

## Election 2013 Question + Responses

British Columbia has experienced major unintended consequences resulting from marijuana prohibition including the proliferation of illegal marijuana grow ops and related organized crime concerns. Researchers in B.C. are interested to apply for an exemption under Section 56 (s. 56) of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, which would allow for a federally approved scientific evaluation of piloting a regulated market for adult recreational marijuana use. The small study would be ethically approved and would assess if a strictly regulated (i.e. legal) system for adult marijuana purchases could cut profits to organized crime, raise tax revenue and better protect young people from the free availability of marijuana that exists under prohibition. The study would involve a pilot site in one community requiring key stakeholder support, and would be halted if unanticipated harms emerged.

**If your party forms government, would you prevent a small-scale research trial involving an s. 56 exemption and examining if a strictly regulated (i.e. legal) system for adult marijuana purchases could cut profits to organized crime, raise tax revenue and better protect young people from the free availability of marijuana that exists under prohibition?**

 <p><b>Today's BC Liberals</b></p> <p>"If the federal government decides to permit a research trial such as you describe, <b>our government would certainly give serious consideration to any provincial approvals that would then be required.</b> We would be pleased to meet with you regarding the matter should the federal government make such a decision."</p>	 <p><b>BC NDP</b></p> <p>"If the federal government was prepared to issue a section 56 exemption <b>we would not prevent a small-scale research trial.</b>"</p>	 <p><b>green</b> PARTY OF BC</p> <p>"If the BC Greens were to form the new government, <b>we would not prevent a small-scale research trial</b> involving an s. 56 exemption and examining if a strictly regulated (i.e. legal) system for adult marijuana purchases could cut profits to organized crime, raise tax revenue and better protect young people from the free availability of marijuana that exists under prohibition. <b>In fact, BC Greens would support such a trial.</b>"</p>
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**\*The BC Conservative Party did not respond by the May 1, 2013 deadline.**