

• EDITORIAL •

First, do no harm

There's a cultural deification of cannabis happening in Canada.

The weed is touted as the cure for just about everything and suggestions there may be downsides to its use are silenced by choruses singing its praises.

A Metroland staffer, already taking prescription medication for anxiety and a sleep disorder, had her curiosity peaked by rampant claims that cannabis is a miraculous panacea for whatever ails you.

She asked her doctor about switching from big pharma to medical marijuana.

But the doctor refused, saying she had taken an oath to "do no harm." While the physician was aware of all the anecdotal evidence that cannabis is the answer to a myriad health problems, she just hadn't seen the scientific proof. And she had concerns about unknown health risks.

Her advice? Wait for the science to come in. Only then would the doctor feel comfortable prescribing cannabis as medicine.

And maybe that's good advice for recreational use as well.

Because the research hasn't been done since it's too difficult to do quality research on something that is illegal.

In Canada, that barrier disappears in July. Now the science can be done and we want to see research funded from the profits our government will make through the CCBO.

Recently the feds were patting themselves on the back announcing 14 projects will get \$100,000 each in Canadian Institute of Health Research funding to look into how cannabis use will affect different populations and how use changes post-legalization.

Bill Blair, federal point man for cannabis legislation, made the announcement at the Centre for Addiction and Mental health, which is appropriate.

The government admits the research doesn't exist and Blair said they're committed to strengthening the evidence base.

They plan to pony up \$1.4-million, which in the world of research is little more than chump change.

Much more will be needed for the kind of broad studies that will now be possible, into the good, the bad and the potential ugly.

We want to see data. Track cannabis use after legalization: the health ramifications, as well as the social costs and benefits.

Drug use and misuse in all forms, whether it's too many smart cocktails, mind-numbing prescription opiates, addiction or cannabis smoking, vaping or snacking, is a health issue. One that needs adequate funding to address.

So we expect to see CCBO profits put into quality science, research and health care.



Marijuana education needed

As a grandparent I am deeply concerned by the thought of children accidentally ingesting edible marijuana products.

It is very normal for children to share treats at school from home. But, what if those treats accidentally contain marijuana?

What about the wee little ones who reach up to the counter for marijuana laced candy or baked goods parents/caregivers may have left out.

We need to be very conscious of these potential tragedies before we go ahead with the legalization of marijuana.

Perhaps we need to put mass public education in place regarding our most vulnerable citizens. I feel we

● MORE ONLINE

Read all our published letters at theifp.ca

need to start a group called GRAM — Grandparents Revolt Against Marijuana.

Marlane Tibbs

Safety checks too costly

The new onerous safety check laws are hurting low-income drivers who are being taken advantage of by unscrupulous mechanics, or lack of mechanics to certify perfectly good cars that can still be reused by low-income drivers.

My poor elderly father can't find a car for \$500 anymore and has unfairly been ticketed by our "Finest" (Not).

Police services are also a big waste of taxpayer money.

Please lighten up safety check laws on used cars.

Prices of safety checks are way too high and hurting low-income drivers.

Joe Demarco

Pedestrians are also responsible for their lives: reader

I just read your article on saving pedestrians from bad drivers. I agree 100 per cent that there are plenty of bad drivers on our roads. But from my point of view there are just as many people out there who take foolish, dangerous chances when they cross our streets.

I'll share one quick experience with you. I was on

ABOUT US



The Georgetown Independent & Free Press, published every Thursday, is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. The Metroland family of newspapers is comprised of more than 80 community publications across Ontario.



The Independent & Free Press is a member of the National NewsMedia Council. Complainants are urged to bring their concerns to the attention of the newspaper and, if not satisfied, write The National NewsMedia Council, Suite 200, 890 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M4W 2H2. Phone: 416-340-1981 Web: www.mediacouncil.ca



newsroom@theifp.ca
[IndependentAndFreePress](https://www.facebook.com/IndependentAndFreePress)
[@IFP_11](https://twitter.com/@IFP_11)

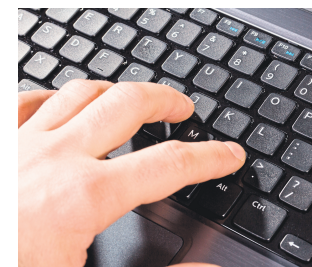
• LETTERS & COMMENTARY •

Highway 7 recently by the new subway station. I had the green right turn arrow. As I proceeded to make my turn a bunch of people walked out onto the road against the light. When I blew my horn the response I got was the middle finger salute.

Simply put, people need to learn how to cross the street.

Lou Renzo

Letters to the Editor



See what our readers are saying about the issues that matter to them. www.theifp.ca/letters

CONTACT US

The Independent & Free Press
 280 Guelph Street, Unit 77
 Georgetown, ON L7G 4B1
 Phone: 905-873-0301
 Classifieds: 905-234-1016
 Fax: 905-873-0398

Letters to the editor
 All letters must be fewer than 200 words and include your name and telephone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit, condense or reject letters.

Delivery
 For all delivery inquiries, please e-mail ssoles@metroland.com or call 905-234-1019.



WHO WE ARE

Publisher
 Neil Oliver
General Manager
 Steve Foreman
Retail Advertising Manager
 Cindi Campbell

Regional Managing Editor
 Chris Vernon
Regional Managing Digital Editor
 Robyn Wilkinson
Distribution Representative
 Ioulia Polar

Classified/Real Estate
 Kristie Pells
Regional Production Manager
 Manuel Garcia
Production
 Shelli Harrison