

Marijuana Bill

The government supports more lenient laws regarding the use and possession of marijuana and have introduced a Bill to amend the Law with respect to possession and production of marijuana.

This Bill establishes a new system of fines for **possession of marijuana**.

- Possession of 15 grams or less of marijuana is punishable by a fine of \$150 for an adult and \$100 for a youth (12-18)
- Possession of one gram or less of cannabis resin is punishable by a fine of \$300 for an adult and \$200 for a youth.
- For possession of between 15 grams and 30 grams of marijuana, a police officer would have the discretion to issue a ticket or a summons for a summary conviction. The ticket fine would be \$300 for an adult and \$200 for youth.



Issues:

- By effectively decriminalizing possession of 30 grams of marijuana have the Liberals made it easier for traffickers to operate? 30 grams can provide as many as 60 joints of marijuana and has a street value of \$300.
- Does having a lighter fine for young people than adults send the wrong message? On one hand the Liberals are saying they are trying to prevent youth from using drugs and on the other they are effectively eliminating any real penalty for them to do so. How will 12 year olds in grade 6 pay the fines?
- No resources have been provided for police to crack down on organized crime that is profiting from lax enforcement. Will this legislation increase demand for marijuana and therefore make the illegal production and distribution of marijuana even more lucrative for organized crime?

Do you think the government should change the current laws by decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana? Yes ___ No ___

Should there be different levels of fines as between youth and adults? Yes ___ No ___

Is the government's limit of possession to 30 grams too high? Yes ___ No ___

Response and comments attached to questions raised with respect to agriculture. Yes ___ No ___

Please note any brief comments or suggestions below:
