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ISSUE 84

# HIGH! CANADA MAGAZINE



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**BRETT JOHNSTON**  
**ON BEING A BETTER CULTIVATOR**



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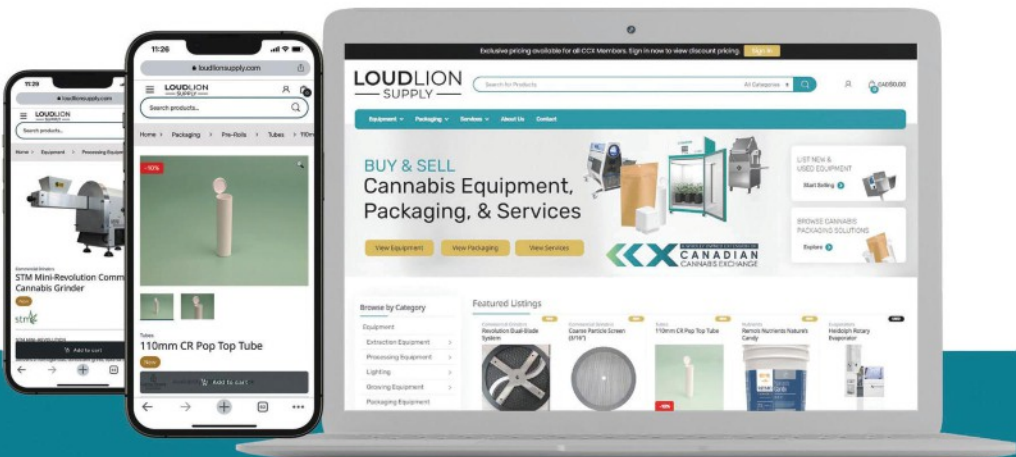
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# HIGH! CANADA MAGAZINE

ISSUE 84 - EARLY MAY 2023

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Driven by a balanced approach to ensuring responsible cannabis choices and creating positive cannabis experiences for Canadians, HCM strives to inform and educate our readers.

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# HIGH! CANADA MAGAZINE

## Editor's Notes by Cy Williams

Awesome Artwork in this Editorial by Tracy Pshyk - Snow and Swirl Artistry

**W**elcome to Spring 2023! The month of May always brings great excitement to the Canadian cannabis industry. From the Global Marijuana March that happens around the world to the arrival of cannabis conference and expo season - May always brings with it the hope and promise of activity and community.

As the Canadian cannabis industry continues to proliferate, Alberta proves to be a significant player in the burgeoning sector. With its strategic location and promising regulatory landscape, the province has been drawing attention from investors and growers alike.

One of the factors that make Alberta stand out is its supportive community of cannabis enthusiasts. These individuals have been actively promoting awareness and acceptance of the plant, which has helped to create

a more inclusive environment for the industry to thrive. Along with this supportive community, the province has remarkable cultivators who are producing top-quality cannabis products for the Canadian market.

As the countdown to the Growup Conference in Edmonton on May 28-30, 2023, begins, we can expect a gathering of cannabis professionals, enthusiasts, and industry insiders. The conference is set to provide a platform for thought-provoking discussions, new product introductions, and the latest innovations in the industry.

Moreover, a special event on the evening of May 28th will make this conference even more memorable. We are excited to welcome 150 guests to join us and celebrate the growth and success of the Canadian cannabis industry. This event will provide an excellent opportunity to network and connect with like-minded individuals



within the sector. The cannabis industry in Canada is flourishing, and Alberta is playing an essential role in this growth. With the support of its community, outstanding cultivators, and upcoming events like the Growup Conference, the prospects for the industry are bright and optimistic. As we look forward to the future of this industry, we are thrilled to be a part of the growth and development of the Edmonton cannabis community.

Awesome Artwork in this Editorial by By Tracy Pshyk - Snow and Swirl Artistry - If you are interested in getting a custom painting done by her, please email her or message her on Instagram or Facebook. She is always taking commissions and would love to make you an awesome piece of art!

Please remember to have a good time, enjoy the plant, enjoy your community and please consume responsibly!



**Cy Williams**  
**Publisher/Editor**  
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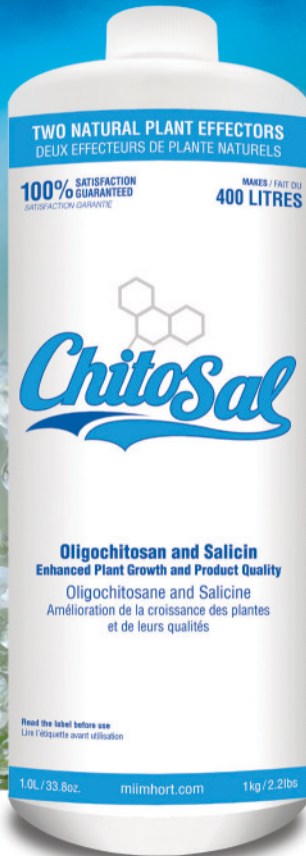




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# Lift TORONTO

JUNE 1-3, 2023



INFO & TICKETS

## LIFT EVENTS & EXPERIENCES RETURNS TO TORONTO, JUNE 1-3, 2023

The next event from Canada's #1 Cannabis Conference & Trade Show will bring together thousands of attendees from all parts of the cannabis ecosystem.

