



CHERP

CANNABIS HEALTH EVALUATION
& RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

Cannabis Crossroads Webinar Series
Growing Knowledge and Weeding out Misinformation



Cannabis Health Evaluation and Research Partnership (CHERP)
presents:

Cannabis Crossroads

Growing Knowledge and Weeding Out Misinformation
Webinar Series

Program



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Welcome

On behalf of Cannabis Health Evaluation and Research Partnership (CHERP), we welcome you to our inaugural webinar series titled *Cannabis Crossroads: Growing knowledge and weeding out misinformation*.

CHERP is a research group whose primary goal is to determine how cannabis legalization has affected health and public safety in Newfoundland and Labrador.

This webinar series has been developed to share knowledge and create conversations around safe cannabis use and is in response to extensive public consultation that suggested a need for public education on cannabis related issues. The series will consist of four biweekly webinars with panels of experts answering questions and discussing different topics related to cannabis. One of these webinars is a continuing education session for health care professionals where we will discuss issues surrounding medical cannabis and harm reduction strategies.

We hope you enjoy the series!



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Schedule

12 – 2 pm October 6, 2021

[Access to Safe Cannabis](#)

A panel discussion for the general public

12 – 2 pm October 20, 2021

[Cannabis use and the workplace](#)

A panel discussion for employers and the general public

11 am – 1 pm November 3, 2021

[Cannabis use and driving](#)

A panel discussion for the general public

12 – 2 pm November 17, 2021

[Information about medical cannabis](#)

A continuing education session for healthcare professionals



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Webinar 1

Access to Safe Cannabis

A panel discussion with Taylor Giovannini¹, Ryan Hawco², and Paul Seaborn³

¹ *Chief Executive Officer and President at Oceanic Releaf, NL;*

² *Senior Inspector at Newfoundland Labrador Liquor Corporation, NL; and*

³ *Management Professor, University of Virginia, Virginia, US.*

With the legalization of non-medical cannabis in Canada, there are now options that provide safe methods for accessing cannabis. During this panel discussion, Taylor Giovannini, Ryan Hawco, and Paul Seaborn will discuss the access of cannabis through licensed and unlicensed markets, provide insights into some of the regulations surrounding access, and discuss the evolving retail market including the adaptations to regulations that have happened in response to consumer insights.

Webinar 2

Impairment in the Workplace

A panel discussion with Carey Majid¹, Dennis Hogan² and Paula Schumph³

¹ *Executive Director and Legal Counsel, Newfoundland and Labrador Human Rights Commission, NL;*

² *Chief Executive Officer, WorkplaceNL, NL; and*

³ *General Counsel, Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees, NL*

With the recent legalization of non-medical cannabis in Canada, there are new concerns about cannabis use negatively impacting workplace safety. During this panel discussion, we will explore both employers' and employees' perspectives and responsibilities with keeping the workplace safe, while recognizing those who require cannabis for medical purposes.



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Webinar 3

Driving and impairment

A panel discussion with Dr. John Weber¹, Sgt Karen Didham², Dr. Jennifer Donnan³ and Dalainey Drakes⁴

¹*Professor, School of Pharmacy, Memorial University, NL;*

²*Police Officer, Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, NL;*

³*Assistant Professor, School of Pharmacy, Memorial University, NL*

⁴*Research Assistant, School of Pharmacy, Memorial University, NL*

Cannabis has been shown to negatively impact one's driving ability similar to alcohol; however, public awareness and attitudes towards the risks of driving under the influence of cannabis are not in line with this reality. Studies have shown that cannabis consumption reduces concentration and attention span, slows reaction time, and alters perceptions of time and distance. During this panel discussion, Dr. John Weber, Sgt Karen Didham, Dr. Jennifer Donnan and Dalainey Drakes will discuss the evidence on cannabis driving impairment, how law enforcement handles it, and the perceptions of risk among drivers.

