

the compassionate VOICE



Newsletter of the BCCCS

April-June 2015

The 2015 AGM

The BCCCS will be holding its annual general meeting on
Sunday, 3 May 2015

As usual members will receive our annual reports, and also vote on motions. This year the Board will make a motion for a special resolution to be made amending our by-laws so that the staff are able to send out AGM notices and other special mailings to members via email rather than postal mail (this will cut down expenses enormously).

Also expect a sampling of light snacks, cake and other refreshments.



We were invited again to Under One Umbrella service providers fair, where we gave away free cranio-sacral sessions and dozens of bottles of natural hair dye. We also got to meet great people and providers from the neighbourhood.

Sore Muscle Rub, Now at the Dispensary

We've had such huge demand for our cannabis-infused sore muscle rub that we now carry the large version in the dispensary side of the BCCCS for \$21.

Come in and check it out.



On twitter @theBCCCS



Search the
BC Compassion Club

A Case for Small-Scale Medical Cannabis Cultivation

The BCCCS has always advocated for patients and small-scale medical cannabis cultivation, the latter of which is how we acquire medicine for members.

With a case before the Supreme Court that addresses this very idea, more policy-makers and media are seeing our point of view.

The Globe and Mail released a strong editorial in January saying that Health Canada's regulation of medical cannabis had been shoddy at best.

A *HuffingtonPost.ca* blog by health law specialist Tracey Tremayne-Lloyd took what was being said by the *Globe and Mail* to the next level by noting that Health Canada was trying to regulate a substance for which it refuses to set standards.

In the US, a *HuffingtonPost.com* blog, co-written by Amanda Reiman of the Drug Policy Alliance, takes lessons from the Canadian federal program to Americans. In this

blog, Reiman notes how Health Canada has allowed what she calls a "free-for-all" that benefits no one other than "Big Agriculture."

Looking at many aspects of medical cannabis such as public health, sustainability and economics, Reiman makes a powerful case stating what we have known all along: that small-scale producers are the healthier option for both patients and the emerging industry. Though written for Americans, we hope that Health Canada takes Reiman's advice.

The CBC's *Marketplace* did a report on how large pharmacies, on which the new regulations are modeled (to the point that pharmaceutical companies have signed up to become licensed producers), turn pharmacists into salespeople. The piece showed that large pharmacies pressure pharmacists into plying billable services on patients.

Medical Cannabis for Pets

There are a number of non-human animals accessing medical cannabis all over North America. In the US, access has become so mainstream that Nevada is considering a bill that will allow vets to enable animals access to this medicine if it alleviates their symptoms.

In cities like Vancouver, vets had been giving animals medical cannabis access for years.

The BCCCS has always advocated for animal access to medical cannabis. We have members that are dogs and cats that benefit from accessing this medicine.

All animal members and their human caregivers have to provide recommendations for access, and go through the orientation process. They access just one product - the cannabis glycerite tincture.

Please call the Front Desk if you have any questions about medical cannabis for animals.

Webinar 2 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.

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 second webinar of this series is on the law, and includes guest speaker and BCCCS ally Kirk Tousaw, who will talk about recent cases that seek to clarify regulations around accessing medical cannabis.

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



Info Videos, Now with Closed Captioning

This year we started creating some great, short videos on medical cannabis. The first one looks at cannabis strains, and the second at our highly popular Compassion Oil: our ethyl alcohol-extracted, organic alternative to Phoenix Tears or Rick Simpson Oil.

We also started closed captioning our videos, including older videos such as the one where one of our herbalists explains the herb fund. Closed captioning makes it easier for those that are hearing impaired to view videos.

There are several more videos on the way. Check out our Youtube video channel by searching for the BC Compassion Club Society.

Member Donations for Jan-Mar and April

Donations made by members to the BCCCS for the month of April will go to our allies at WISH Drop-In Centre, which provides services for survival sex workers in the Downtown East Side.

We would like to also thank members once again for your generous January-March donations, which will help to supplement our herb fund. The herb donation fund helps us subsidize the cost of herbs and supplements for low-income members.

Staff Changes

This season we say goodbye to Anna S., who has been dedicated staff at the BCCCS for six years. Anna was our sunny Wellness Centre Front Desk person.

We are also welcoming some great new folks to our Wellness Centre team - Michelle and Philipa.

CAMCD Update

The Association has been at the forefront of medical cannabis dispensary advocacy as ever. In early 2015 CAMCD President Jamie Shaw and Advisory Board member Rielle Capler entered testimony in the Allard case to defend the rights of small-scale medical cannabis growers.

The Association has also been discussing the advantages of dispensaries with Vancouver and media such as CBC.

More Great New Products

Responding to member requests for variety, the Society has added several new products to the menu. We now have a 5 gram vial of the Compassion Oil, our popular oil extract, as well several new strains.

We have expanded our edibles menu to add sativa cannabis-infused honey. We also have caramel crisp, chocolate fudge, maple fudge and granola. On our gluten-free menu we now have chocolate macaroons and a rice crispy cups. We are additionally carrying carrot date muffins which are both gluten and sugar-free.

Check out these and more items on our online menu (more info to the right).

Website Menu

Check out the BCCCS website for a new and improved strain and product menu, which is based on your feedback.

The new menu is easy to view on your mobile device, and includes photos for edibles such as baked goods. We also have a new section for topicals such as the sore muscle rub.



Free Members Nutrition Seminar: Eat Well - Feel Great!

Learn how to choose food for optimal health. Remember that even small changes can make a big difference in your well-being.

This seminar will show you what makes a balanced meal.

Please sign up at the Wellness Centre Front Desk.

Do note that there will be a \$15 no-show fee applied if you do not show up or cancel with less than 24 hours notice before the seminar.

Where: the Wellness Centre
@ 2995 Commercial Drive

When: Saturday, 11 April 2015
1pm - 3pm

By: BCCCS nutritionst Wendy

For: BCCCS Members

The Wellness Centre Thanks Janet Brine for Her Generous Donation

We'd like to thank our generous member Janet Brine for a giant \$5,000 donation to the Wellness Centre. Janet asked for the money to go towards buying new equipment for the Centre

We used the donation funds to buy:

- An electric massage table (pictured to the right)
- A new biomat: we had so many great reviews about the one we already had that we had to add one more so that more members could enjoy this
- A collection of new bed linens for people to lie on the massage tables