Highly anticipated and without a doubt - Toronto's hottest and most popular cannabis-centric event.

Following on the tremendous success of Lift Vancouver in January, Lift Events & Experiences will return to Toronto, showcasing even more interactive presentations from cannabis industry experts, plus the

ultimate in new cannabis brand, product and technology discovery from hundreds of premiere exhibitors.

Lift Toronto 2023, which will bring together thousands of cannabis industry professionals and consumers from all parts of the cannabis ecosystem, will take place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from June 1-3, 2023.

Speaker applications are now open and potential speakers can apply to speak at Lift Toronto here. Lift is seeking energetic disrupters and established

blue-chip industry experts, along with everyone in between, for individual and panel presentations showcasing lively, informative and sometimes provocative dialogue.

Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Activism & Advocacy
- Budtender Education
- Ethics & Society
- Funding & Investments
- Growing, Processing & Extraction Innovations
- Hemp Research & Applications
- International Market Analysis & Collaborations
- Lifestyle: Tourism, Cuisine, Entertainment
- Micro-Producers
- Psychedelics Research & Advancements
- Retail Acceleration
- Science & Technology
- Start-Ups
- Therapeutics & Treatments

If Lift Vancouver is any indication of what to expect, Lift Toronto will welcome a great many fresh faces to a buzzing expo floor. A survey following Lift Vancouver found that 50% of attendees were new to Lift and some 80% of attendees report that they will follow up with exhibitors to make a purchase, continue a conversation or pursue an opportunity.

“As we reflect on a warm, welcoming and very successful return to Vancouver, we’re also working very hard to create an unforgettable experience in Toronto,” says Lindsay Roberts,

Portfolio Lead, Lift Events & Experiences. “From speakers, panels and demos, to live entertainment and our Lift After Party, you can count on Lift Toronto to spark the important conversations and facilitate the connections that will lift the cannabis community in one of our most beloved locations.”

## Event Schedule

Lift Cannabis Business Conference | Thursday, June 1, 2023

Lift Expo Industry Days | Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3, 2023

Lift Expo Consumer Day | Saturday, June 3, 2023

## Upcoming Lift Events:

Lift San Francisco: August 2-4, 2023 | Moscone Center. San Francisco applications will open shortly, and registration for both events will open in the spring 2023.

## About Lift

Lift Events & Experiences serve the cannabis community as both a meeting place and a destination for discovery. With dates across North America, each Lift event showcases leading-edge content and premiere exhibitors in a high-energy setting for thousands of cannabis growers, processors, manufacturers, brands, budtenders, retailers, educators, advocates, regulators, consumers, investors and more – while paying tribute to the roots of this rapidly-evolving industry. Lift is proudly produced by MCI. For more information, visit [LiftEvents.com](https://LiftEvents.com).

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- Purposefully designed for 3.5" neoprene insert
- Reusable and dishwasher safe
- Hydropod included with each Hydrolid

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Visionary Hydroponics Inc. is founded by Mitchell Gorgichuk in partnership with Dennis Huntley.  
Hydrobucket is made in North America.



# SEEING THROUGH THE SMOKE

## L I F T I N T O R O N T O

**D**on't Miss It: Top 10 Experiences Coming to Lift Toronto '23. Three days of fresh and inspiring content, captivating speakers, brand discovery, networking, entertainment and so much more await attendees at Canada's #1 Cannabis Conference & Expo, June 1-3, 2023. The Lift Toronto 2023 Cannabis Conference and Expo will return to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, showcasing speakers, panels and interactive presentations, plus the ultimate in new cannabis brand, product and technology discovery from hundreds of exhibiting companies across the cannabis ecosystem. Unique attractions, activations, and Lift's signature ah-ha moments will round out three high-energy days at Canada's #1 Cannabis Conference & Expo.

1. So how can attendees make the most of their time at North America's premiere cannabis industry conference and expo? Our list of the Top 10 Can't-Miss Experiences is a great place to start:
2. Hear from Ontario Cannabis Store President & CEO David Lobo on how the OCS is enabling a vibrant cannabis marketplace.
3. Learn from worldwide experts from Germany, Uruguay, Israel, the UK, US and more at the Lift Cannabis Business Conference.
4. Check out even more innovative, disruptive, game-changing, regulations-busting and profit making content at the Expo on the Main Stage and interactive Speakers' Corners. Hot topics include International Opportunity, Cannabis & Sports Performance, Craft Cannabis,

Cannabis Tourism and a Psychedelics Update. View Programming Schedule and Meet the Speakers

5. Join Canada's top cannabis chefs for live demonstrations of out-of-this-world cookery, baking, mixology and munchie-making, at the first-ever Lift exclusive Diners' Club. View Programming Schedule and Meet the Speakers
6. Laugh out loud with a Stand-Up Comedy Show from The Noobie & The Doobie on the Main Stage, Saturday at 11 a.m.
7. Explore Lift's Discovery Neighbourhoods, including the Brand Zone and Micro Growers' Area. Explore Toronto exhibitors
8. Head over to PLAY@LIFT on the Expo Floor to enjoy games, photo ops, sweets and more.
9. Get the latest budtender training, plus special perks with the signature Lift Budtender Program. Tickets are FREE for certified Budtenders!
10. Take your networking sesh to the conveniently-located, comfortably furnished Lift Outdoor Consumption Area.

