Americans now support legalizing marijuana, the highest percentage ever in Gallup's ongoing decades-long series of national polls on the topic.

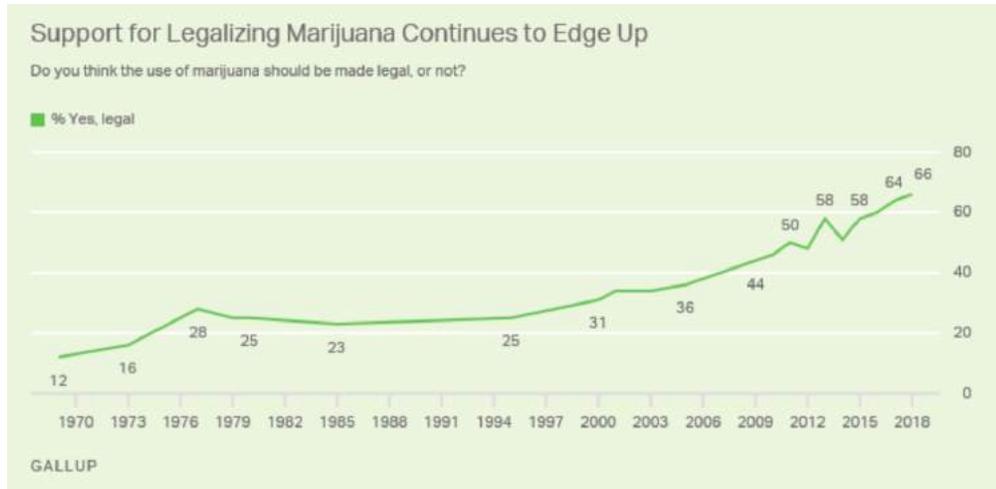
The new survey released on Monday shows that U.S. adults back ending cannabis prohibition by a supermajority margin of 66 percent to 32 percent. That's more than a two-to-one ratio.

It is the third year in a row that the firm, which has been polling about marijuana for 49 years, has found a record-breaking increase in support.

When Gallup first polled Americans on legal marijuana in 1969, just 12 percent said they were in favor. As recently as 2005, barely a third of Americans were on board.

Last year, the survey pegged legalization's favorability at 64 percent. In addition to the two-point bump in support since then, opposition also decreased two percentage points from 2017's level of 34 percent.

Support for legalization has spiked considerably in several key demographics over the past year.



Support for legalization has spiked considerably in several key demographics over the past year. For example, there has been a nine-point increase among older Americans, with 59 percent of those aged 55 and over now saying it is time to end marijuana's criminalization.

And Republican support is rising as well, with 53 percent backing legal marijuana this year as compared to 51 percent in 2017, the first year the poll found a majority of GOP voters in favor.

Just 45 percent of Republicans told Gallup this year that they oppose making cannabis legal, a four-point drop from 2017. Combined with the jump in those saying they favor the policy change, there was a net six-point swing in GOP attitudes

toward marijuana legalization and away from prohibition over the past twelve months.

Legal marijuana support is also at an all-time-high among Democrats—75 percent—and independents, who are on board to the tune of 71 percent.

The poll also found that regional differences in attitudes about cannabis are starting to dissipate. People on the East Coast are now slightly more likely to back legal marijuana than those out West, with all areas of the country favoring the policy change at roughly the same rate—67 percent in the East and 65 percent in the each of the Midwest, South and West.

**CONTINUED ON PG. 9**

And there's no sign the year-over-year increase in support is slowing down.

"Like support for gay marriage—and in prior years, interracial marriage—support for marijuana legalization has generally only expanded, even if slowly, over the course of multiple decades—raising the question of where the ceiling in support might be," Gallup's Justin McCarthy wrote.

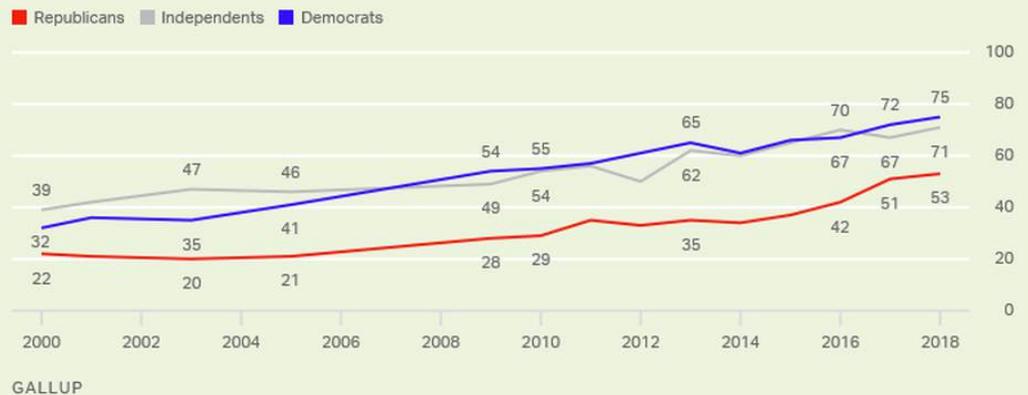
Indeed, support is huge among younger Americans, with 78 percent of those aged 18 to 34 calling for cannabis to be legal.

"It is time for lawmakers to acknowledge the data-driven and political realities of legalization," said NORML Political Director Justin Strekal. "It is time to stop ceding control of the marijuana market to untaxed criminal enterprises and implement common-sense, evidence-based regulations governing cannabis' personal use and licensed production by responsible adults. Our time has come," he added.

The survey was conducted between October 1 and 10, prior to Canada's cannabis legalization law going into effect last week. Several other recent national polls have shown strong support for cannabis reform.

### Majorities of All Political Identification Groups Continue to Support Legalization of Marijuana in 2018

% Yes, marijuana should be made legal



Earlier this month the Pew Research Center, for example, found that 62 percent of Americans support ending marijuana prohibition.

