

Scott Reid, MP — Lanark—Frontenac—Kingston

Cast your vote on Bill C-45 :

# THE CANNABIS ACT

( MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION )

CONSTITUENCY REFERENDUM # 9

*Ottawa*

440-C Centre Block  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
Tel.: 613-947-2277  
Fax: 613-947-2278  
Scott.Reid@parl.gc.ca



*Constituency*

1-105 Dufferin Street  
Perth ON, K7H 3A5

224 Bridge Street  
Carleton Place, ON K7C 3G9  
Tel: 613-257-8130  
Fax: 613-257-4371

Dear Constituent,

I am asking you to instruct me whether I should vote in favour of, or against, the legalization of marijuana, when the issue comes before the House of Commons this autumn.

The *Cannabis Act* (Bill C-45) would amend Canada's laws to legalize the recreational use of marijuana (also known as cannabis). The law also allows Canadians to possess up to 30 grams (just over one ounce) of marijuana. Persons possessing a larger quantity could be fined. The bill also permits Canadians to grow up to four marijuana plants per residence.

Bill C-45 also proposes a highly regulated supply chain for marijuana retail sales, with penalties---including imprisonment---for unlicensed sales to adults. Additionally, penalties for sales to minors would be increased: imprisonment for up to 14 years. (Under Ontario law, selling alcohol to a minor is punishable by a maximum of one year in prison.)

Bill C-45 leaves many details to be regulated by provincial governments. Ontario's provincial government has announced that marijuana will be sold by the province in LCBO-style stores, and also through a government-run website.

As some of you may know, I have long advocated the legalization of marijuana, publishing my views on the subject in 2001. Indeed, I have been a far more consistent advocate of legalization than Justin Trudeau, who consumed marijuana himself privately, while publicly advocating criminal sanctions against Canadians who consume cannabis. (Mr. Trudeau became an advocate for legalization in 2013, shortly after his personal use of cannabis became public knowledge.)

While I broadly support marijuana legalization, I do have reservations regarding Bill C-45. The bill lets each province choose the age at which marijuana can be legally consumed, and Ontario's provincial government proposes to set that age at 19. In my view, an age limit of 21 would be a better way of preventing "pot tourism"---American teens coming across the border to engage in behaviour that their own federal government regards as criminal. This would also line up with the Canadian Medical Association's recommendation that the age be set at 21 because the brain is still developing at that age.

I also support a system known as "Local Option": local governments should have the ability, via their zoning laws, to determine where marijuana sales outlets will be permitted, or to ban such outlets entirely. This is similar to the system that Ontario used when it ended alcohol prohibition eighty years ago. This is a better way to respect community preferences than the province's odd proposal to set up an entire network of provincially-run marijuana dispensaries.

These, however, are merely my own views. It is you---the People---who ought to be making the final decision. After nearly two decades as an MP, I still don't see any evidence that Canada's elected representatives are wiser than its citizens. So it is appropriate that on really important questions, it is you who should be telling me how to act, rather than the other way around.

This is the ninth Constituency Referendum that I have held since 2001. I am asking you to instruct me how to vote on Bill C-45 when it makes its final appearance in the House of Commons at "Third Reading".

I am also asking you about the Ontario government's decision to set the legal age for marijuana consumption at 19. I can't vote in the Ontario legislature, but I can pass on your views to your provincial MPP, so that your views will be heard at Queen's Park.

Only ballots received prior to the Third Reading vote can be taken into account, so please mail yours as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Reid'.

Bill C-45 : *The Cannabis Act (Marijuana Legalization)*

# For Bill C-45

"Fewer than half of the tens of thousands of people arrested annually for pot-related crimes are convicted, which suggests a vast waste of police resources. And those who are convicted end up with criminal records that can affect jobs, foreign travel, even citizenship - punishments that in most cases far outweigh the crime, and which drastically increase the likelihood of future, more serious criminality."

—**Editorial, *Toronto Star*, April 13, 2017**

"A significant advantage of legalization is the opportunity for cannabis users to obtain reliable, accurate information about: a) the cannabis product itself (e.g. its strain, potency and psychoactive properties); and b) the risks and how to moderate them. But a distinction must be drawn between factual product information and advertising or branding that encourages consumption."

—**Dr. Benedikt Fischer and Jean-Francois Crepault, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, *Ottawa Citizen*, April 14, 2017**

"Accessing cannabis through illegal unregulated markets exposes youth to criminal environments and puts youth at risk of criminalization and the associated stigma, as has happened to tens of thousands of youth arrested for cannabis-related offences. Further, unregulated markets privilege higher-potency cannabis and have a paucity of information about products or health risks."