Celebrate at the Lift Official After Party\* at Steam Whistle Brewing and end Lift on a high note! \*Your Lift Cannabis Business Conference, Industry Expo or Budtender Badge is your ticket. Please note that Consumer wristbands do not grant access to the After Party.

Tickets: [www.liftexpo.ca/tickets-toronto-2023/](http://www.liftexpo.ca/tickets-toronto-2023/)

# SEEING THROUGH THE SMOKE HIGH! CHALLENGES

## CHALLENGES & BARRIERS TO ENTERING THE LEGAL CANNABIS MARKET FOR SOMEONE WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD

BY CY WILLIAMS



What are some of the challenges or hurdles faced for someone with a criminal record attempting to find work in the legal cannabis sector in Canada? It is certainly not an easy task but it is not unheard of and certainly not impossible.

It can however, be challenging for someone with a criminal record to find work in the legal cannabis sector in Canada, as most provinces require background checks before issuing licenses.

While having a criminal record may not automatically disqualify someone from obtaining a license to work in the cannabis industry, it can still present some significant barriers.

Firstly, certain types of criminal records can make it difficult to obtain a security clearance, which is often required for jobs in the cannabis industry. For example, if

someone has been convicted of drug trafficking, it may be more challenging to obtain a security clearance.

Additionally, some provinces may have more stringent requirements than others, which can impact an individual's ability to find work in the sector.

It's also worth noting that while cannabis is legal in Canada, there is still some stigma associated with the plant. Some employers may be hesitant to hire someone with a criminal record, even if they have been rehabilitated and are not a risk to the business.

However, there are resources available to help individuals with criminal records find work in the cannabis industry.

For example, some organizations offer training programs and apprenticeships specifically for





individuals with criminal records, providing them with the skills and experience needed to succeed in the industry.

Additionally, some companies may be more welcoming to hiring individuals with criminal records and many have implemented policies that take into account an individual's rehabilitation and may offer them employment opportunities.

Overall, finding work in the legal cannabis sector with a criminal record can be challenging, but it's not impossible. It may require patience, persistence, and a willingness to seek out specialized programs and organizations that can provide support in finding work in the industry.

In Canada, the process of expunging or pardoning cannabis

criminal records since legalization has been slow and somewhat limited.

In 2018, the Canadian government passed Bill C-45, which legalized cannabis for recreational use. As part of this legislation, the government announced plans to introduce legislation to allow for the expungement of criminal records for possession of small amounts of cannabis.

However, to date, no legislation has been introduced, and the process of obtaining a pardon or record suspension is still available, but it remains a lengthy and complex process.

In 2019, the government took a step forward by announcing that it would be waiving the \$631 fee for pardons of simple cannabis possession. This waiver makes it



easier and more affordable for individuals to apply for a pardon for simple cannabis possession.

Regarding possession charges, the number of reported cannabis offenses has declined since legalization.

According to Statistics Canada, the total number of cannabis offenses reported to police decreased by 18% in 2019, compared to the previous year, primarily due to a drop in possession offenses. Following legalization, possession of small amounts of cannabis (up to 30 grams) is legal, and individuals caught possessing more than the

legal limit can still face criminal charges.

While the Canadian government has made some efforts to address cannabis possession charges and criminal records, much remains to be done.

Expunging or pardoning cannabis possession records has been slow and limited.

The number of reported cannabis offenses has declined since legalization, and the government's waiving of the pardon fee aims to make obtaining pardons accessible to more people.

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# SEEING THROUGH THE SMOKE HIGH IN ALBERTA



**T**he cannabis industry in Alberta is growing rapidly, with many brands and retail stores emerging. There are also a number of microprocessors and licensed producers showcasing some of Canada's best concentrates.

Recent events like the Kind Fair in Calgary and the upcoming Growup Conference and Canadian Cannabis Cup are certainly illustrating that the

cannabis space is evolving. These events provide a platform for businesses in the industry to showcase their latest products and innovations.

According to the Alberta Gaming, Liquor, and Cannabis Commission (AGLC), there are currently 137 cannabis brands available to consumers, and that number is growing all the time. The AGLC is the regulatory body governing the

sale and distribution of cannabis in Alberta.

The growth of the cannabis industry in Alberta has created new job opportunities and contributed to the economy. The industry is also generating massive tax revenue for the government. How that revenue will be spent itself is a question but it is this writer's highest hopes that it is put back into this blossoming sector.

However, it's important to note that the cannabis industry is still regulated, and there are strict requirements for businesses operating in this space. These include licensing, product testing, and packaging and labeling compliance, among other things.

Overall, the cannabis industry in Alberta appears to be thriving, and it will be interesting to see how it evolves over time.