"There is a growing sense among the U.S. population that it is time to end our nation's failed experiment with marijuana prohibition," Steve Hawkins, executive director of the Marijuana Policy Project, said. "There are not many issues out there that enjoy majority support among both of the major political parties and in every region of the country. This support is consistently translating into wins at the ballot box, and it should further motivate elected officials to take action at the state and federal levels. Hopefully lawmakers are paying attention to this clear trend in public opinion."

"If they ignore these poll numbers, they do so at the risk of seeing a drop in their own," Hawkins added. 🌿

# The Biggest Surprise of the \$8.5 Billion Cannabis Boom? Dozens of the Startups Striking It Rich Are Actually Really Boring

Turns out, there's lots of money to be made by servicing the companies that are growing and selling legal weed.

Repost: by Hannah Wallace / Inc.com / October 24, 2018

Marijuana has had a shady past, but it's on the cusp of having a very conventional future. In 2017, U.S. consumers spent \$8.5 billion on legal cannabis, a number projected to grow to \$23.4 billion by 2022. With that growth has emerged an entire ecosystem of startups that support the less sexy side of cannabis.

Not the luxury dispensaries or rose-hued vape-pen companies, but the infrastructure that keeps them going--from software systems to package-design firms. As legalization continues to spread--it's now permitted in 31 states, Washington, D.C., Guam, and Puerto Rico--so will the B2B industry solving cannabis's thorny challenges.

## THE INSTAGRAM EFFECT

Advertising regulations vary from state to state, but most national publications won't accept ads--and neither will Facebook. Instagram, however, generally does not flag cannabis content, so it has become a critical marketing tool.

Former cannabis journalist Ricardo Baca has Grasslands, a well-respected cannabis PR firm in Denver. New York City-based North 6th Agency represents a handful of cannabis companies including BDS Analytics and venture fund Canopy, both in Boulder, while San Diego-based CMW Media focuses on pharmaceutical cannabis.

CONTINUED ON PG. 11



CREDIT: CELYN BRAZIER

## HOW HIGH WILL YOU GET?

In states where cannabis is legal, every bit has to be tested and labeled for levels of THC (tetra hydrocannabinol, the substance that produces a high) and CBD (cannabidiol, which does not produce a high), along with, in many cases, pesticide residues, contaminants, and fungus. If a farm's crop doesn't make the grade, it's not allowed to sell it.

A handful of regulatory-driven testing labs have launched, including Cascadia Labs in Oregon, Pure Analytics in California, and Evio Labs, the largest publicly traded testing company, with nine sites.

## THE FUTURE IS FEMALE

Since female plants produce much higher levels of THC and CBD than males, growers always cull the males. Traditionally, cannabis growers "grow out" crops, which takes six to eight weeks, to determine the sex.

Portland, Oregon-based Phylos Bioscience, which is mapping the genome of cannabis online at the Galaxy, sells a DNA "sex test," which allows growers to quickly and accurately identify sex. "It saves a lot of money spent on feeding, watering, and lighting the males," says Phylos co-founder Mowgli Holmes, who has collected samples from 80 countries, making Phylos's database of cannabis genetics the largest in the world.

## AVOIDING A HEIST

Because cannabis is still illegal federally, most banks cannot accept money from plant-touching businesses. Dispensaries are generally limited to cash-only transactions, also making them a target for theft.

Credit unions--like Safe Harbor in Colorado--tend to be state-chartered, which can give them a better regulatory shot to serve cannabis businesses. Two Denver-based firms, Iron Protection Group, founded by former Marines who served in Afghanistan, and Blue Line Protection Group, founded by former police officers, are the go-to cannabis security firms.

## KEEPING KIDS OUT

Each state where cannabis is legal has its own childproof-packaging requirements. The result is that packaging companies like Kush Bottles, Sun Grown Packaging (both in California), and Pollen Design (New York City) are booming. Kush is the largest, having made nearly \$20 million in the first half of 2018--already more than its entire revenue from 2017. The company sells child-resistant glass jars, vape pens, and prerolled tubes, and a reusable child-resistant "exit bag" that dispensaries can brand.

## TRACKING EVERY PENNY

Product is flying off the shelves at dispensaries, but owners need to track inventory and determine how much tax each dispensary owes the state.

More than three dozen POS software companies have emerged, including MJ Freeway (Denver), BioTrackTHC (Fort Lauderdale), Flowhub (Denver), and Green Bits (San Jose), which help manage inventory, process cash, and assist with record-keeping and compliance.

## LETTING THE SUN SHINE IN

Growing outdoors is difficult because there are so many uncontrollable variables, including pests, temperature, humidity, and sun. As a result, outdoor-grown weed is usually less consistent in levels of THC and other, medicinally important cannabinoids.

Many growers choose to grow indoors or in a greenhouse--or a combination of the two--both of which require LED lighting. Austin-based Fluence Bioengineering leads the pack of cannabis-specific LED lighting companies, along with Emeryville, California-based Lumigrow, Austin's Illumitex, and Sweden's Heliospectra, which makes "tunable" lights that fade in and out like the sunset and sunrise.

## FILLING THE JOB BOOM

With the marijuana industry still emerging from the shadows of illegality, demand for labor across all skill sets is high. Some work is seasonal, so farms want to be able to recruit staff weekly, without having to hire and fire them.

Vangst, founded in Denver in 2015, is one of the fastest-growing cannabis-focused recruiting firms. It persuades job candidates from industries like fashion to make the leap, and offers an on-demand temp workforce in four states. Portland, Oregon's GreenForce connects farms with people in cultivation and flower trimming. 