—**Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, Brief to Health Committee, September 2017**

"Our government committed to legalizing, strictly regulating, and restricting access to cannabis. This commitment is motivated by a recognition that Canada's existing approach to cannabis, one of criminal prohibition, is not working. It has allowed criminals and organized crime to profit, while failing to keep cannabis out of the hands of young Canadians. In many cases, it is easier for kids to buy cannabis than cigarettes or a bottle of beer..."

The current approach to cannabis has created an environment where organized crime reaps billions of dollars in profits from the sale of illicit cannabis, and thousands of Canadians end up with criminal records for non-violent minor cannabis offences each year.

A majority of Canadians no longer believe that simple possession of small amounts of cannabis should be subject to harsh criminal sanctions, which can have lifelong impacts for individuals and take up precious resources in our criminal justice system."

—**Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, M.P., Minister of Justice, House of Commons Debates, May 30, 2017**

"[Bill C-45] will allow law enforcement to focus on other, serious offences, including the distribution of cannabis to children and driving under the influence of drugs."

—**Hon. Ralph Goodale, M.P., Minister of Public Safety, The Canadian Press, April 13, 2017**

"The rationale for legalization is clear. There is ample scientific and social evidence that cannabis can be used responsibly by adults, and is a more benign substance than either tobacco or alcohol."

—**Can Battley, Executive vice-president, Aurora Cannabis Inc., Ottawa Citizen, May 1, 2017**

"Cannabis is not inherently harmful, and any risk associated with overuse is highly exaggerated. What is not exaggerated, and completely unchallenged by even the most staunch prohibitionist, is that cannabis use in Canada has risen almost 50% in the last 50 years, and general population statistics do not reflect a corresponding increase in brain damage and psychosis in youth or adults."

—**Sri Anil Sthankiya, Managing Editor, Pot TV, Brief to Health Committee, September 2017**

"Tax dollars will be generated from cannabis sales as opposed to spending considerable funds policing its illegal status. In 2002 \$500 million was spent policing the use of cannabis. (University of Ottawa, 2002.) This money can be redirected to other policing efforts... Currently the legal cannabis industry in Canada is valued over \$7 billion. The impact of this infusion is expected to increase tax contributions and build stronger local economies."

—**JB Hydroponics, Brief to Health Committee, July 31, 2017**

# Against Bill C-45

"Drawing on current evidence that suggests that the human brain appears to mature until about age 25 years, the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), in its response to the federal task force report, recommended that the minimum age of purchase and consumption be set at 21 years. Along with others, the CMA also called for restricting cannabis quantities and potency for those under the age of 25 years because higher potency increases the risk of adverse effects."

—**Dr. Diane Kelsall, Editor-in-Chief (interim), Canadian Medical Association Journal, May 29, 2017**

"Because adolescent brains continue to develop until around age 24, cannabis use may cause permanent functional and structural impairment to the brain, resulting in memory deficiency, difficulties in planning and decision making, reduce IQs and regulation of emotions. 17% of the people who begin using cannabis during adolescence develop an addiction."

—**Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, Brief to Health Committee, September 2017**

"We fear that [if Bill C-45 is enacted], organized crime groups may turn their attention to competing with the legal market by undercutting the regulated pricing scheme and attempting to infiltrate the legally regulated medical marijuana industry as a licensed producer. Furthermore, we are concerned that the Act will result in increased cannabis consumption, thereby creating an increase in demand and an opportunity for organized crime to profit from an illicit black market by trafficking cannabis with higher tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content at lower cost to the consumer."

—**Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Brief to Health Committee, September 12, 2017**

"Bill C-45 ignores the problems that have arisen in the US state of Colorado after it legalized marijuana for recreational purposes in 2013. Colorado has experienced :

- Marijuana use by Colorado youth between the ages of 12 and 17 years old increased by 20%; this was 74% higher than the national average of that age group;
- Marijuana use of university age youths increased by 17%;
- Marijuana use by adults age 26+ years old increased 63% in comparison to an increase nationally of 21%;
- In 2014 when retail marijuana businesses began operating in Colorado, there was a 32% increase in marijuana related traffic deaths. During the same period of time, all traffic deaths increased by only 8%. Marijuana related traffic deaths were approximately 20% of all traffic deaths;
- There was a 29% increase in the number of marijuana related emergency room visits in 2014 and a 38% increase in the number of marijuana related hospitalizations...

The federal Task Force also recommended that individuals be allowed to possess 30 grams of marijuana and be permitted to cultivate marijuana for non-medical purposes providing it is limited to four plants per residence, and has the maximum height limit of 100 centimeters. This provision will be impossible to monitor."

