



Cannabis Harvest Gathering
37 Round Lake Road
Armstrong, BC VOE 1B5

Gathering Resolution: Cannabis Act Review (Nov 20, 2022)

WHEREAS:

- The Government of Canada has announced plans to establish an “Expert Panel” to lead a mandatory review of the Cannabis Act and medicinal cannabis policy four years after it received Royal Assent;
- The Expert Panel is inviting Indigenous Peoples communities and organizations to participate in the review by sharing insights and perspective;
- Indigenous Peoples are already exercising their inherent rights to enact laws and regulations regarding economic development, trade, taxation, revenues, child welfare, language, health, wellness, safety and education policies as they relate to cannabis, and which are tied to inherent jurisdiction;
- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) - which the Governments of Canada and British Columbia have adopted without qualification and committed to implement - affirms Indigenous Peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to:
 - autonomy in matters related to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions (Article 4)
 - develop political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in their enjoyment of their own means of sustenance and development, and to freely engage in all their traditional and other economic activities (Article 20(1))
 - be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programs affecting them, and, as far as possible, to administer such programs through their own institutions (Article 23)
- Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission confirmed the UN Declaration as the framework for reconciliation.
- Indigenous Peoples have a rich tradition of using cannabis for medicinal purposes to improve wellness and quality of life

BE IT RESOLVED

- The Government of Canada revise the Cannabis Act to acknowledge, respect, support and protect the autonomy of Indigenous Governments, inclusive of Sovereign, Traditional/Hereditary systems/structures, executing laws and programs related to the production, distribution, sale, safety, trade, availability of medicines, consumption, possession and quality of cannabis within their traditional Territories.
- The Government of Canada ensure an Indigenous representative from BC’s Indigenous cannabis industry is appointed to the Cannabis Act review’s Expert Panel.

- In association with revising the Cannabis Act to respect and support the autonomy of Indigenous Peoples, ensure the current medicinal cannabis program is maintained and strengthened.