# CBD IN SPORTS: EVANGELISM TRUMPS EVIDENCE

REPOST: BY TODD RUNESTAD  
NATURAL PRODUCTS INSIDER / OCTOBER 18, 2018

Athletes are beginning to show interest in CBD for pain and inflammation, but so far much of the evidence is anecdotal with an evangelist spin. That doesn't mean brands are willing to wait for the science. Proponents call CBD a safe alternative to NSAIDs and point to sleep and stress as additional benefits that go beyond the focus of sports nutrition but could have definitive effects on performance.

Evangelism trumps evidence when it comes to CBD's efficacy on sports performance. But don't fret just yet—most of the humans on the planet buy into one faith or another.

And faith in a nutraceutical can often be the foundation of efficacy.

There's more than one way to categorize sports nutrition when it comes to the cannabinoid that's lighting up sales from coast to coast. After all, it's not just about how fast you can run. It's also about recovery, and that means inflammation and pain management, not to mention restful sleep. And in these areas, anecdotes abound.

But do anecdotes equal evidence?

"Anecdotes are a starting point and often, but not always, precede evidence," says Anthony Almada, who co-founded the Council for Science and Innovation of Cannabis and Cannabinoids. "The question is, where is the line between real, reproducible evidence and evangelism?"

CONTINUED ON PG. 13

Athletes are beginning to show interest in CBD for pain and inflammation, but so far much of the evidence is anecdotal with an evangelist spin. That doesn't mean brands are willing to wait for the science. Proponents call CBD a safe alternative to NSAIDs and point to sleep and stress as additional benefits that go beyond the focus of sports nutrition but could have definitive effects on performance.



The only way to know for sure is to conduct a study in athletes and assess, say, recovery. To date, that has not been done. But as the saying goes, the absence of evidence does not equal the evidence of absence.

“When you have so many people commenting about it, there’s got to be something going on,” says Almada. “So, let’s find out what’s mediating that and build a brand around that,” Almada says he’s going to launch his own CBD brand later in 2018, with a portion of revenues specifically allocated to conducting long-term clinical trials focusing on sleep, mood, pain, and inflammation, as well as traumatic brain injury in concussive sports.

Obviously, that will take a fair bit of revenues, but for now, at least, there’s a big enough market and consumer interest to drive the scientists who inform the athletes. In some cases, it goes the other direction and the athletes inform the companies.

Former NFL quarterback Jake Plummer has been a huge advocate of CBD on his journey to deal with nagging injuries after he retired from pro football. “With the right amounts of CBD, which contains trace amounts of THC, I feel virtually pain free,” Plummer wrote in *Sports Illustrated*. “The inflammation in my joints that stiffened up in the cold winter months was gone. The random headaches that would throb behind my eyes to the beat of my heart? Gone. I still eat gluten and sugar, I still enjoy a cold brew or two. The only thing different? CBD.”

Plummer is now an official spokesman for CW Hemp, makers of the pioneering CBD brand Charlotte’s Web. Other athletes are getting into the CBD game with the aim of developing formulations to help fellow active individuals.

“As athletes,” says Don McLaughlin, founder and CEO of PurePower Botanicals, a startup supplement company featuring formulas for sports performance that combine herbs and minerals along with hemp, “we know all too well the importance of optimizing and sustaining energy, managing stress, getting consistent deep sleep to support recovery, and effectively managing inflammation.”

PurePower is starting off with three formulated products: PowerUp, PowerDown, and Reboot.

“Our initial product lineup is meant to help address the core fundamentals we all struggle with at times,” says McLaughlin. “Our PowerUp energy formula is targeted at enhancing long-term energy and focus, while our Reboot product targets recovery and rejuvenation, particularly in joints. Our PowerDown formula supports achieving a deep and restful sleep.”

One interesting angle that has made CBD a potential new entrant to the sports game is that the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the preeminent governing body of drug testing and policy in global sports, removed CBD from the WADA list of banned substances.

[CONTINUED ON PG. 14](#)

THC—the cannabinoid that gets you high—as well as other cannabinoids, synthetic or plant-derived, remain on the WADA Prohibited List for “in competition” use, which means the period from about 12 hours before a competition begins through the awards ceremony and the time of collecting associated biological samples such as urine and blood. That means THC has no value as a performance enhancer, but it does leave open the potential for CBD as a bioactive substance that can aid in other, more nuanced areas of sports performance and recovery.

“The low-hanging fruit,” says Stuart Tomc, vice president of human nutrition at hemp oil brand CV Sciences, “is really in pain, inflammation, anxiety, and neuroprotection. Those are areas where there is great interest.”

Here’s an anecdote from Richard Rose, who runs the Medicinal Hemp Association page on Facebook. Rose once worked for Cheribundi, the tart cherry juice company. “[Cheribundi’s] mostly-sole claim to fame was reducing inflammation,” says Rose. “Half their business was with sports teams, especially COX (cyclooxygenase)-mediated inflammation from strenuous exertion. Having used CBD for four years now, I have to say it is the most powerful anti-inflammatory I’ve used. Better than even Celebrex.”

In a 2015 survey of 704 patients conducted by Care By Design, the top five health conditions used by those consuming CBD were mood or psychiatric disorders (21 percent), inflammatory conditions (19 percent), pain (14 percent), cancer-related symptoms (12 percent) and central nervous system injuries and conditions (12 percent).

One of the primary aspects of recovery is dealing with post-exercise pain. And studies have indeed been conducted that show efficacy for CBD as a COX-2 inhibitor (Takeda, 2008). COX-2 is expressed by cells that are involved in inflammation and has emerged as the isoform primarily involved in acute and chronic inflammation. While classic non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like aspirin inhibit both COX-1 and COX-2 activities, CBD was shown to inhibit just COX-2—which means anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects without the untoward side effects.



In a study using an oral spray comprised of both CBD and THC, patients showed a 39 percent reduction in pain, with at least half of all patients experiencing at least a clinically relevant 30 percent improvement with pain. The pain-reduction effects continued to increase with time up until the end of the nine-month study. Sleep quality also improved.

