

Cannabis Conundrum

Reader's Guide



Vancouver Public Library

Cannabis Conundrum: Debate

wednesday
september 28
7:00 p.m.

Alice MacKay Room,
Lower Level
Central Library,
350 West Georgia
Admission is free.
All are welcome.

Please arrive early as space is limited.

Speak Up: Cannabis Conundrum

About the *Speak Up* series

Vancouver Public Library is committed to encouraging public discussion on important issues. Libraries, often considered the “people’s university” or the “living room of the community,” are a natural place for such discussion. With over 6 million visits per year, VPL draws a variety of people who want to borrow material, research a topic, access the Internet, ask a question, and/or attend one of the hundreds of programs at the Central Library and branches throughout the City. With so many people from a variety of diverse communities using the library, it is an obvious place for people to come together to talk about community and current issues.

Speak Up, a new library series being introduced at VPL this year, is focused entirely on civic dialogue.

About this guide

This guide was created to enhance your understanding of this issue. We hope it will give you a number of interesting books and resources to use to enrich your experience of *Speak Up: Cannabis Conundrum*. Thank you to everyone at Vancouver Public Library who contributed to this guide!

About the Panelists



Bruce Alexander

Bruce Alexander, a long-time addiction researcher and SFU professor, is the author of *Peaceful Measures: Canada's Way Out of the War on Drugs* and *Roots of Addiction in Free Market Society*. He believes the laws controlling cannabis must change drastically, but that legalization should be a local option rather than national policy.



Neil Boyd

Writer-lecturer Neil Boyd is a professor of criminology at SFU. With a background in both psychology and law, he is the author of *High Society: Legal and Illegal Drugs in Canada*, *The Social Dimensions of Law*, and *Canadian Law: An Introduction*. Mr. Boyd is a frequent media commentator on crime, and the problems of drugs and drug control policy.



Rielle Capler

Rielle Capler has a Masters Degree in Health Administration. She works with the British Columbia Compassion Club Society, a non-profit community-based natural health centre and medical cannabis dispensary providing the chronically ill with an alternative to underground drug dealers. Ms. Capler's focus is on medical cannabis policy reform, research, and communications.



Doug Lang

Doug Lang, a well-known public speaker and former 30-year veteran of the Vancouver Police Department, is puzzled about the lack of objection to Canada's growing use of marijuana. Mr. Lang is currently involved in many community activities, including BC Teen Challenge which helps rehabilitate youth with substance abuse problems.

About the Moderator



Kathryn Gretsinger

Kathryn Gretsinger has been a journalist for the last 15 years. With an honours degree in journalism from Ryerson, she has just ended an eight-year stint as host of The Afternoon Show on CBC Radio One. Ms. Gretsinger also finds time to teach at Langara College and pursue a Master's Degree at UBC.



Photo Credit: John Keogh

Questions on Cannabis issues and policies

- *Is current cannabis legislation in Canada relevant and effective?*
- *What is the difference between legalization, regulation and decriminalization of cannabis possession?*
- *Should the government legislate personal drug use?*
- *Considering the Marc Emery case, should Canadian legislation be determined by the legislation of other countries?*
- *Is it safe to take cannabis for medical purposes?*
- *Does marijuana use lead to hard drugs? What is the evidence?*
- *What is prompting cannabis law reform?*
- *How can government policy and legislation address parents' concerns about cannabis?*
- *What are the dangers of organized crime?*
- *Should Canada follow the European model that decriminalized cannabis use but not cannabis trade?*
- *Can we have a drug policy for marijuana that would include all levels of government and public debate?*

Bibliography

Books

Alexander, Bruce

The roots of addiction in free market society

2001

Beau, Max

How cultivators grow seedless marijuana for the treatment of medical illness

2004

Bock, Alan W.

Waiting to inhale: the politics of medical marijuana

2000

Boyd, Neil

High society: legal and illegal drugs in Canada

1991

Brownlee, Nick

The complete illustrated guide to cannabis

2003

Canada. Parliament. Senate.

Cannabis: report of the Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs

2003

Cermak, Timmen L.

Marijuana: what's a parent to believe?

2003

Drake, Bill

Marijuana food

2002

Earleywine, Mitch

Understanding marijuana: a new look at the scientific evidence

2002

Easton, Stephen T.

