

CP – September 29th, 2013

OTTAWA -- Facts and figures on the medical marijuana regime in Canada, which is changing rules by March 31, 2014, to encourage large private-sector growers:

- Current number of medical marijuana users approved by Health Canada: 37,359, up from 477 in 2002.
- Number of patients with personal licences to grow marijuana for themselves: 25,600 (ends March 31, 2014)
- Number of growers licenced to produce marijuana for a maximum of two patients each: 4,200 (ends March 31, 2014)
- Current number of entrepreneur applications to grow medical marijuana under new rules allowing larger facilities: 156
- Health Canada's current price for medical marijuana produced under contract: \$5 a gram (government sales end March 31, 2014)
- Health Canada's projection of profitable private-sector price in 2014 after the new free-market kicks in: \$7.60
- Projection of average price as market matures in several years: \$8.80
- Advertised price of products of CannaMed, the first licensed distributor in the new system: \$9 to \$12 a gram
- Current estimated cost of black-market dried marijuana purchased on the street: \$10 to \$15 a gram
- Projected total additional cost to all approved patients as a result of the new system: \$166 million a year for 10 years
- Health Canada projection of number of approved medical marijuana patients in 2014: up to 58,000
- Projection of number of patients by 2024: Up to 450,000
- Sales projections for the new industry by 2024: \$1.3 billion a year.