More research needs to be done, but that day is drawing near. The FDA just approved a CBD isolate as a pharmaceutical drug, to British drug company GW Pharmaceuticals. Between the terpenes and various and sundry other cannabinoids found within the cannabis plant, there likely remains a wealth of botanical intelligence yet to come.

Opposition to research is falling quickly—the NFL Players Association is considering bargaining to include CBD and potentially THC as approved substances for players to use. Published research will no doubt begin to emerge around the world that validates the experience of so many repeat buyers of industrial hemp-derived oil containing cannabidiol. That could possibly tilt the balance away from raw evangelism and faith and toward an evidence-based healthcare. 🌿

A hand is shown holding a white hockey helmet. In the foreground, a large, dark green cannabis leaf is partially visible, overlapping the helmet and the text. The background is a blurred image of a person in a blue and white uniform, likely a hockey player.

# Why The NFL Should Adopt Hockey's Stance On Cannabis

REPOST: BY BEN CURREN / FORBES / OCTOBER 18, 2018

The world is witnessing a sea change on cannabis. On October 17, Canada legalized recreational cannabis, and on November 1, the United Kingdom will legalize medical cannabis. Major corporations like Walmart are exploring offering cannabis products in Canada, and Constellation Brands is investing in the space. And Capitol Hill and the Trump Administration (Jeff Sessions notwithstanding) may wind up being more supportive of cannabis than they ever have been.

Meanwhile, one large and successful American enterprise has been ahead of the curve — the National Hockey League. When asked recently how Canadian legalization would affect NHL policy, the NHL's Deputy Commissioner told the Associated Press that it would not. That's good news because, according to a report by Civilized, the NHL doesn't classify cannabis as a banned substance.

The Civilized report adds that although the league routinely tests players for performance-enhancing substances, it tests only a randomly-selected one-third of players for illicit substances like cannabis.

If and when the league detects cannabis use, the report describes, it compiles those cases into a statistical snapshot, which goes to the league's Performance Enhancing Substances Program Committee without naming any players. That's it — no penalties and no suspensions — although I note that a spokesman has been quoted as saying the NHL does not "condone" use. If a player's test detects what the league determines is a dangerously high level of cannabis use, that player is referred to the NHL's Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Program. I could not find data showing the number of players who get referred, but, anecdotally, it appears to be small.

By contrast, the National Football League can be particularly harsh on cannabis use. Because the league classifies it as a banned substance, a player who tests positive for cannabis use can face swift fines and suspensions. According to a 2016 CNBC piece by former Vikings, Giants, Eagles and Cardinals player Jack Brewer, the league fined 20 players more than \$10 million for substance-related violations, and the majority of those violations came from cannabis infractions.

**CONTINUED ON PG. 16**

**Former Professional Football Player Marvin Washington speaks during the Cannabis World Congress & Business Expo in Los Angeles, California, U.S., on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017. The 4th annual event is the leading forum for doing business in one of the fastest growing industries in the United States. Photographer: Dania Maxwell/Bloomberg**



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Such a policy is damaging in the short term and perhaps even deadly in the long term. As we see with their NHL counterparts, current and former NFL players can benefit from cannabis to cope with injuries and pain. It can also help them combat the risk of developing chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), the horrific brain injury that affects professional football players at staggering rates.

In 2014, Harvard psychiatry professor Lester Grinspoon wrote an open letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell about this connection. "Already, many doctors and researchers believe that marijuana has incredibly powerful neuroprotective properties," he wrote, calling upon Goodell and the league to invest in cannabis research to further explore whether "cannabis ... can indeed provide significant protection against the damage of repetitive concussions."

However, players are turning to alcohol and opioids at an alarming rate. In 2011, Drug and Alcohol Dependence found that over half of surveyed former NFL players used opioids during their career, that seven out of 10 of those players abused them, and that, overall, NFL players are three times more likely to use opioids than the general population.

The players themselves testify to this. Retired Miami Dolphin Larry Chester is quoted in a CBS4-Miami report as saying that, after retiring from the NFL, he coped with chronic pain by practically "eating opioids," which he said made him belligerent toward his family and others. What allowed Chester to quit using opioids was a prescription to cannabidiol (CBD), a non-psychoactive cannabis ingredient that helps to alleviate ailments such as pain, inflammation, and anxiety, all without inducing a "high." According to the same story, Chester called the prescription life-saving.

Former NFL Ravens player Eugene Monroe, now a partner with national cannabis grower and retailer Green Thumb Industries (GTBIF) who advocates for commonsense cannabis policy in the NFL, told Civilized he drew the line when the oxycodone he had been taking after a shoulder surgery had interfered with his ability to be a father. "My daughter approached me and I didn't recognize her ... I stopped taking [opioids] immediately and that's really where I picked up learning as much as I could about marijuana."

NFL free agent Mike James said medical marijuana allowed him to "be coherent and still have pain relief." While this evidence is admittedly anecdotal, it appears that the NHL's model is one that other professional sports leagues would benefit from following. 🌿

# Why I Turned to Cannabis for Morning Sickness – And Why You Shouldn't Judge

Repost: by Kelly MaClean / High Times / October 18, 2018



## Is cannabis the new pregnancy wonder drug?

At a ripe six months pregnant, I'm currently one of those 'poor women' whose nausea lasts well beyond the first trimester. It came on like a tidal wave at six weeks and the combined powers of acupressure wristbands, lemon rind and ginger candy did little more than make me laugh with disappointment.

Rounding out the second trimester, I no longer tear up at the casual mention of kimchi or unfriend anyone who snaps a lunch selfie, but nausea management remains a part of my daily life. I've asked every doctor, doula, mom, and midwife I know about remedies and the consensus may surprise you: Try cannabis.