Webinar 4

Medical Cannabis and Harm Reduction

A continuing education session for healthcare professionals with Esha Randhawa¹, Dr. Alia Norman², and Emily Wadden³

¹*Pharmacist and Pharmacy Manager at Rexall Pharmacy, BC and Medical Cannabis Educator and co-owner at Green Light, Cannabis, BC;*

²*Physician, CANABO Medical Clinic, NL; and*

³*Social Worker, SWAP, NL*

During this continuing education session on medical cannabis and harm reduction, we will discuss current evidence around medical cannabis use, how we can support our patient population with respect to cannabis, and how patients can access medical cannabis. Formal objectives for this continuing education will be updated soon.



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Speakers and Panellists Bios

Speakers on **Access to Safe Cannabis** panel:



Paul Seaborn

Management Professor,
University of Virginia, Virginia, US

Prof. Paul Seaborn is a management professor at the University of Virginia who has focused on the marijuana/cannabis industry since 2011, including publishing one of the first-ever teaching cases on the industry and creating the first-ever Business of Marijuana course. Prof. Seaborn is involved in a variety of teaching, research, consulting, and expert witness projects and frequently appears in the media on cannabis-related topics. He is originally from Corner Brook, NL.



Ryan Hawco

Senior Inspector, Newfoundland
Labrador Liquor Corporation, NL

Ryan Hawco is a Senior Inspector for the Newfoundland Labrador Liquor Corporation (NLC) and is the lead inspector for the regulation of non-medical cannabis. He has been involved in the development of the provincial cannabis legislation and the regulated retail system since 2018. Currently, his focus is the interdiction of illegal cannabis.



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Speakers on **Access to Safe Cannabis** panel:



Taylor Giovannini

Chief Executive Officer and
President at Oceanic Releaf, NL

Taylor Giovannini is the CEO of Oceanic Releaf and has honed a passion and knowledge of the cannabis industry since 2017. She was one of the first to the table when it came to proposing a facility that could grow cannabis right here in the province. With a vast background in business management, she has overseen the daily operations of a boutique hotel which included staff oversight, cash management, training initiatives, and managing payroll, then moved on to start her own construction company where she oversaw the profitable buildout and remodeling of numerous properties. Taylor's experiences have equipped her with the skills necessary to run a successful business, ensuring its profitability and scalability. She has helped pave the way, having been committed to the industry since legalization was first announced, and is driven to create jobs that will renew rural areas of our province. Taylor is always looking forward, and thinking of new ways to help develop the industry; she prides herself on the fact that Oceanic was the first LCR with a drive-thru option, offering customers a new way to shop with more privacy and ease.



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Speakers on Cannabis use and the workplace panel:



Carey Majid

Executive Director and Legal
Counsel of Newfoundland and
Labrador Human Rights
Commission, NL

Carey Majid is the Executive Director and Legal Counsel of the Newfoundland and Labrador Human Rights Commission. The Human Rights Commission is an independent at-arm's length government agency that is responsible for promoting an understanding of, acceptance of, and compliance with the provisions of the *Human Rights Act*.

Carey holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Waterloo and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of New Brunswick. She has over 20 years of legal experience and was recently elected a Bencher (Eastern District) of the Law Society of NL. Carey teaches the Law Society's bar admission course on human rights and regularly presents on human rights and social justice issues to employers, government agencies and community groups



Dennis Hogan

Chief Executive Officer,
WorkplaceNL, NL

Dennis Hogan is leading WorkplaceNL through a business modernization initiative to provide more online and efficient services to its clients, and navigating evolving occupational health and safety issues facing workplaces in Newfoundland and Labrador – including mental health, the legalization of recreational-use cannabis, and now COVID-19. He was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of WorkplaceNL in 2016.