One particular thing to note about Alberta is that in order to work in the retail sector, all licensed retail cannabis store staff must have **SellSafe** certification prior to applying to AGLC to be a Qualified Cannabis Worker.

SellSafe is a mandatory social responsibility training program designed to help retail cannabis staff understand what their responsibilities are to their customers. The program also helps workers understand what Alberta's cannabis laws and AGLC's policies are so they can follow them. These rules are in place to help protect



people working in the cannabis industry, their property, their customers and the public from cannabis-related harms.

SellSafe certification is mandatory for the following full- and part-time staff:

- Licensed premises owners who are responsible for directly managing a retail cannabis store;
- Licensed premises managers, supervisors, retailers, and cashiers;
- Security staff (directly employed or contracted by the licensee); and
- Direct supervisors of employees of a company contracted to provide security.

SellSafe is also mandatory for all managers, supervisors and all employees of a cannabis representative involved in the marketing, promotion and sales of a cannabis supplier's products.



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A man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a dark cap with 'RVCA' on it and brown overalls, stands in a field of lush green cannabis plants. The plants are tall and have serrated leaves. The background shows more of the field and some trees under a bright sky.

# HIGH! CANADA MAGAZINE

**THE FUTURE IS ORGANIC!  
BRETT JOHNSTON  
ON BEING A BETTER CULTIVATOR**

BY CY WILLIAMS



**W**e are so pleased to finally be featuring **l e g e n d a r y** generational cannabis grower, extractor and staunch organics spokesperson - Brett Johnston.

Growing up on a farm in central Alberta, tinkering in the shop or helping his mom in the gardens is where you would have found Brett. From a young age he was always interested in some form of farming, fixing or creating.

His career as a B-Pressure pipeline began early at age 18 fresh out of high school. While chasing the almighty dollar and building a life for him and his son Cash in the oilfield Brett was also keen on cultivating his own medicine. As the years went on and his work began to take on a lot more in depth research and

experience he dove into the world of plant nutrition. First off searching for the cleanest additives and most organic eco friendly fertilizers and then diving even deeper into the process of learning how to feed the medicine aspect of the plant itself being the trichome and cannabinoid development beyond synthetic fertilizers which has led us to Humblebees Botanical Supply.

Brett, you represent the very best that Craft in Canada has to offer. Where did you start and what kind of road did you have to take to get here?

My journey into the cannabis cultivation world was a self discovered project that I decided to do after an accident when I was 19. Ending up with an eye condition



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8% Organic Nitrogen	4.8%
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that left scar tissue scattered across my retinas I was facing severe migraines daily and as a welder it was beginning to affect my career.

The first few years were nothing short of a disaster as I only tried outdoor cultivation, which anyone in Alberta knows is a waste of time if you're looking for finished product of quality.

As I began to invest in small indoor grow equipment I could see the quality increase and like any committed grower you've met, it became a journey to perfection.

My goal and passion in life when it comes to the cannabis industry is to simplify the process of cultivating top quality cannabis and cannabis derivatives with as little input and manual labour as possible.

With help from a great group of people we have assembled at Humblebees Botanical Supply we are now in the process of bringing this to the commercial market for you to enjoy!



**Let's talk about challenges and obstacles along the way - what were some of the more pivotal ones and how did you overcome these challenges and hurdles in order to move forward?**

I believe that the biggest challenge and obstacle that we have faced and still face as consumers, cultivators and even supporters of cannabis is the stigma that still lingers through the population. If you come from a legacy standpoint there was always a fear to look over your shoulder but the

# HIGH! CANADA MAGAZINE



most disheartening experience I have seen and have also been through is knowing that all of the cultivators I know and have worked with all began for the same reason in some form or another and that was to help people in pain.