The conversation usually goes like this: "I'm not officially allowed to recommend this..." or "you didn't hear it from me, but..." followed by a hearty plug for CBD, or CBD with low doses of THC. But using cannabis to treat nausea is not new. People have turned to pot for tummy relief for decades. U.S. doctors have prescribed it for chemo, cancer, and AIDS-related nausea since the 80s in the form of Marinol, a synthetic form of THC everyone seems to have forgotten exists.

Marinol is sometimes even prescribed to pregnant women for hyperemesis gravidarum, the extreme form of morning sickness famously suffered by Kate Middleton.

**CONTINUED ON PG. 18**

# With no research to lean on, the use of cannabis in pregnancy remains unspeakable.

Hyperemesis is one of the most dangerous conditions causing mother and baby alike to lose weight and vital nutrients, often resulting in miscarriage or developmental issues. Women who suffer from this severe and dangerous condition are significantly more likely to try cannabis while pregnant, though the Duchess of Cambridge was likely not one of them (whatever would the queen say?). For some, though, a little bud is the difference between a fetus-endangering food aversion and the sudden craving for Doritos with Cool Whip.

But the consensus in the medical community is that marijuana and pregnancy should never mix. So despite medical studies showing that “Marijuana significantly reduced ratings of ‘queasiness,’” there has been little in the way of research on the safety of cannabis for pregnant women.

In fact, the policy at the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology is that women shouldn’t use cannabis products in pregnancy. Period. “Like almost all other prescription and non-prescription drugs, there are no studies which can guarantee that it is safe,” says Dr. Allison Hill, author of *Your Pregnancy, Your Way: A Guide to Natural Pregnancy and Childbirth* and a top Los Angeles OBGYN.

But Hill points out there are no studies that prove it to be dangerous, either. “The research does not show any increased risk in birth defects, preterm labor, low birth rates, etc,” she says. “The only thing that has come up has been a slightly higher risk of behavioral problems in children, though the studies are not definitive.”

Additionally, Hill explains, these studies are difficult to interpret due to the many factors that could also be triggering these behavioral issues.

For instance, many of these marijuana users might also be smoking cigarettes, or consuming alcohol.

The problem is, nobody wants to test drugs on pregnant women. And even if they do, Big Pharma and their Washington lobbyists don’t welcome the competition.

With no research to lean on, the use of cannabis in pregnancy remains unspeakable. Hill was the only doctor brave enough to go on the record about using cannabis as a remedy to pregnancy pains. Alas, most doctors won’t prescribe cannabis out of fear of being criticized or sued.

Elizabeth Bachner, midwife and owner of Gracefull Birthing, Los Angeles’ first accredited birthing center, believes the stigma is robbing women of safe and natural relief. “We have a smear campaign that’s been going on for years that takes all forms of cannabis—THC, THCA, CBD—and they lump it all together as the same class of drug.”

For reference, THCA is the unactivated, non-psychoactive form of THC. You can extract THCA from the plant through cold extraction.

“THCA is a wonderful medicine that they are recommending for pediatric cancer,” says Bachner. “Combined with CBD it would be an amazing, natural, non-psychoactive drug.”

The US doesn’t consider CBD safe for pregnancy despite numerous studies including one from the World Health Organization that states: “It has no effect on embryonic development.” But CBD, THCA, and THC are all lumped together under the cannabis umbrella and treated equally. That’s like failing to differentiate between a glass of wine and a box of grape juice—it’s all grape liquid, right?

CBD included, most people still think any form of marijuana consumption in pregnancy is tantamount to child abuse. And for pharmaceutical companies, that stigma may be the only thing stopping cannabis from overthrowing their reign of the morning sickness industry.

**CONTINUED ON PG. 19**

The long-haired morning sickness drug Zofran has recently found itself at the center of controversy and legal trouble after a study showed a correlation between the drug and congenital heart defects.

“You gotta look at the risk-benefit analysis,” says Bachner. “Are you vomiting so much that you can’t keep food down? If you’re putting your body at risk, you’re putting your baby at risk. Is CBD something you can buy over the counter at Whole Foods that can cure that?”

To Bachner’s dismay, her medical board license won’t allow her to suggest CBD to sick clients. She’s one of a growing movement demanding research on the natural antiemetic.

“Cannabis and motherhood is a stigma wrapped in a taboo,” says Keira Sumimoto, founder of Cannabis and Motherhood, an organization calling for a cannabis revolution. Some may think they’re a bunch of stoners who don’t want to give up ripping bongos just because they got knocked up.

Plus, nausea isn’t the only issue pregnant women are turning to CBD for, according to Anna Kallinikos, a budtender at CCA—a dispensary located above Gracefull Birthing. “[CBD also helps with] swelling in feet and ankles, insomnia, and anxiety,” she says. “It’s regenerative so people use it topically for stretch marks, too. CBD chemically balances the mind, so it makes sense you’d find relief when your hormones are in a tizzy. Once [expecting mothers] try it, they always come back.”

Although higher doses of THC are not recommended for women, using low doses of the psychoactive cannabinoid is nothing new. Dr. Michele Ross, a neuroscientist, and author of *Vitamin Weed* explains that people often forget pregnant women have used cannabis for thousands of years. “In India, they make a tea with [THC] which helps relieve nausea and the pain of childbirth,” she says. “In the tea, they get more THCA, which is better for nausea than THC. THCA doesn’t cross the blood-brain barrier, so it doesn’t get you high.”

## The US doesn’t consider CBD safe for pregnancy despite numerous studies that state: “It has no effect on embryonic development.”

Some may think they’re a bunch of stoners who don’t want to give up ripping bongos just because they got knocked up. But in actuality, these are often the same crunchy mamas eating organic and doing prenatal yoga like it’s their job. “I have yet to see one mother ask me about CBD who wants to hurt her baby or just get high,” says Bachner, “we’re not dealing with addicts here.”

That’s not to say that there aren’t people out there who have and will abuse marijuana. Nobody is advocating for pregnant women to hot-box their cars and get lit all day every day. But to say a few drops of CBD tincture is the same as eating high-dose edibles or taking dabs on the daily is inaccurate, and robbing millions of women of safe relief.

Ross dreams of a day when a THCA/CBD/Vitamin B6 cocktail is the new go-to morning sickness drug. Many in medicine agree we should at least give cannabis a chance, including Dr. Hill, who agrees that using something natural seems better than using a synthetic drug. “Hopefully, as cannabis use becomes more common, we will have more data so women can make informed decisions,” says Hill. 

# HOW THE HEMP INDUSTRY IS BEING RESHAPED BY CANADIAN POT LEGISLATION

What challenges are to come as the Great White North goes green and the U.S. Hemp Farming Act of 2018 allows its hemp farmers to compete?

Repost: by Chris Conrad / Merry Jane / October 19, 2018



According to Hemp Business Journal, the U.S. made \$553 million in domestic retail sales of hemp food, supplements, and body care products in 2017. Combine that various other products sold, brings the estimate to \$820 million.

Canada, has officially legalized and regulated the production, sale, and adult-use of cannabis. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says this approach will “kneecap,” or cripple, black market sales, protect the public, and provide more comprehensive marijuana education overseen by one agency, Health Canada. This decisive move means that Canada is now essentially leading the world, or at least G7 nations, on cannabis policy.

However, it’s already been a quarter century since the Canadian government blazed paths and took another decisive step in 1994 that defined

“industrial hemp” as cannabis containing no more than 0.3 percent THC in the dried flower, thereby adopting a standard used in Europe and, later, the United States. No mention was made of cannabidiol (CBD) or other cannabinoids.

The Canadian government began to issue research licenses to grow cannabis hemp on an experimental basis for fiber, sterilized seeds, viable seeds, and seed oil. A few years later, on March 12, 1998, commercial farming, production, and export of industrial hemp products was legalized in Canada, with Health Canada issuing licenses and

authorizations with severe limitations and security requirements.

Looking ahead, as the U.S. prepares to expand its national hemp program, and politicians toy with the idea of federal legalization by de-scheduling cannabis, valuable lessons can be learned from looking back at the Canadian hemp experience.

How has the market developed? What changes did the new law bring?

**CONTINUED ON PG. 21**



What challenges do we face as the Great White North goes green and the U.S. Hemp Farming Act of 2018 allows its hemp farmers to compete?

As two nations stand poised on the threshold of a new era, it's a good time to look at how these two neighboring nations approach — and stand to benefit from — the many uses of cannabis hemp.

Circumstances have evolved for Canadian hemp farmers and entrepreneurs since 1998. Interest in industrial hemp production was building momentum into the early 2000s. The hemp seed food, oil, and cosmetics export markets, in particular, took off.

Overproduction in 2005 and 2006 meant supply exceeded demand, and the leftover inventories triggered a severe drop in production in subsequent years.

By 2012, the crop had fully recovered. Total acreage seeded that year surpassed the 2006 levels, and since then has grown at a sustainable rate. In 2015, two hemp food industry pioneers, Manitoba Harvest and Hemp Oil Canada, merged to further expand their market reach.

Regulations loosened over time and became more reasonable, as comfort with the crop and industry has grown.

However, until now, Canada's farmers had been limited to seed and fiber crops. The new law opens the door to extracts and markets where U.S. farmers already have a toe hold.

The changes that went into effect in Canada on October 17 cover new ground that can be viewed in two categories — security regulation and business expansion.

### Security Regulation:

- The field GPS coordinates and cultivar variety and pedigree being grown must be reported to Health Canada within 15 days of planting the crop
- Hemp seed no longer has to be stored in dedicated locked containers; it can be stored like other crop seeds
- Elimination of the one kilometer buffer zone previously required between hemp fields or processing plants from schools and public places
- Elimination of criminal record background checks for hemp license applicants
- Elimination of other security clearance requirements

### Business Opportunity Expansion:

- Commercial use of whole plant allowed, including non-THC extracts such as CBD, whereas it was previously only for seed and fiber products
- Elimination of on-site THC testing for commercial farm locations planting certified and approved cultivars
- Elimination of minimum acreage size (previously four hectares / 9.88 acres) so farmers can run small batches or experiment with crops and technologies
- More time to make changes to application; raised to 30 days from 15 days to give farmers and licensees more flexibility
- Longer license periods; raised to five years from one year to give licensees more security and stability in their ability to perform contracts
- Longer export and import permits; raised to six months from three months, to allow for delayed deliveries and other logistical details

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## CANADA'S EARLY SUCCESS HELPED ADVANCE HEMP IN THE U.S.

"Hemp seed grain products are still driving hemp production in Canada," observed Anndrea Hermann, President Emeritus of the Hemp Industries Association (HIA) and a consultant at Ridge International Cannabis Consulting, who has been actively engaged in hemp advocacy and commerce in both the Canadian and U.S. hemp markets. "But the fiber interest is also growing, with processing facilities finally coming on line."

The omega-rich oil pressed from hemp seed has a strong following in the health food industry, health and beauty aids, and even for treating wooden decks, leather saddles, and horse hooves. Smashing and soaking hemp seeds produces a tasty, nutritious and popular "milk" beverage, and once the hemp seed market got hold of machinery to remove seed hulls from kernels, it opened the door to cereals and multi-grain breads.

Hermann added that "big changes have been made in the scope of food safety, with companies now requiring Global Food Safety Initiative and hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) standards compliance." This is an international system at all stages of a supply chain that uses a preventative approach to ensure food safety from potential biological, chemical, and physical hazards and contaminants.