Mr. Hogan has served in several executive roles with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Oceans Advance, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Construction Safety Association. He was an Employers' Advisor with the Newfoundland and Labrador Employers' Council, and started his career as an Intake Adjudicator with WorkplaceNL. He is a member of the Advisory Council, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Memorial University and the Petroleum Industry Human Resources Committee.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Economics and Business) from Memorial University and a Master of Business Administration from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where he was a Sloan Fellow. While attending MIT, he also completed graduate studies at Harvard Business School and the Kennedy School of Government.



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Speakers on Cannabis use and the workplace panel:



Paula Schump

General Counsel of Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees (NAPE)

Paula Schump is General Counsel with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees (NAPE), where she provides legal and strategic advice to the NAPE executive. She also provides advice on collective agreement administration and collective bargaining, as well as issues related to disability, workers' compensation, privacy, and human rights. Paula represents NAPE at all levels of court, as well as administrative tribunals such as the Labour Relations Board. In addition, she represents members in long-term disability, Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Public Service Pension Plan (PSPP) appeals.

Prior to her employment at NAPE, Paula worked on the management side of labour relations with the Newfoundland and Labrador Health Boards Association as a Labour Relations Officer; she participated in collective bargaining negotiations, provided advice to health boards throughout the province, and presented arbitrations on their behalf. Paula was formerly Newfoundland and Labrador Vice-President of the Canadian Association of Labour Lawyers. She holds a B.B.A. from Acadia University, and an LL.B. from Dalhousie University.



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Speakers on Cannabis use and driving panel:



Dr. John T Weber

Professor, School of Pharmacy,
Memorial University of
Newfoundland, NL

Dr. John T. Weber is currently a Professor in the School of Pharmacy at Memorial University. He holds a M.Sc. in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Montana, a Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology from the Medical College of Virginia and completed post-doctoral research in neurophysiology at Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He currently conducts research on the chemical constituents and biological activities of berries native to Newfoundland and Labrador, primarily using animal and cellular models. His other major area of research focus is on the physiology and pathology of the cerebellum, an area of the brain associated with motor learning and coordination. This includes a research program studying the effects of adolescent binge alcohol exposure on long-term motor function. He has recently initiated research to evaluate the potential anti-inflammatory effects of various cannabinoids found in Cannabis plants. He has given lectures regarding the effects of Cannabis on the brain and behavior for many years. He has also served as an expert witness for several provincial and arbitration cases, which have included opinions on a variety of topics in neuropharmacology, such as determination of blood ethanol (alcohol) content, the behavioural effects of ethanol, as well as the impairing effects of Cannabis.



Dr. Jennifer Donnan

Assistant Professor, School of
Pharmacy, Memorial University of
Newfoundland, NL

Dr. Jennifer Donnan is an Assistant Professor in the School of Pharmacy at Memorial University. She graduated with a BScPharm in 2005, and went on to complete graduate training in Business Administration, Health Technology Assessment and Pharmacoepidemiology. Jennifer is currently a principal investigator for the Newfoundland and Labrador provincial cannabis policy evaluation and she is examining consumer preferences for cannabis products at the national level. Additional research interests include measuring and integrating patient preferences for health care interventions into clinical decision making.



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Speakers on Cannabis use and driving panel:



Dalainey Drakes

Research Assistant with CHERP,
Memorial University of
Newfoundland, NL

Ms. Dalainey Drakes is an aspiring clinical psychologist who graduated with her BA First Class Honours degree in Psychology from St. Francis Xavier University in 2017 and recently completed her MSc in Experimental Psychology from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 2021. She brings experience conducting quantitative as well as qualitative clinical epidemiological and health psychology research working with diverse groups of individuals across the lifespan through interviewing, crisis response, and facilitation of groups with emerging adults. She strives to promote patient-centred and community engaged research while also contributing to multidisciplinary research to improve health interventions. Dalainey is presently a research assistant for the CHERP team where she primarily contributes to the recruitment of participants, study facilitation, data analysis, and knowledge dissemination of CHERP's ongoing research focused on a variety of public and mental health concerns. She supports the engagement of youth and young adults whilst sharing her expertise utilizing a biopsychosocial framework for mental health.



