



Marijuana Use in Canada

by Reginald W. Bibby

Widespread Support of Marijuana Use for Medical Reasons

No less than 93% of Canadians accept the idea of people legally using marijuana for health purposes, according to a recent national survey carried out by sociologist Reginald Bibby of the University of Lethbridge. The vast majority of such people say they both approve and accept the idea (70%), while the remainder disapprove in principle, yet nonetheless are willing to accept such a practice (23%).

The finding is noteworthy in light of the Supreme Court's ruling today that Alberta marijuana activist, Grant Krieger, was deprived of his constitutional right to a jury trial when his trial judgment instructed jurors to find him guilty. Krieger, who has multiple sclerosis, is an advocate of the use of marijuana for medical purposes.

Bibby's survey, completed in late 2005 and reported in his new book, *The Boomer Factor*, further found that only 29% of Canadians personally approve of the recreational use of marijuana. However, another 34% are willing to accept people using the drug – bringing the total of acceptance with or without approval to 63%.

The survey of 2,400 Canadians provides results that are accurate within approximately three percentage points of the population figures, 19 times in 20.

Question wording: "What is your personal response to..."

People legally using marijuana for medicinal (health) purposes

Approve and accept 70%, disapprove but accept 23%, disapprove and do not accept 7%

People using marijuana for recreational purposes

Approve and accept 29%, disapprove but accept 34%, disapprove and do not accept 37%

Media contacts: Bob Cooney, Communications Office, University of Lethbridge
(403) 382-7173 or cell (403) 330-4609 robert.cooney@uleth.ca

Reginald Bibby
(403) 381-0151 bibby@uleth.ca website www.reginaldbibby.com

Reginald Bibby holds the Board of Governors Research Chair in Sociology at the University of Lethbridge. He has been monitoring Canadian social trends since the mid-1970s, making his findings available through a large number of media and personal appearances and ten best-selling books. His most recent book, *The Boomer Factor: What Canada's Most Famous Generation is Leaving Behind*, was released in October of 2006. Details on Bibby and his work can be found at "reginaldbibby.com".