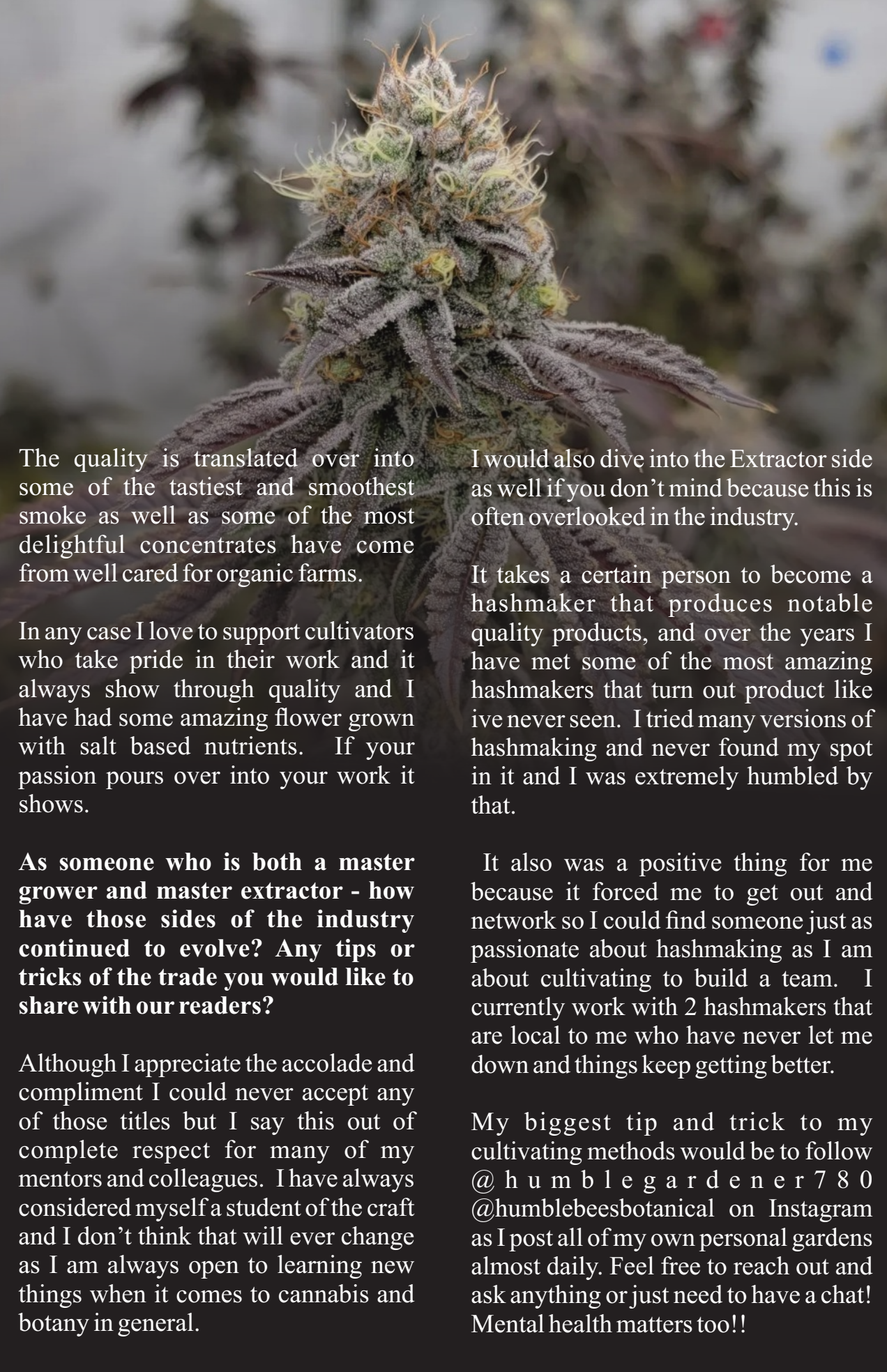
We are considered the caregivers of a certain community and a villain in another community. I believe with proper education and promotion on a public level will make far more beneficial impacts on our communities than tobacco or alcohol ever has. I also believe the powers that be are too scared of the data that this will show which is why it's such a controversial topic today.

**Let's talk about the importance of organics in cannabis cultivation?**

Organic cultivation for many years presented a lot of challenges we had to overcome for the cultivation teams. Now that we have a simple program like Bio Quality now available on the market we can introduce a facility to an fully Vegan Organic line of nutrients that works just like a conventional fertilizer. With it being 100% bio available to the plant immediately we are also able to crop steer our plants, assess and treat plant issues much faster than say a top dress solution that takes days or even weeks to notice change.



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The quality is translated over into some of the tastiest and smoothest smoke as well as some of the most delightful concentrates have come from well cared for organic farms.

In any case I love to support cultivators who take pride in their work and it always show through quality and I have had some amazing flower grown with salt based nutrients. If your passion pours over into your work it shows.

**As someone who is both a master grower and master extractor - how have those sides of the industry continued to evolve? Any tips or tricks of the trade you would like to share with our readers?**

Although I appreciate the accolade and compliment I could never accept any of those titles but I say this out of complete respect for many of my mentors and colleagues. I have always considered myself a student of the craft and I don't think that will ever change as I am always open to learning new things when it comes to cannabis and botany in general.

I would also dive into the Extractor side as well if you don't mind because this is often overlooked in the industry.

It takes a certain person to become a hashmaker that produces notable quality products, and over the years I have met some of the most amazing hashmakers that turn out product like ive never seen. I tried many versions of hashmaking and never found my spot in it and I was extremely humbled by that.

It also was a positive thing for me because it forced me to get out and network so I could find someone just as passionate about hashmaking as I am about cultivating to build a team. I currently work with 2 hashmakers that are local to me who have never let me down and things keep getting better.

My biggest tip and trick to my cultivating methods would be to follow @humblegardener780 @humblebeesbotanical on Instagram as I post all of my own personal gardens almost daily. Feel free to reach out and ask anything or just need to have a chat! Mental health matters too!!



I think many cultivators, hashmakers and legacy community personell in general are of a certain personality type and when we get together amazing things happen.

I am veering way off topic with this question but it needs to be mentioned as this topic is hot on the press as of lately. Many of us aren't into the bar scene and being around that energy but we also done have a public space for us to safely gather and create these relationships and friendships. My good friends Jeff and Vickie from Boro and Beyond are spearheading this in a bid to give cannabis consumers a safe and enjoyable environment to gather and socialize. This in turn will create a much more stable market in the cannabis industry as people can publicly and openly compare and understand what quality cannabis should be.