—**REAL Women Canada, Brief to Health Committee, August 18, 2017**

"Ottawa is giving its explicit seal of approval... to a commercial product it has explicitly stated it believes the public should not consume. The state will exert enormous effort protecting the public for the risk they have willingly exposed them to, efforts which will only become more bossy and frantic as proof of pot's dangerousness accumulates. Anti-pot laws and medical marijuana regulations which are barely being enforced at present will be swapped for an incoherent, unprofitable web of regulations that will please neither drug users nor those anticipating some great libertarian transformation of their society."

—**J.J. McCullough, Hamilton Spectator, April 17, 2017**

"So let me get this straight. In order to keep the drug out of the hands of children, we are going to first legalize it and make it fully socially acceptable. Then we are going to offer it for sale throughout our communities and make it part of our social fabric.... I forgot to add that the government is also going to tax the marijuana."

—**John Milloy, former Ontario Liberal MPP and minister, Waterloo Region Record, December 20, 2016**

"SARM has serious concerns about the implications of cannabis legalization on impaired driving... Therefore, SARM believes it is paramount that a regime and techniques be established to identify drug impairment before cannabis is legalized."

—**Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Brief to Health Committee, July 31, 2017**

## For Bill C-45

"CNA supports the passing of Bill C-45 and believes that legalization is an excellent option for addressing the harms of cannabis. Legalization can support the regulation of quality, dose and potency while minimizing social harms and the costs of prohibition. In addition, legalization can improve access to related research into potential harms or medical benefits... Each year, Canada spends more than a billion dollars to enforce cannabis possession laws, arresting about "60,000 Canadians for simple possession, [which is] nearly 3% of all arrests... At least 500,000 Canadians carry a criminal record for this offense." Legalization should remove significant social harms and also remove costs associated with prohibition."

—**Canadian Nurses Association (CNA),  
Brief to Health Committee, August 2017,  
(quoting Jean-Francois Crepault)**

## Against Bill C-45

"If Bill C-45 imposes prohibitive regulations, the so-called "black market" for cannabis will continue to exist. The only way to eliminate the "black market" in cannabis is to create inclusive, accessible legislation that will allow peaceful, non-violent members of the existing cannabis industry to come out of the shadows of prohibition and into the light of legalization."

—**Jodie Emery, pro-cannabis activist,  
Brief to Health Committee, August 17, 2017**

"This is not legalization. It's Prohibition 2.0, and beneficiaries include licensed producers who have managed to effectively lobby – and even hire – Liberal marijuana task force members and government officials. "

—**Jodie Emery, pro-cannabis activist,  
Ottawa Citizen, April 17, 2017**

## Further information on Bill C-45

For more information on Bill C-45 including links to Parliamentary and third-party information and sites, please visit:

[www.scottreid.ca/BillC-45](http://www.scottreid.ca/BillC-45)

## Voting rules

- 1) Each REGISTERED VOTER in the household may vote once on Ballot #1 and once on Ballot #2.
- 2) Voters may choose to vote on one ballot and not the other; these votes will still be counted.
- 3) Ballots will be reviewed against the current Elections Canada voter's list. If more votes per ballot are cast than the number of voters residing at that address, all of the votes will be disregarded. (However, there is no requirement that all voters residing at an address participate, in order for the ballot to be counted).
- 4) To prevent multiple voting, please give your name(s) and address below. By law, your information cannot be divulged to anyone. For security, ballots will be destroyed following the vote in the House of Commons.
- 5) The results will be made public prior to the vote in the Commons, unless the government rushes the date of the vote.

Up to four registered voters in your home may vote. Only Canadian citizens over age 18, please!

### Question #1: Should Scott Reid, MP vote for Bill C-45 — *The Cannabis Act*?

VOTER #1

Yes

No

VOTER #2

Yes

No

VOTER #3

Yes

No

VOTER #4

Yes

No

*Please answer question #2, regardless how you voted above.*

**Ontario's Government plans to make it lawful to consume cannabis at age 19.**

### Question #2: Is 19 the right age?

VOTER #1

No, younger (18)

Yes, 19 is good.

No, older (eg 21)

VOTER #2

No, younger (18)

Yes, 19 is good.

No, older (eg 21)

VOTER #3

No, younger (18)

Yes, 19 is good.

No, older (eg 21)

VOTER #4

No, younger (18)

Yes, 19 is good.