Sgt. Karen Didham

Police Officer, Royal
Newfoundland Constabulary, NL

Sgt. Karen Didham has been a Police Officer with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary for 27 years. She completed 12 years as a Street Patrol Officer, 13 years as a Collision Analyst and the last 2 years, as the Supervisor of Traffic Services.

She has been a qualified Breath Technician, Standardized Filed Sobriety Testing (SFST), and Drug Recognition Evaluator/Instructor (DRE) for 13 years. She has conducted hundreds of Impaired Driving Investigations; with alcohol, impairing drugs and/or a combination of both. Many of these investigations involved motor vehicle collisions.

She has instructed on several SFST and DRE courses. She has participated in numerous DRE certification events in St. John's, Jacksonville and Phoenix.



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Speakers on Information on Medical Cannabis CE session:



Esha Randhawa

Pharmacist and Pharmacy
Manager at Rexall Pharmacy, BC
and Medical Cannabis Educator
and co-owner at Green Light
Cannabis

Esha Randhawa is a Pharmacist and Pharmacy Manager and co-owns two recreational cannabis stores in British Columbia. Esha graduated from UBC with a BSc. Biology in 2010 and then again with a BSc. Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2015. Prior to the legalization of cannabis in Canada, she began studying the importance of cannabis for medical ailments; particularly for the geriatric community.

Before opening recreational cannabis stores, Esha established a successful career as a pharmacist ensuring her patients not only had safe and effective medications, but also felt comfortable discussing any “non-medical” substances they were using. This open dialogue provided the foundation upon which the use of cannabis for medical purposes could be discussed in a safe and judgement free environment. She has become a credible and accessible resource for her patients. Esha quickly developed a passion for understanding cannabis which ultimately led to her co-ownership of two recreational cannabis stores.

By actively participating in both branches of cannabis, Esha recognizes there are barriers to legal access for both medical and recreational cannabis users. She hopes to work towards bridging the gaps which exist in our current systems.



Dr. Alia Norman

Lead Physician, Newfoundland
CANABO Clinic

Dr. Alia Norman has been the lead physician at the Newfoundland CANABO Clinic since 2016. CANABO is a nationwide network of cannabis clinics that work to educate and treat patients using cannabinoid therapy. She currently works at the clinic full time, seeing patients with a wide variety of conditions from chronic pain, autoimmune disorders, epilepsy, anxiety, insomnia, PTSD and cancer. During her time with CANABO, she has seen over 5000 medical cannabis patients.

Dr. Norman completed medical school in 2001 and went on to do a Radiation Oncology residency in 2006 at the University of Manitoba. She worked as a physician mentor for doctors authorizing medical cannabis from 2018-2020 and has been a Radiation Oncologist in Newfoundland for 8 years.



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Speakers on Information on Medical Cannabis CE session:



Emily Wadden

Registered Social Worker with
AIDS Committee of Newfoundland
and Labrador and Program
Manager at Safe Works Access
Program (SWAP)

Emily Wadden is a registered Social Worker. She works with the AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador and is also currently the Program Manager of the Safe Works Access Program (SWAP): NL's needle distribution, harm reduction, and Take-Home Naloxone training and education program. Emily is part of Atlantic and National drug-user groups, advocating for changes in drug policy across Canada. She is a person with lived experience (PWLE) of using drugs and addiction – working hard to educate healthcare practitioners around stigma, discrimination and language.

Emily has been with SWAP since August 2019, previously working as a social worker in the areas of mental health, addictions, and corrections with the Justice Program (CMHANL). While completing her undergrad at Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN), Emily helped revamp MUNL's Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CSSDP) chapter under Dr. Christopher Smith's guidance and passion, and MUN's chapter remains active to date.