

CANNABIS CANADIANA

From the first crop
to the dark history of prohibition.
From medicine to music.
Agriculture to counterculture.

Canada's most interesting
plant has a tale to tell.



- 1 Before Europeans arrived in North America, Indigenous people eat hemp seeds and make items like rope, fishing line, nets and slings from hemp.
- 2 1535 - In present-day Quebec City, Jacques Cartier discovers "as good a hemp as that of France, which comes up without sowing or tilling it."
- 3 1606 - Louis Hébert, Parisian botanist and apothecary, plants first hemp crop in Canada.
- 4 1668 - Quebec administrator Jean Talon forces settlers to grow hemp for textile exports.
- 5 1790 - Britain offers free cannabis seeds to Quebec farmers. Only 15 accept.
- 6 Until the 19th century - Hemp is frequently used for ship-building material like canvas sails, rigging, anchor cables, nets and fishing line.
- 7 Early 1800s - Britain begins encouraging Canadian settlers to grow hemp to reduce dependence on foreign markets. The Canadian government creates the Board for the Encouragement of the Cultivation of Hemp in 1802.
- 8 1892 - William Osler, the John Hopkins Hospital co-founder writes in 1892 that "Cannabis Indica is probably the most satisfactory remedy for migraines."
- 9 1897 - Nova Scotia Medical Association president F.W. Goodwin says cannabis enhances sexual pleasure and gives consumers a feeling "as if [they] had heard good tidings of great joy."
- 10 1908 - Prejudice toward Chinese immigrants, including railroad workers, influences the *Opium Act*, setting the stage for cannabis prohibition.
- 11 1922 - Emily Murphy's book *The Black Candle* kindles anti-cannabis sentiment.
- 12 1923 - Under the Narcotics Drug Act Amendment Bill, cannabis is added to the Confidential Restricted List and criminalized.
- 13 1923 - Hemp demand is waning, but the Canadian government continues to incentivize domestic production. The government-financed Manitoba Cordage Company becomes Canada's seventh hemp mill.
- 14 1936 - Propaganda film *Reefer Madness* chronicles fictional high school students' drug-induced descent into madness, demonizing cannabis and aiming to scare American youth.
- 15 1938 - Hemp production is criminalized under the *Opium and Narcotic Drug Act*.
- 16 1940s - Tens of thousands of Vietnam War draft dodgers arrive in B.C., contributing to the cannabis industry and counterculture.
- 17 Ample rainfall, fertile soil, hot summers and cool autumns give B.C. the ideal growing climate.
- 18 Tommy Chong: Born in Edmonton, he attends school in Calgary and later meets draft dodger Cheech Marin in Vancouver. They create Cheech & Chong.
- 19 Ian Tyson: The country music legend supposedly introduces Bob Dylan to cannabis. Dylan later introduces it to The Beatles.
- 20 1985 - Resin scrapings of 500-year-old pipes containing hemp and tobacco are discovered in Ontario.
- 21 Leonard Cohen uses medical cannabis while recording his final record, *You Want It Darker*.
- 22 Gord Downie: The late Tragically Hip vocalist sings the praises of cannabis. Legalization falls on the one-year anniversary of his passing.
- 23 August 2018 - Canada makes it legal to harvest hemp flowers, buds and leaves, which had been illegal since 1998.
- 24 October 17, 2018 - *The Cannabis Act* goes into effect, legalizing recreational use of cannabis.
- 25 Saskatchewan leads Canada in hemp production, in both the number of industrial licences and the hectares used for cultivation.
- 26 With no cap on retail licences, Alberta is expected to lead the retail cannabis sector. No single entity can hold over 15% of total retail licences.
- 27 25% of Albertans who use cannabis are registered medical cannabis patients - the largest proportion in Canada. Alberta has about nine times more medical cannabis patients than B.C.
- 28 Currently there's only one retail store in Yukon, located in Whitehorse.
- 29 The North has the highest medical cannabis costs in Canada.
- 30 Communities in the North can vote to ban cannabis sales and consumption. There are six "dry" communities in the Northwest Territories, one in Yukon and 13 in Nunavut that ban intoxicants.
- 31 The territories rely on imports, and equipment and supplies have to be flown in more frequently as ice roads melt earlier every year.
- 32 Online cannabis sales in the Northwest Territories only serve areas without liquor stores.
- 33 Population density in Nunavut is 0.02 per square kilometre (the Canadian average is 3.9).
- 34 Surrarnaq: Inuktitut term for cannabis.
- 35 In many regions, landlords and condo boards will have the right to prohibit consuming or growing cannabis in their buildings.
- 36 Edibles and concentrates will be legal within a year of cannabis legalization.

Legal age of use
 Up to 4 home grown plants permitted
 No home grown plants permitted
 Use permitted on private property and in public*
 Use permitted on private property only

*RESTRICTIONS ON BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC CONSUMPTION VARY BY PROVINCE. FIND OUT WHAT'S PERMITTED IN YOUR COMMUNITY.