No, older (eg 21)

ADDRESS (Include Postal Code):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAMES OF VOTING RESIDENTS:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

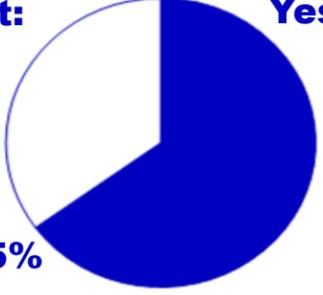
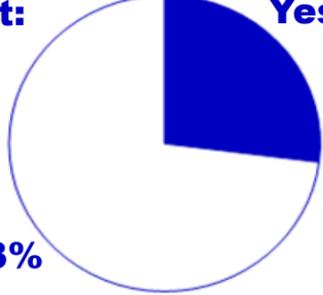
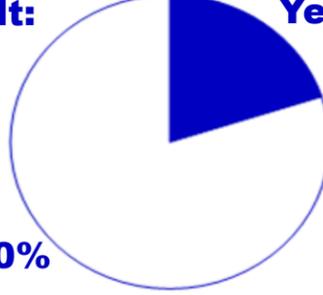
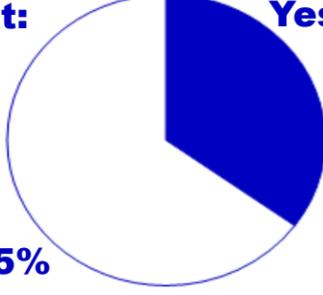
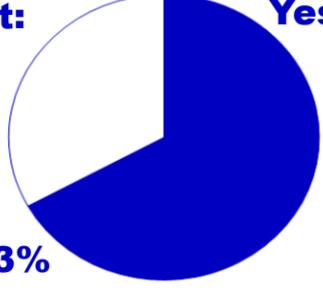
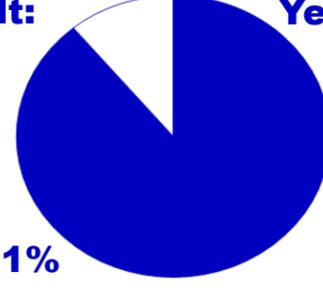
EMAIL:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Results from previous constituency referenda

<p><b>Referendum # 2 (October, 2001)</b> Should Scott Reid, MP vote for the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (Bill C-5)?</p>	<p><b>Referendum # 3 (November, 2001)</b> Should Scott Reid, MP vote for the <i>Anti-Terrorism Act</i> (Bill C-36) if it does not contain a sunset clause?</p>	<p><b>Referendum # 5 (February, 2005)</b> Should Scott Reid, MP vote for the <i>Civil Marriage Act</i> (Bill C-38)?</p>
<p><b>Result:</b>  <b>Yes: 65%</b> <b>No: 35%</b></p>	<p><b>Result:</b>  <b>Yes: 27%</b> <b>No: 73%</b></p>	<p><b>Result:</b>  <b>Yes: 20%</b> <b>No: 80%</b></p>
<p><b>Action: Scott Reid voted FOR Bill C-5.</b></p>	<p><b>Action: Scott Reid voted AGAINST Bill C-36.</b></p>	<p><b>Action: Scott Reid voted AGAINST Bill C-38.</b></p>
<p><b>Referendum # 6 (August, 2012)</b> Should Scott Reid, MP vote in favour of Motion M-312 to reopen the abortion debate?</p>	<p><b>Referendum # 7 (May, 2016)</b> Should Scott Reid, MP vote for Bill C-14, the <i>Medical Assistance in Dying Act</i>?</p>	<p><b>Referendum # 8 (September, 2016)</b> Before changing how we elect our MPs, should the government hold a referendum to get the approval of Canadians?</p>
<p><b>Result:</b>  <b>Yes: 35%</b> <b>No: 65%</b></p>	<p><b>Result:</b>  <b>Yes: 67%</b> <b>No: 33%</b></p>	<p><b>Result:</b>  <b>Yes: 89%</b> <b>No: 11%</b></p>
<p><b>Action: Scott Reid voted AGAINST M-312.</b></p>	<p><b>Action: Scott Reid voted FOR Bill C-14.</b></p>	<p><b>Action: Scott Reid convinced a special committee to call for a referendum.</b></p>

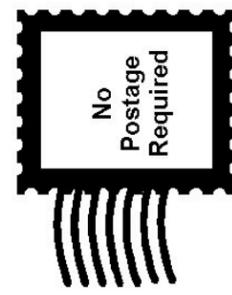
**Vote on C-45**

**The Cannabis Act**

TAPe HERE

TAPe HERE

FOLD HERE



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: ON  
 Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Scott Reid, MP**  
 440-C Centre Block  
 House of Commons  
 Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6