"We've had little to no security issues in Canada, hence the removal of the locked-up hemp seed rule." Until 2018, a viable seed had to be stored in a locked container, or in a facility that could only be accessed by authorized personnel, requiring large, secure facilities. This is no longer the case, however, although detailed records of grain sales and movement still must be kept.

Apparently, consumers and even thieves can tell hemp from marijuana. As such, in Canada, early fears of diversion into the marijuana marketplace have proved to be unfounded, as well as an important lesson for its southern neighbor: Nobody wants to smoke this stuff.

"Canada's hemp industries have long been the success story advocates have leveraged in conversations with legislators and regulators," noted Hemp Industries Association (HIA) Executive Director Colleen Keahey-Lanier. The HIA is a non-profit trade association that was founded in Arizona the same year that hemp farming was legalized in Canada to promote the industry and encourages domestic hemp cultivation. In 2003, the HIA prevailed over the U.S. DEA in its lawsuit that saved hemp seed food products, and the group recently fought another battle over cannabis extracts that ended in a stalemate — one that stands to be resolved by the upcoming Farming Act.

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## TWO NATIONS PLOW DIFFERENT ROWS TO HEMP REVIVAL

Canada has been producing and exporting hemp for decades and the U.S. has been a major importer and consumer of those products. The evolution of the cannabis extract markets under the umbrella of state medical marijuana — and, more recently, U.S. hemp laws — is where that situation has been reversed.

Market research by the Hemp Business Journal estimated that the U.S. made \$553 million in domestic retail sales of hemp food, supplements, and body care products in 2017. When sales of clothing, auto parts, building materials, and various other products were included, that estimate hit \$820 million for the total retail value of hemp products purchased in America.

Hemp-derived CBD products constituted 23 percent (or \$190 million) of that total.

In a rare bipartisan move, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) joined forces and backed The Hemp Farming Act of 2018 to de-schedule low-THC hemp plants. The policy will place federal regulatory authority of hemp solely on the Department of Agriculture, instead of the DEA. It would require each participating state Department of Agriculture to file hemp program plans with the USDA, but lets them regulate cultivation within state borders.

“Unlike Canada, the rapid growth of the U.S. based hemp industries is not primarily attributed to industrial or nutritional products, even though those are sizable categories,” pointed out Keahey-Lanier. “The opportunity to grow hemp in the U.S. for the purpose of extracting cannabinoids has provided a lucrative entry point to market.”

In other words, rather than textile fiber and seed oil, the market driving demand for domestic hemp here has been for non-euphoric hemp medications. A new policy enacted this year in California requires a marijuana license to produce CBD for oral consumption, but allows hemp licensees to produce topicals and other uses to split up that market and spread the wealth around.

In a twist, Hermann pointed out that “in the U.S., I see medical marijuana as the gateway for hemp” by creating social acceptance and opening up the CBD market. In Canada, however, the acceptance of hemp moved medical marijuana forward — it destigmatized the plant, which subsequently increased social and political acceptance of medical and adult cannabis use.



## ONCE AGAIN, CBD MAY HOLD THE KEY

Despite Canada’s history of hemp farming, it remained illegal to harvest CBD until the nation’s adult-use legalization laws kicked in. With “whole plant” processing now allowed, including most extracts, Canadian farmers hope to see that market open up, as well. Theoretically, the national markets should not compete, since importation of cannabinoids remains subject to customs oversight.

Meanwhile, the United Nations and World Health Organization have recognized the medical value of cannabis-derived CBD, and the federal U.S. Food and Drug Administration only recently approved the plant-derived pharmaceutical Epidiolex to be imported as a low-risk prescription drug for use in the United States.

“Allowing CBD production will help increase the farms’ gate,” said Hermann, referring to how much money goes directly to the farmer. “It will enable them to potentially get more contract options from a single crop, open the doors for smaller farmers, and assist in rural revitalization.”

Canadian farmers are already taking a “value-added” approach with other hemp products. That could mean bringing a decorticator machine on site to separate textile fibers from the inner pulp used for housing materials and paper, or using portable equipment to press oil from hemp seed before it ever leaves the field. Subsequently, the farmer saves money on transportation and processing fees and gets a higher financial return on the semi-finished goods shipped out.

Add to that the value of CBD and other cannabinoids that can be extracted from the crop — and the incentive in Canada to plant hemp goes up yet another notch.

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## COMPETITION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN GOOD NEIGHBORS

In economic sectors where the two countries' hemp industries will more directly compete, it comes down to a matter of risk diversification for both sides of the border.

Canada has one unified system to coordinate marijuana, CBD, and hemp markets. The U.S. hosts an obstacle course of conflicting state and federal laws, complex local regulatory schemes, and combative drug warriors.

The greatest growth potential will be in the fiber sectors once hemp infrastructure comes online — continuing a technological process that was disrupted 81 years ago by the U.S. Marihuana Tax Act that banned hemp farming. At the time, the paper, textile, cordage, and plastic industries were clamoring for more hemp and Henry Ford anticipated producing auto bodies made with hemp and soya and cars powered by hemp and plant ethanol fuels. Today, the food industry, construction industry, extraction industry, and 3-D printers have joined the cry.

Hermann pointed to juicing raw cannabis as a huge potential health food, as well as the horse feed/supplements and pet foods as underdeveloped niche markets in both countries — once the legal issues are sorted out. "I hope to see hemp grain pulling ahead and, maybe, being bigger than canola, once the market is firmly based on well-established grading systems for grain and fiber," she said.

Hemp seed grain-based products could be mainstreamed as a prime ingredient for their nutritional value, not just a marketing gimmick used to catch the consumer's attention. This is the area where there is the best potential for fast growth, but also the area with the strongest and most established competition. Fortunately, there is already infrastructure in the U.S. to process hemp seed grain for domestic use or international export, and the USDA has begun recognizing low-THC hemp cultivars for domestic farmers.