At the same time these places will be an inviting opportunity for someone looking to partake but nervous about the effects. This again gives that introductory consumer a safe place to experience cannabis in a controlled setting with care and compassion. If the readers are from the BC region of Canada please reach out and sign their petition and if possible show some support as this will be a monumental

introduction to see the markets finally settle and let the flower and products speak for themselves.

**Plans for the rest of 2023 and beyond?**

My plans for the rest of the 2023 season and beyond will first and foremost always be my son, we will be spending many weekends at motocross tracks across Alberta and BC pursuing his passion of racing while I continue working with amazing people, meeting new people and spreading as much education and knowledge as I can as the industry evolves. As a long term forecast from myself I will relentlessly continue to network and build with the amazing community that cannabis has created for us and promote clean, healthy and high quality cultivation practices.

**Three things you think everyone needs?**

Simple! Everyone needs at least one good friend, a good bag of weed and somewhere with an amazing view to enjoy it!

Thank you so much Cy and team, this has been a pleasure to chat with you once again and I cant wait to see you guys soon!!

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Phosphorus (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) 0.00%  
Organic Matter (N) 0.00%

#### STORAGE

Store in a cool, dry place. Do not store in  
metal containers. Do not use if the  
product has become clumpy or  
solidified.

#### WARRANTY AND LIABILITY

The manufacturer does not  
warrant the product for use in  
any application other than that  
intended. The manufacturer is not  
responsible for any damage to  
property or loss of crops caused  
by the use of this product.

#### USER INSTRUCTIONS

General Recommendations: Apply  
to plants in a 1:1 ratio with water.  
For best results, use weekly.

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**MAGAZINE**

THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU ARE

**HIGH!**

**PART THREE**

BY CY WILLIAMS

**L**ast issue we talked about the difference between CBD and THC. This issue lets talk about taking your smoke-show on the road.

With spring approaching and cabin fever at an all-time high, we can now look forward to the many wellness benefits that are associated with getting outside and as you may know... there is no better feeling than to be high in the great outdoors!

The physiological response to being outside in nature is real, and it's measurable. There are many physical and psychological benefits of nature that scientists have observed, which can better help us understand how nature supports wellness in the body, mind and community.

Being outside in green spaces helps to support an active and healthy lifestyle, which has shown to increase life





expectancy, improve sleep quality and reduce cancer risk.

Many of the benefits afforded to us by green spaces results from more opportunities to be active and being in outside can increase a person's motivation, too.

For example, some studies have shown that natural outdoor environments in urban spaces are more enticing for physical activity and are more likely to motivate people to exercise, leading to higher levels of fitness. Studies also show that being outside in nature is

relaxing, reducing our stress, cortisol levels, muscle tension and heart rates – all of which are risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Along with supporting physical wellness, nature also bolsters mental wellness in the individual.

There are many mental wellness benefits associated with being outside in green spaces, such as lower risk of depression and faster psychological stress recovery. Studies have shown that being in nature can restore and strengthen our mental capacities,



increasing focus and attention. If you don't live near abundant green space well... the cleaning and greening of your own community has been shown to reduce overall neighborhood crime and reduce nearby residents' feelings of depression as well.

Nature in densely populated areas also has been shown to affect how people interact with one another.

In neighborhoods that receive tree plantings or other greening initiatives, people tend to have better attitudes towards their neighbours, which in turn often results in better relationships.

So... whether it is a park in your neighbourhood or exploring the vast landscapes of this amazing country's forests and grasslands, there are benefits to be had when we step outside. Wellness is very much holistic in that it is a balance of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities.

All of these phenomenal benefits add up and help greatly to reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have definite restorative characteristics.

So... get outside.

Light up a joint and enjoy nature's gift of wellness.

for all your accessories



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# A LARGE CAPACITY GRINDER BUILT TO BE TOUGH!!!



For some, like myself, I like a large grinder that I can do at least a couple of nuggets at a time and then be able to roll up a few joints.

What are the elements that make up a perfect high-capacity grinder? Size does matter here; weight might play a factor, as material, placement of blades, style/sharpness of edges, and compartments. I will always say depending on how you choose to consume, a significant factor is consistency. Is this the right grind? Weed burns better and smokes smoother when you grind it.

After all, we all want the best experience possible!

We were delighted to chat with Albert Gracco, founder of Odin Grinders.

Albert has always wanted to become an entrepreneur and have a company he can be proud of. That he indeed did; Albert used his intense background in the mechanical industry and love for



**cannabis. He created Odin Grinders to provide top-quality grinders to the market.**

### **Why grinders, in particular?**

“As a cannabis enthusiast myself, I’ve utilized a lot of grinders over the years and never been completely satisfied with anything I’ve tried on the market due to material flaking, grinding teeth getting dull, magnets falling out, etc. I wanted to be able to create a sustainable, affordable stainless steel grinder that is a “buy it for life” product while working closely within the community to gain feedback we came up with our design.”-Albert

**Albert used community feedback by giving away grinders for free to develop and improve them before putting them out on the market. This ultimately led to the design and development of their Draken and High Sail Stainless Steel Grinders, which quickly became their most popular product.**

### **Why the name Odin?**

“Odin was chosen because it represents strength, durability and exceptionally long lived, which is what our grinders were designed around being. Also, I had an interest in mythology and different rune meanings. On the Draken grinder, there is the love bind rune in the background, which represents love, success, giving and happiness. “ - Albert



### **What is your perfect grind?**

“My perfect grind consistency is more on the fine side. Grinding your weed improves airflow through your joint or bowl, giving it a more even burn and a cleaner smoking experience. It also increases surface area, meaning more trichomes get vaporized.

