

AN INTERNATIONAL CHARTER



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF CANNABIS



*An International Charter of Human Rights, Personal Freedom, Public
Health, Economic Justice, and National Sovereignty*

VERSION 3.0 — PROPOSED FOR INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION

MARIE SESHAT LANDRY

CEO & Founder, Landry Industries Inc.

[LANDRYINDUSTRIES.CA](https://landryindustries.ca) · [MARIELANDRYSHOP.COM](https://marielandryshop.com)

MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA · OCTOBER 2026

CONTENTS



PREAMBLE	3
CHAPTER I DEFINITIONS AND FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES	4
ARTICLE 1 Universal Scope	4
ARTICLE 2 Comprehensive Definition of Cannabis	4
ARTICLE 3 Equal Dignity and Non-Discrimination	5
ARTICLE 4 Personal Autonomy and Adult Choice	5
CHAPTER II HEALTH, SCIENCE, AND CULTURE	5
ARTICLE 5 Medical Access and Patient Rights	5
ARTICLE 6 Scientific Freedom and Education	6
ARTICLE 7 Culture, Religion, and Traditional Knowledge	6
CHAPTER III ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RIGHTS	7
ARTICLE 8 Cultivation and Agricultural Freedom	7
ARTICLE 9 Business Rights and Fair Competition	7
ARTICLE 10 Workers' Rights and Economic Equity	7
ARTICLE 11 Consumer Protection and Product Safety	8
ARTICLE 12 Intellectual Property and Innovation	8
CHAPTER IV PUBLIC HEALTH AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY	8
ARTICLE 13 Public Health and Harm Reduction	8
ARTICLE 14 Children and Vulnerable Persons	9
ARTICLE 15 Public Safety and Environmental Protection	9
CHAPTER V JUSTICE AND LEGAL REFORM	10
ARTICLE 16 Decriminalization of Personal Possession and Use	10
ARTICLE 17 Proportionality and Fair Process	10
ARTICLE 18 Review of Historical Injustice	10
CHAPTER VI NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	11
ARTICLE 19 Sovereign Equality and National Policy	11
ARTICLE 20 International Trade and Cooperation	11
ARTICLE 21 International Legal Compatibility	12
CHAPTER VII IMPLEMENTATION AND FINAL PROVISIONS	12
ARTICLE 22 Government Responsibilities	12
ARTICLE 23 Public Participation and Accountability	12
ARTICLE 24 International Monitoring and Review	13
ARTICLE 25 Interpretation and Future Development	13
ARTICLE 26 Legal Status and Adoption	13
FINAL PROCLAMATION	14

PREAMBLE

We, the peoples of the world,

Recognizing the inherent dignity, equality, and fundamental rights of every human being;

Affirming the principles of liberty, bodily autonomy, privacy, health, equality before the law, scientific freedom, cultural diversity, economic justice, and peaceful international cooperation;

Recognizing cannabis as a plant with agricultural, medicinal, industrial, scientific, cultural, and economic significance;

Acknowledging the diverse relationships that people and communities maintain with cannabis, including use, abstinence, medical treatment, cultivation, research, cultural practice, commerce, and personal preference;

Recognizing that cannabis policy affects human rights, public health, criminal justice, international trade, environmental sustainability, economic opportunity, and relations between individuals and governments;

Concerned that disproportionate punishment, arbitrary discrimination, unsafe products, misinformation, exploitative commercial practices, and unequal enforcement may undermine human dignity and social justice;

Affirming the equal rights of those who consume cannabis and those who choose not to consume it;

Recognizing the sovereign equality of nations and their right to develop public policy in accordance with their constitutional systems and applicable international obligations;

Determined to promote an international framework that protects human dignity, advances evidence-based reform, reduces avoidable harm, and establishes fair standards for responsible cannabis-related activity;

PROCLAIM this Universal Declaration of Cannabis as a proposed common standard for governments, institutions, businesses, communities, and individuals.

CHAPTER I

DEFINITIONS AND FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES



ARTICLE 1

UNIVERSAL SCOPE

This Declaration applies to cannabis in all its relevant forms, varieties, derivatives, preparations, constituent molecules, and related products, whether intended for personal, medical, scientific, agricultural, industrial, cultural, or commercial purposes.

Its principles shall apply to existing substances and future discoveries falling within the scientific scope of this Declaration.

ARTICLE 2

COMPREHENSIVE DEFINITION OF CANNABIS

For the purposes of this Declaration, cannabis encompasses:

1. Cannabis plants, varieties, cultivars, seeds, flowers, leaves, stems, stalks, roots, pollen, and other plant material.
2. Hemp, marijuana, and other forms and varieties of cannabis.
3. Resins, oils, extracts, concentrates, edibles, tinctures, topical products, and other preparations.
4. Delta-9 THC, other THC isomers, THCP, CBD, CBG, CBN, and all other naturally occurring or subsequently identified cannabinoids.
5. Terpenes, flavonoids, metabolites, and other molecules naturally contained in or associated with cannabis.
6. Cannabis-derived or cannabis-related compounds produced through extraction, synthesis, biotechnology, chemical modification, or other processes, insofar as they fall within the intended scope.
7. Future cannabis-related molecules and preparations identified through scientific advancement.

Scientific definitions shall guide classification. Nothing in this Article automatically includes unrelated substances or exempts any product from otherwise applicable safety or legal requirements.

ARTICLE 3

EQUAL DIGNITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Every human being shall enjoy equal dignity and protection of applicable human rights, without arbitrary discrimination based on cannabis use, non-use, medical use, lawful cultivation, employment, research, or lawful business participation.

