

the compassionate VOICE



Newsletter of the BCCCS

January-March 2015

Winter Party 2014!

Our annual member party hit a new high this year, making it the best one we've had yet. 300 members enjoyed some great food, performances and several prize giveaways.

More photos inside!



Shattering News

Members have been asking for butane-extracted hash oils (BHOs) such as shatter, wax and crumble. We now carry several types of these.

These products are concentrated cannabis extracts that offer potent levels of cannabinoids. They are good for those that need higher doses of medicine. Butane extraction allows for less waste; though it is not ideal, it creates a more potent concentrate.

For more information, ask for our concentrates info sheet from Front Desk.



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Member News

CAMCD Symposium 2014

The Canadian Association of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries (CAMCD) organized its last symposium in conjunction with SEED on 8 December.

Held at UBC Robson Square, the event brought together reputable dispensaries such as the BCCCS and the Vancouver Dispensary Society (VDS), researchers, medical professionals, lawyers and several dispensaries interested in joining the association. Around 50 people attended.

CAMCD President and BCCCS staff Jamie Shaw talked about the association's certification process in detail. A representative from the first dispensary to be certified, Eden Medicinal Society, talked about the experience of going through this process.

Rielle Capler, who is associated with CAMCD and UBC (and also a former BCCCS staff) then gave an update on the much-anticipated Cannabis Access Regulations Study (CANARY). This study looks at how Canadian federal regulations around medical cannabis impact patients' access to medicine, their satisfaction with products and

services, and their overall health.

Other speakers talked about CAMCD's activities such as meetings with City Council, federal representatives and provincial politicians, as well as research. Dana Larsen spoke about the medical cannabis activism of which CAMCD has been a huge part through projects like Sensible BC.

Last on the list of presenters were noted cannabis and civil rights lawyers Kirk Tousaw and John Conroy (the latter of whom is the BCCCS' lawyer). They gave updates on the status of their respective cases, which both have great importance on the medical cannabis landscape.

John Conroy represents patients asking for an extension to the Medical Marijuana Access Regulations (MMAR), which Health Canada tried to replace with the MMPR. Kirk Tousaw represents a patient asking for the recognition of non-smokeable cannabis as medicine.

The BCCCS would like to thank CAMCD for the invite, and for putting together a premiere medical cannabis industry event.

Big Changes in America

Things are continuing to change in big ways in the USA with regard to cannabis. This time, the federal government is behind the change (after years of lobbying by activists).

The Justice Department as of December 2014 told US attorneys to not prevent Indigenous nations from growing or selling cannabis on sovereign lands (including in states that ban the practice).

Congress also separately approved a bill which allows medical cannabis state regulation. Under the provision, states where medical cannabis is legal no longer need to worry about federal drug agents raiding retail operations because they would be prohibited from doing so. This is the first time Congress has approved major legislation approved by cannabis legalization advocates.

Webinars with Can AIDS Society

The Canadian Association of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries (CAMCD) is proud to participate in a set of webinars in conjunction with the Canadian AIDS Society over December and January.

Titled the Medical Use of Cannabis, the webinars bring together the BCCCS with other experts and patients to provide information to service providers and other interested parties about medicine.

The webinar series is split into three, looking at the science behind cannabis and cannabinoids, the law pertaining to access/use, and guides on safer use and better health.

We would like to thank Lynne Belle-Isle from the Canadian AIDS Society for facilitating the webinars, and our staff Jamie for doing these.

Winter Party Photos and Kudos

A very large group of people helped make the Winter Party happen, led by our staff Zen and the Special Events committee. The Board helped throughout the party, including with the present-wrapping. Staff Emma and Dave got presents for members' children. A lovely group of members got together to help with the party, and perform.

We would like to also thank the WISE Hall for renting us their hall, and the following gift and food donors: West Coast Gifts, Float House, Black Dog Video, Nuba, Grandview Lanes, Bandidas, JQ Clothing, West Coast Gourmet, EastSide Vapes, Our Community Bikes, Safeway, Lunapads, Bone Rattle Music, Ignite Smoke Shop, Jamaica Pizza Jerk, Nuage Vapour Lounge, Bakery Sate, Dine 'N Dash Catering and our member Jeffrey Pare. A special thanks to staff Eme for organizing donors.



New Website

We are proud to announce, after popular demand, the launch of our new website! You won't have to log in to see the menu, and it's far simpler. Also, we have the edibles menu online, with pictures!

Check it out: www.thecompassionclub.org

Staff Changes

This season we said bye to Whitney, who we will miss.

Also leaving is long-time staff Judith. We thank her for her work with the Board of Directors, her presentations for the AGM, ensuring all staff was paid, and her efforts in maintaining a constant supply of medicine.

Thanks Jamie

A big thanks to our staff Jamie, who is also President of the Canadian Association of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries (CAMCD), for sponsoring and paying for an ad in the *Georgia Straight* congratulating the BCCCS for being chosen as the best dispensary in Vancouver.



Sliding Scale User Fees and Layaway Changes

Members heard at our last Annual General Meeting (AGM) that the BCCCS is in a deficit for the year.

In order to maintain the quality services provided through the Wellness Centre, the BCCCS has increased its sliding scale user fees and layaway policy as of 1 December, 2014.

The minimum user fee has changed from \$5 to \$10 (except for yoga, which is still \$5 per session).

The no-show fee for missed appointments has also raised from \$7 to \$15.

Credit for layaways will no longer be extended beyond a month following the date of service.

This decision has been tough, but one that we have had to make in order to continue providing services through the Wellness Centre.

Note that even with these increases, members accessing the Wellness Centre get huge cost savings in comparison to other health organizations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to the Wellness Centre staff.

Aromatherapy and Essential Oils

What nicer way to raise the spirits and pampering the body?

Essential oils are the aromatic extractions of our blessed herbs.

They act in so many ways, from calming and soothing, to stimulating and energizing. Used topically or via inhalation, they are an easy and delightful way to treat yourself.

The Wellness Centre stocks a large selection of therapeutic-grade essential oils from Simplers Botanical Company. Expertly distilled, these come from organic sources that are ethically wild-crafted. Each essential oil is from a specific species of plant.

Essential oils are perfect gifts for Valentine's Day or for other gift-giving occasions! Visit the Wellness Centre to pick some up!