This gives your weed more flavour and more potency.”-Albert

**What we love about Odin Grinders is the smoothness of the turn (you're not struggling to turn it), weight, consistency and affordability.**

**Odin Grinders is a must-have on my list, and it has permanently changed my outlook on large grinders!**

**Thank you, Albert, for creating a sound and well-crafted product!**

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# TICKETS GO ON SALE ON 420

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## H O M E G R O W N A N O U T P O S T O F C O M M O N S E N S E

BY @TFPRUDENTHEWRITER

**H**ello neighbor,  
and welcome.

Once again, I'm pleased to have you join me, and hope to make a few minutes thinking over a breaking cannabis news story worth your while. As usual, you may trust I'll do my best to either anger or inspire.

This month, if compared to the last one, I'll be looking at things from the other side of the metaphorical fence, too. Because life in a democracy takes compromise, and that means seeing all sides of an issue. Which makes our shared struggles with legal cannabis great for reminding ourselves we still can.

Not only that, but while the spring weather looks much the same at Pajama Flats this year, there's been a material change made to the terms under which our country operates. If that comes as news to you, it's because last week, a ruling by the Supreme Court, released on a Friday, so it attracted less press coverage, changed the cannabis game in Canada.

Here's the story, in a nutshell.

By ruling the province of Quebec can legally ban growing at home, our country's highest court set the stage for other provinces to impose similar changes in the future. Next up in one of

our high court's lineups is Manitoba, where precedent now looms over a pending judgement on the same topic.

In the Quebec case, the court granted intervener status to Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

That's because the right-wing and extremist conservative provincial governments there, also plan to use the Supreme Court to remove our legal right to grow cannabis at home. Soon, they're coming for me, and for you, too.

Because in this country, the rich decide not only

# HIGH! CANADA MAGAZINE



what makes up a legal right, but which of them the people are allowed. And the ongoing fight over legal cannabis shines a brilliant light on the inner workings of Canada's systems of justice and politics.

I will point out that from here, the saga of legal weed is little more than the latest evidence of Canada's actual status as a privately held corporate welfare state. Of course, as the son of a farmer and a home grower, I'm biased.

But I've read a little history. And so, I know they first made this place to generate wealth for a foreign crown. Then,

gilded with the trappings of democracy, they sold it to corporate masters. Before the bills left by colonialism came due, that is.

So, the government here designed a legal cannabis system to best serve the corporate interests who control the political class. Who, by influence and appointment, control those whose judgement controls the courts, and whose rulings control you and me.

Now, the right-wing zealots in control of many provinces' legal systems are ready to shape cannabis laws to better suit their wants.

The price of their changes are the rights of you and me to live in peace and freedom, free of state interference within the privacy of our homes.

Because the goal of extremist ideologues is not only to control what everyone does. They want to control everything we think, hear, and see, too.

That's why it's called autocracy, or, in some places, fascism. Which roughly translates to a country controlled by a marriage of business and political interests that places the rights of the state before those of the person.



It's also the system under which we have always lived in Canada.

Despite what our governments routinely spout around the world about freedom and democracy.

Here, we're slaves to something that spends most of its free time convincing us of how good we've got it. It's a soft place we've made from it, too, padded with privilege and propped up by consumption.

But anyone claiming freedom lives in the western world in the twenty-first century is a member of the corporatist elite or dreaming.

Because the rest of us are living through a capitalist nightmare run amok, and seemingly without end.

Well, thanks to legal cannabis, the tip of the corporate spear is exposed. And for once, the identity of those wielding it is clear.

And our latest batch of corporatist emperors, such as they are, wear no clothes.

But know this. They've let us see this stuff because they no longer fear reprisal. Nor do they care to pretend. Because they've spent centuries prepping us for this result. It's an end that's as sure for capitalism as it is for totalitarianism.

For our system, just as every other, functions to maintain the peace not for the people, but to ensure its profits.

By removing our right to grow at home, the corporate money behind legal cannabis plans to redirect everything spent at grow shops from coast-to-coast into their weed stores. Likewise, they intend to keep us from growing our own because it's lost profit to them.

The fact it further erodes the sanctity of our homes, along with our right to self-determination, is a bonus.

The corporatist powers also care nothing for the country's grow shops.



Because independent small business is mostly beyond their control. Nor do they give a hoot for those of us who prefer to grow our own, whether for medical or recreational needs.

What our corporate masters want is all cannabis revenues under their control.

In short, they want a monopoly to further Canada's economic enslavement.

To ensure that, sooner than later, the cannabis industry operates like everything else in this so-called free country in which we live.

