

# **Canada Trumps USA: Approves Cannabis-Based Medicine**

On April 19, 2005, the Canadian government gave conditional approval to prescription sale of a medicine made from extracts of marijuana plants ingested as an oral spray.

While the US blocked privately-funded research, a British pharmaceutical company developed a cannabis extract spray that supplements existing non-smoking delivery systems such as vaporization.

The risks versus the benefits of alternative methods need to be established. But the US government is obstructing the science<sup>1</sup> because it fears the results will demonstrate an acceptable risk/benefit ratio even for smoked marijuana.

This research would be welcomed by the 14,600,000<sup>2</sup> Americans who currently use marijuana socially or medically.

It is time our officials take off their "drug war" blinders and recognize marijuana for what it is: a natural, relatively benign substance that can help bring relief to millions.

**Common Sense for Drug Policy**  
**[www.CommonSenseDrugPolicy.org](http://www.CommonSenseDrugPolicy.org) [www.DrugWarFacts.org](http://www.DrugWarFacts.org)**  
**[www.AddictInTheFamily.org](http://www.AddictInTheFamily.org)**  
**Mike Gray, Chair; Robert Field, Co-Chair**

1. For additional information, please visit [www.maps.org/mmj/mmjfacility.html](http://www.maps.org/mmj/mmjfacility.html)

2. 2003 [www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov/nhsda/2k3nsduh/2k3ResultsW.pdf](http://www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov/nhsda/2k3nsduh/2k3ResultsW.pdf) Page 11