Marijuana growth in British Columbia

2004

Edwards, Drew

West Coast smoke: the inside story of the B.C. pot boom

2000

Gerdes, Louise I.

Marijuana

2002

Green, Jonathon

Cannabis

2002

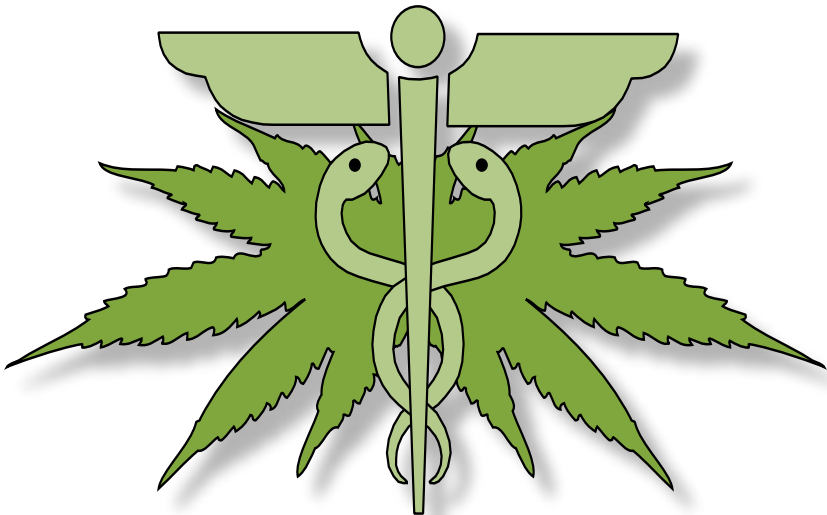




Photo Credit: Chuck Elston

Journals

Cannabis culture

(Formerly: Cannabis Canada)

Web Sites – Canadian

BC Compassion Club Society

<http://www.thecompassionclub.org/>

BC Marijuana Party

<http://bcmarijuanaparty.com/>

British Columbia Ministry of Health Services

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/bvprd/bc/home.do>

Cannabis Culture - locally based magazine

<http://www.cannabisculture.ca/>

Cannabis Health – Member of the B.C. Association of Magazine Publishers

<http://www.cannabishealth.com/>

Canada's Drug Strategy

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/activit/strateg/drugs-droques/index_e.html

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

<http://www.ccsa.ca/>

Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy

<http://www.cfdp.ca/>

City of Vancouver Four Pillars Drug Strategy

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/fourpillars/index.htm>

Drug Situation in Canada 2003– RCMP report

http://www.rcmp.ca/crimint/drugs_2003_e.htm

Web sites – International

Drug Policy Alliance – U.S. organization working to end the war on drugs

<http://www.drugpolicy.org/homepage.cfm>

Wikipedia encyclopedia article on Cannabis

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannabis>

Yahooka – Guide to Marijuana on the Internet – a hub of over 5000 links

<http://www.yahooka.com/>



SPEAK UP

Upcoming *Speak Up* events

Civic Dialogue at VPL series. October 24–29, 2005

When is There Too Much Copyright?

7:30 p.m.

- *Monday, October 24 - Renfrew Branch*
- *Wednesday, October 26 - Central Branch*

Speak up on the burning issues of intellectual property laws and who owns your ideas.

Restricted vs Unrestricted Exchange of Information and Ideas

7:30 p.m.

- *Monday, October 24 - Central Branch*
- *Tuesday, October 25 - Hastings Branch*

New ways of sharing technology is changing the way we compute. Is this a better way to do business?

Selling Universities

7:30 p.m.

- *Wednesday, October 26 - Kitsilano Branch*
- *Friday, October 28 - Central Branch*

Speak up on the pros and cons of corporate donations and sponsorship of our universities.

Who Owns Your Genes?

7:30 p.m.

- *Tuesday, October 25 - Central Branch*
- *Thursday, October 27 - Oakridge Branch*

Join us for a discussion on ethics and the future of biotechnology and what it means to be human.

Drugs for Profit or Health?

7:30 p.m.

- *Thursday, October 27 - Central Branch*
- *Friday, October 28 - Oakridge Branch*

Speak up on the issue of drug company interests and your health.

Who Owns Knowledge? A Final Dialogue

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

- *Sunday, October 29 - Central Branch*

Join us for a final *Speak Up* session to discover and discuss what you think about these issues.