

SMOKE SIGNALS BULLETIN

Public Meeting on Cannabis to be held in Six Nations

On Saturday, October 21st, from 2-5pm at 2593 Chiefswood Rd, (the old Bingo Hall) in Six Nations, Onkwehon:we (original) people involved with the cannabis industry will offer their thoughts on cannabis.

With the Federal government of Canada bringing forward the Cannabis Act to “legalize” government taxed cannabis, Onkwehon:we people are having to grapple with what to do about this new situation.

Recently, the Province of Ontario announced that they would be using the LCBO to maintain a government monopoly on cannabis. Ontario has announced that it will direct police to crack down on “illegal” dispensaries and plans to have 40 cannabis stores of its own by July of 2018.

right down to the purchaser or the client, and get everybody's input on it. We need to gather Onkwehon:we people for their input on how are we going to do this as a whole. It don't matter whether you live in Akwesasne, whether you live in Saint Regis or Tyendinaga or Oneida. How are we going to protect ourselves as a whole? Why can't we have this industry, with our own people from our nations, territories, or clans overseeing it.”

However, there are already over 20 Onkwehon:we owned medical cannabis dispensaries operating in Ontario, and more are coming every month. Cannabis is a natural medicine that has long been used by Onkwehon:we people.

Hawk added “We need to put something together, we have to have that. We have to do this groundwork before the band council does it. If we don't, we're going to work ourselves right out of something that is a great opportunity, as a nation, for our people as a whole.”

So what does the Canadian “legalization” plan mean for Onkwehon:we people? This meeting will be a chance to hear from Onkwehon:we entrepreneurs, medicine people, and medical patients about their relationship with the cannabis plant and their views about what is happening on their territories.

This event will be Livestreamed through Real People's Media Facebook page and is open with free admission to the public and media. For more info email realpeoplesmedia@gmail.com.

Jeff Hawk, one of the organizers of the event, explains his motivations as follows. “We need to gather everybody



The first issue of Smoke Signals Magazine is now available online or from quality Indigenous cannabis dispensaries.

DOWNLOAD **SMOKE SIGNALS MAGAZINE** AND STAY UP TO DATE ABOUT ALL THE LATEST IN INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS ON WWW.REALPEOPLES.MEDIA



TURTLE ISLAND'S FIRST ANNUAL



INDIGENOUS CANNABIS CUP

Live Music, Art, Food, Dancing, Bonfires, Indigenous Bud, and a Guinness Book of World Records Longest peace pipe attempt.

TYENDINAGA MOHAWK TERRITORY

Sun - 12pm
MAY 18-21 2018

Medicine Wheel
Smoke Signals
Five Cannabis Tasting by Medicine Wheel
Hosted by Smoke Signals

WEEKEND PASS \$100 • DAY PASS \$42.00
VIP PASS + JUDGE'S PASS \$400 • 10 x 10 VENDOR SPOTS \$420
WWW.SMOKESIGNALSTMT.COM

DRAGGINGHORNS@GMAIL.COM
All entries are due by April 1st 2018. No Exceptions.



"I think it's going to take us as a nation as a whole to stand up and say listen, we have the right to govern ourselves. We have the right to choose this as a medicine. We've had medicine before they had doctors. Who are they to say that this is not something that I as an Onkwehon:we person can't provide to somebody who needs it? So I think with the province doing what they've done, it just opens a door for Onkwehon:we people to grab ahold of something good and better the whole community as a whole. Then maybe communities around the world won't be struggling as much. I think this is an industry that could grow if we control it ourselves as Onkwehon:we people. Nobody should be without nothing, as long as we don't let that band council or the government run us." Listen to the full interview with Jeff on www.RealPeoples.Media.



Let our people grow.



Gary Wassaykeesic of RPM with Rob Stevenson.

New Grow Op and education centre in Alderville First Nation

Medicine Wheel Natural Healing is developing a new growing facility (licensed by Health Canada) next door to their store. Log on to www.realpeoples.media for the full story and the five part video series.

Get your



"TRUDEAU SPECIAL"

\$1499

NOW AVAILABLE!

Our custom made medical grade grow closet is designed to grow four plants at a maximum height of one meter high as per the provisions of Trudeau's Cannabis Act. Be ready to go when legalization hits July 1st 2018!

OFFER GOOD UNTIL DEC 25, 2017!

1-403-276-5156 OR MARK@QUICKGROW.COM

Providing safe and natural plant based medicines for the people

GREEN HEALTH



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
[@GREENHEALTHFOR6](https://www.instagram.com/GREENHEALTHFOR6)



10am-7pm Mon. to Sat.
12pm-5pm Sunday

519.865.6432
1143 HIGHWAY 54





Decolonizing cannabis

An interview with Akwesasne Mohawk elder **Ateronhiata:kon Francis Boots**

“One of the things I see as an absolute necessity is that we educate ourselves about the effects and benefits of cannabis. Up to this point, we've had a very negative stereotype of cannabis in our community. It's like we even labelled it in the language in a negative connotation; we say *kayenkwaksen* (bad tobacco). It's not a good way to describe this, a plant that has all these benefits around.

But we would say *ononhkwa*, it means medicine, just simple medicine, it's just a natural medicine, natural element of medicine.

The people who call it bad don't know, they really don't know. They've heard from somebody, they've heard from the local police or heard it from social workers who don't know what the hell they're talking about.

We need to have a very healthy discussion about the whole question. We've heard all negativity about it even out of the Catholic Church, so some of us have to filter through this information that we have in our mind and we need to listen to the young people and what they think.

So for us, the Onkwehono:we people, we really need to take some blinders off. We need to look at this in a more holistic way, just like we do other plants, just like we do for *oyenkwawonwe* (tobacco), just like we do for *niyohentehsa* or strawberry plants. It has benefits to us, not only physically, medically, but spiritually.

To me, cannabis can contribute to spiritual wellbeing in terms of calm and in terms of peace of mind. It's not an

artificial thing, it just helps you get there, I think. The government or at least the naysayers have spent a lot of time telling us all the evils about this plant, and we haven't really heard any intelligent explanation about it.



The government is going to monitor this closely, they're going to look in everybody's backyard, they're going to look on everybody's canopy, because they're going to want to control it for the purpose of taxing. That's the whole purpose that the government is going to want to do with cannabis is how can they tax it, because that's the same thing they did with cigarettes.

The overall thing is that they always want to be in control. They want to have the upper hand. It doesn't matter if you make sense of what you're talking about,

they'll tear that apart for taxation. That's the same thing with the tobacco industry. It wasn't contraband, it was un-taxable to them. They couldn't find a way to tax it, that's why they had to criminalize it.

You know what, if Canada legalizes it, then it's going to fall upon us, what's going to be our position? Because to us, it should be free. The use of it should be free but respected.

I can see where cannabis use could be disruptive to dysfunctional families. It can add on to their issues. But then on the other hand, it could be helpful. I had a sister who fought cancer three times. In her dying times, the last three or four weeks, her greatest feeling was if she could puff on some marijuana to relieve her pain for a few minutes. This is on her dying bed. My own sister said that. She said it in our language to me. So how can that be not good for some situations?

I would plead with the families, please have a discussion about this. Please talk about it in your family, because each family has medical issues, each family has social issues, each family has behavioral issues and each family is unique. And then it comes to the clan, the collection of families. We need to have a discussion in our community as to the benefits. But also some people have this lower tolerance of addictiveness and misbehaviour and abuse of this medicine.

I don't use cannabis, but I know people who do and I know it benefits them, so don't take it away from them. Make it available for them to be relieved, and don't add to people's painful existence.” Listen to the full interview on www.RealPeoples.Media.



We must all continue to fulfill our responsibilities. For more information about the Rotisken'rakéhte and our upcoming meetings, please talk with your family and clan.



Cannabis: an indigenous perspective

Is the cannabis plant a medicine? Is it a medicine compatible with indigenous values and teachings? Like tobacco, can cannabis help to build a viable and independent indigenous economy?

Come to a public meeting to hear from the growers, retailers and medicine people involved in the indigenous cannabis industry.

This event will be Livestreamed at www.facebook.com/realpeoplesmedia2016 and is a free event. For more information email realpeoplesmedia@gmail.com.

Sat. Oct 21, 2-5pm
2593 Chiefswood Rd, Six Nations
the Old Bingo Hall

Meeting organized by
www.realpeoples.media



This event is sponsored by: Green Health for 6 Nations (Six Nations), Smoke Signals (Tyendinaga), Mohawk Medicine (Six Nations), Smoke Signals Seed Bank, First Nations Medicinal (Wahnapita) and Medicine Wheel Natural Healing (Alderville).