Until next time, smoke 'em if you got 'em, and happy growing.

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# THINGS I CAN'T CHANGE

## A New Book by T.F. Pruden

### Now Available!

A serious work lightened by plenty of noir humor, 'Things I Can't Change' by T.F. Pruden is a frank, gritty, but heartwarming tale of shared recovery. In this, his seventh novel, the Canadian author shows the challenges lived by three unlikely roommates, as they struggle to get sober.

As with most Pruden novels, dealing with Canada's geography plays a role. This time out, the story takes us on a journey east from Montreal, Quebec, to Vancouver Island, B.C., with Alberta's Rocky Mountains featured.

Though historic details add context, recovery is the heart of this story. So, in a series of epic soliloquies, the roommates share personal tales showing who they were, what happened, and how they got sober.

Though entertaining, none of them shy away from sharing the life-and-death reality of both addiction and recovery. To learn what it takes to get sober, you must read this novel.

A work of rare integrity, T.F. Pruden's seventh novel is a future classic.

T.F. Pruden is a Canadian novelist of Metis heritage. Written in an episodic and constrained minimalist style, his work shares a dry wit while embracing the postmodern. Themes of cultural identity, racial separation, individualism, collectivism and the absurd confront Indigenous characters living with racism and bigotry common to life in Canada. He lives in small town Alberta in western Canada.

His seventh novel 'Things I Can't Change', published in April 2023, is available in eBook, paperback, and hardcover. A frank, gritty, but heartwarming tale of shared recovery; this future classic of Canadian literature is available worldwide on Solitary Press. A Paperback review copy is enclosed. For more information, see the links below.

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#### Reader Reviews:

[www.goodreads.com/book/show/123237673-things-i-can-t-change](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/123237673-things-i-can-t-change)

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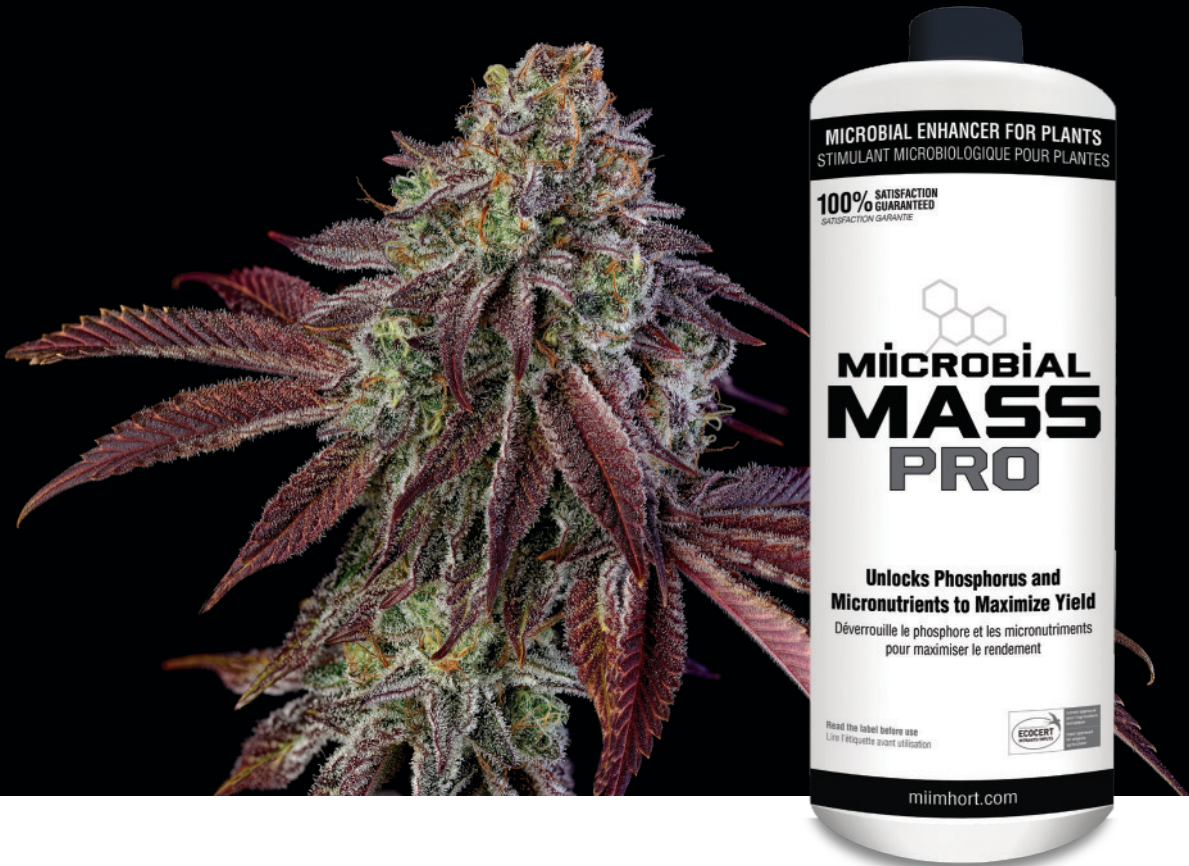




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