



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-01066**

BY: **Ms. MALCOLMSON (NANAIMO-LADYSMITH)**

DATE: **DECEMBER 13, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE KENT HEHR**

Response by the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

CANNABIS

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The mental health and well-being of Veterans and their families is a priority for Veterans Affairs Canada. On November 22, 2016, a new reimbursement policy on cannabis for medical purposes was announced. The new policy establishes a reimbursement limit of three grams per day of cannabis for medical purposes sold by licensed producers or the equivalent value in fresh marijuana or cannabis oil. Veterans Affairs Canada's new reimbursement policy for cannabis for medical purposes is aligned with Health Canada's new Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations and authorized by the Veterans Health Care Regulations.

Eligible forms of cannabis include all forms that are authorized by Health Canada's Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations for sale by licensed producers (with the exception of seeds and plants). Currently, licensed producers may produce and sell dried and fresh marijuana, and cannabis oil.

While Veterans and others report that cannabis is beneficial in reducing their symptoms, including the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, cannabis for medical purposes is not an approved therapeutic drug and more research is required to determine the therapeutic benefits and side effects of medical marijuana use.

Veterans Affairs Canada continues to monitor developments in research, and medical practice, and experience of Veterans, and an expert advisory committee will be established to advise on policy improvements.