

## Illegal Drug Resolution

March 2002

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police  
Canadian Police Association

**Whereas** the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) and the Canadian Police Association (CPA) advocate a healthy lifestyle for all Canadians, free of drug use,

**And whereas** the Liberal Red Book III committed the government to "...implement a National Drug Strategy to reduce both the supply of and the demand for drugs, and to crack down on organized crime",

**And whereas** the December 2001 Auditor General's Report states "The government should ensure that Canada's Drug Strategy receives the profile and dedicated resources necessary to deal with the illicit drug problem in Canada",

**And whereas**, in the interest of a safer and healthier Canada there is an immediate need for demonstrated national leadership for an effective drug strategy,

Therefore be it resolved that the CACP and CPA join together in urging the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Health, Solicitor General, Minister of Justice and the Government of Canada to implement a Canadian Drug Strategy in partnership with our municipalities, provinces, and territories,

### And further;

1. As front-line professionals who see first-hand the impact of drugs in our society, police officers share a goal of encouraging all Canadians, particularly children and our youth, to "**stay drug free**".
2. The CACP and CPA do not support or endorse the legalization of marijuana or any other currently illicit substances. Drugs are illegal because drugs are harmful. Illegal drugs, including cannabis, present adverse health effects.
3. The CACP and CPA advocate a balanced approach that reduces the adverse effects associated with drug use by limiting both the supply of and demand for illicit drugs, enabling an integrated approach to prevention, education, enforcement, treatment, rehabilitation and research.
4. While Canada's existing laws have been successful in limiting the harm caused by illicit drug use, there needs to be a sustained effort to educate Canadians, particularly vulnerable young people, about the adverse effects of illicit drug use.
5. The CACP and CPA recognize that the illicit drug trade is inextricably linked to criminal activity, including terrorism, and increases the level of violence and crime in our communities.
6. Canada's Drug laws must provide police with tools to effectively combat the illegal drug trade, Organized Crime, and Terrorism.
7. Alternative justice measures are required to efficiently and effectively address summary conviction offences. The CACP and CPA advocate the adoption of alternative justice measures that instill meaningful, appropriate and graduated consequences, focused on preventing and deterring drug use amongst all Canadians.
8. Greater emphasis and resources must be provided for stakeholders involved in both demand and supply reduction, with a focus on public education and awareness.
9. The CACP and CPA, representing Canada's policing community, are strongly committed to working together as "**Partners for Safer and Healthier Communities**" to encourage all Canadians to "**stay drug free**".

## **Statement on Illegal Drugs**

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10. The CACP and CPA join together in urging the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Health, Solicitor General, Minister of Justice and the Government of Canada to implement a Canadian Drug Strategy in partnership with our municipalities, provinces, and territories.