Unfortunately, fiber decortication equipment is needed on both sides of the border to separate the high-cellulose, high-tensile bark fiber (bast) from the more absorbent and pithy core fibers (hurds) used in hempcrete housed and industrial fabrication. This will require the use of existing equipment, retrofitting and repurposing related equipment, and creating new designs in emerging technologies to be applied in the hemp fields and all along the production chain.

Part of the current developmental holdup is that hemp needs more infrastructure, more momentum, and greater economy of scale to compete with other industries. It will take plenty of biomass, and more than a few sources of raw or value-added materials, to get hemp embedded into industries such as housing biocomposites, non-woven products (like felts for fabrication), and the auto industry. Spreading the farms around the map is essential to control transportation and shipping costs.

As Hermann noted, while global protocols exist for food products, hemp fiber products need an international grading system, like flax and jute, have, to control quality and determine specifications and applicability for manufacturers, especially in textiles. While the U.S. struggles to separate hemp and marijuana — and drug warriors continue to conflate the two — Canada is now bringing the two markets together, at least in terms of its regulatory framework.

"The crossover is beneficial for both sides," concluded Hermann. "Here in Canada, most of the medical marijuana licensed producers have already developed a hemp-type division or are working on one. Like when Aurora Cannabis bought up Hempco Food and Fiber Inc.," one of that nation's biggest hemp producers, with the specific intent of merging their combined markets and expanding into extraction. The uniformity of oversight and long-term developmental strategy gives our Northern neighbor a big advantage moving forward. The cost of transporting hemp typically favors the local producer, but that edge could be overtaken by the grand economy of scale envisioned by the Canadian cannabis and hemp industries.

To some extent, Canadians are content to watch the U.S. flounder about with internal conflicts and mixed messaging while they lay the groundwork for global hemp conquest. But Canadians also realize that their opportunity to surge ahead of us may have a very limited window, particularly if U.S. Congressional leadership is taken away from GOP prohibitionists like Representative Peter Sessions (R-TX) and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), both who use their committee chairmanships to block votes on key legislation. Hopefully, the U.S. will learn from Canada and incorporate these lessons to help make up for the time lost due to the War on Drugs. Otherwise, we should expect to follow in the wake of the Great White North for several more decades as it continues to plow ahead. 🌿

# CANADIAN POT DISPENSARIES ARE ALMOST OUT OF WEED

Shortages of certain marijuana products could last months — and some say this could have been avoided.

**REPOST: BY AMELIA MCDONELL-PARRY / ROLLING STONE MAGAZINE / OCTOBER 22, 2018**

It's only been five days since Canada's legal marijuana law went into effect, but licensed retailers across the country have already burned through a majority of their supply, and it's not clear when the shortage will be resolved. According to Vice, hiccups in the implementation of the law were apparent from the first day, with many store owners complaining that they didn't receive their full order from the producer, so they started off with lower stock than they planned. Demand was also still somehow higher than anticipated, and several stores had to close up shop once they ran out of product.

Hundreds of customers stood in line for hours, all day and into the night, in cities like Montreal, only to find a limited selection of marijuana products inside, if they were lucky. At one store, customers in line were suddenly told they would no longer be accepting credit or debit cards for payment.

"There was a lineup of more than 50 people trying to get to the bank machine," one particularly disgruntled customer, John Matheson, told the Montreal Gazette. "Finally I just left in disgust." The following morning, he had better luck and was among the first group of customers let inside the store, but the demand the previous day had tapped much of the supply; the two products Matheson had hoped to buy — Pink Kush in dried flower form, and an oral spray — were both sold out.

"To me, this a complete failure of the management of this cannabis [agency]," Matheson told the Montreal Gazette. "They've known for some time that there was going to be some demand for this and to run out after one day in business is a complete sign of incompetence."

Quebec's marijuana industry is operated entirely by the government-run Société Québécoise du Cannabis (SQDC), which reported more than 12,500 in-person and 30,000 online transactions on October 17th, the first day of legalization. SQDC spokesperson Mathieu Gaudreault said the agency would be monitoring the numbers in the days to come, in order to ascertain whether the heavier-than-expected demand is legit and sustaining, and not just "a curiosity factor."

With only a limited number of dispensaries opening the first week, the majority of customers across the country tried to procure their legal pot online, according to the CBC, only to be slowed down by server timeouts and busy errors. In the northernmost province of Nunavut, the website for the only licensed cannabis retailer, Tweed, kept crashing throughout the first day of sales. Some were disappointed to discover that by the time they were able to access the private or government-run online retailer, various brands and sizes were no longer available.

According to the CBC, Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries, which operates the six licensed retailers across the province, warned of "substantially less cannabis than originally requested," and reported that shortages for some products could last months. One store in Winnipeg sold out in just a few hours on its first morning, with transactions totaling over \$50,000.

The shortage isn't a complete surprise — when retailers began pre-ordering their initial supply from producers in September, in many cases, they found that only a portion of the products advertised was actually available. And at least one study released earlier this month predicted a shortage at the onset of legalization. Cannabis industry researchers at the University of Waterloo and the C.D. Howe Institute found that licensed producers would only be able to supply 30 to 60 percent of the demand in the first year of legalization.

"There will not be enough legal supply, especially during the first half of the year following legalization, primarily because of the slow rate of licensing producers," the researchers wrote in the report, according to the Financial Times.

Matheson told the Montreal Gazette that cannabis agencies across the country, including SQDC, might have been better prepared to meet the demand if they had conducted a proper survey of the market.

"Perhaps then they would have said 'Maybe we should be buying it by the truckload rather than the palette load,'" he said. "They could have known this a long time ago. For me, the score is black market one, government zero." 

THIS WOMAN IN CANADA WAS ABLE TO GET HER CANNABIS ON LEGALIZATION DAY LAST WEEK — BUT MANY WERE NOT. SHAWN GOLDBERG/SHUTTERSTOCK



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