No person shall be presumed criminal, immoral, incompetent, or medically unfit solely because of an association with cannabis.

Distinctions based on demonstrable risks or legitimate public-interest objectives must be lawful, objectively justified, proportionate, and consistent with applicable human-rights obligations.

ARTICLE 4

PERSONAL AUTONOMY AND ADULT CHOICE

Every adult possesses an inherent interest in bodily autonomy, privacy, and informed decision-making concerning personal life and health.

This Declaration proposes recognition of a fundamental right of adults to make informed choices concerning cannabis use, non-use, and personal possession, subject to proportionate safeguards for health, safety, and the rights of others.

States are called upon to review restrictions on personal cannabis conduct and to consider less restrictive alternatives where these can effectively achieve legitimate public objectives.

This proposed right does not establish unrestricted access in every location or circumstance, nor does it authorize conduct that harms others.

CHAPTER II

HEALTH, SCIENCE, AND CULTURE



ARTICLE 5

MEDICAL ACCESS AND PATIENT RIGHTS

Everyone shall have access to respectful healthcare without arbitrary discrimination related to cannabis.

States should establish fair and transparent pathways for researching, assessing, authorizing, prescribing, and responsibly supplying cannabis-based medicines.

Patients shall receive accurate information concerning potential benefits, risks, interactions, alternatives, and scientific uncertainty.

Healthcare decisions shall respect informed consent, patient confidentiality, professional standards, and the best available evidence.

States should work toward equitable access to authorized treatments, including for disadvantaged, rural, remote, and disabled populations.

ARTICLE 6

SCIENTIFIC FREEDOM AND EDUCATION

Cannabis-related research shall be recognized as a legitimate scientific activity.

Governments should support independent research into therapeutic applications, toxicology, dependence, impairment, mental health, agriculture, environmental impacts, and social outcomes.

Researchers should have fair access to lawful research materials through transparent and proportionate procedures.

Public education should be scientifically accurate, balanced, accessible, and free from deliberate misrepresentation.

Research shall respect ethical review, informed consent, safety, privacy, and the rights of participants.

ARTICLE 7

CULTURE, RELIGION, AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Applicable rights concerning cultural expression, freedom of conscience, religion, and peaceful association shall be respected in cannabis-related matters.

Indigenous peoples and traditional communities shall enjoy the rights recognized under applicable international standards, including relevant rights concerning self-determination, culture, participation, traditional knowledge, and natural resources.

Research and commercial use of traditional knowledge should comply with applicable consultation, consent, attribution, and benefit-sharing requirements.

Cultural practices shall not be used to justify coercion or violations of individual rights.

CHAPTER III

ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RIGHTS



ARTICLE 8

CULTIVATION AND AGRICULTURAL FREEDOM

Individuals and enterprises should have fair opportunities to participate in lawful cannabis cultivation, seed production, plant breeding, and related agricultural activities.

Governments should establish transparent, accessible, and proportionate regulatory systems.

Where personal cultivation is permitted, rules should be clear, equitable, and appropriate to the scale and risk of the activity.

Cannabis agriculture shall respect land rights, water protections, environmental standards, and worker safety.

ARTICLE 9

BUSINESS RIGHTS AND FAIR COMPETITION

Individuals and enterprises should be entitled to engage in lawful cannabis-related activities under clear and consistent rules.

Governments should administer licensing, testing, manufacturing, distribution, taxation, and retail systems fairly and transparently.

Cannabis businesses shall enjoy applicable protections of due process, fair treatment, and access to legal remedies.

States should encourage responsible entrepreneurship, innovation, small-business participation, and fair competition.

Commercial rights shall be balanced against consumer protection, public health, environmental sustainability, labour rights, and the interests of affected communities.

ARTICLE 10

WORKERS' RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

Workers throughout cannabis-related industries shall enjoy applicable rights to safe working conditions, fair remuneration, freedom from exploitation, and protection against unlawful discrimination.

Employment decisions should distinguish, where scientifically and practically possible, between lawful off-duty conduct, historical exposure, and actual impairment affecting job performance or safety.

Governments should assess whether past cannabis enforcement has imposed disproportionate burdens on particular communities.

Where justified, restorative measures may include conviction review, expungement or record sealing, reintegration assistance, and fair access to lawful economic opportunities.

ARTICLE 11

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PRODUCT SAFETY

Consumers shall have access to accurate information about product identity, cannabinoid content, potency, ingredients, contaminants, and material health risks.

Governments should establish appropriate testing, quality assurance, labelling, adverse-event reporting, and recall systems.

Businesses shall not knowingly misrepresent products or make unsupported therapeutic claims.

Regulation should be proportionate to the composition, potency, intended use, and demonstrated risks of each product category.

ARTICLE 12

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND INNOVATION

Cannabis-related innovation shall be supported through fair and transparent intellectual-property frameworks.

Such frameworks should balance legitimate incentives for innovation with scientific progress, competition, public benefit, agricultural interests, and the rights of Indigenous peoples and traditional communities.

No person or entity should unlawfully appropriate traditional knowledge or use intellectual-property claims to obstruct lawful scientific inquiry.

CHAPTER IV

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



ARTICLE 13

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HARM REDUCTION

Cannabis policy shall be informed by the best available evidence and regular evaluation.

Governments should provide accessible information concerning intoxication, impairment, dependence, mental health, medication interactions, accidental ingestion, and other relevant risks.

Prevention, treatment, counselling, and harm-reduction services should be accessible without stigma.

Public-health interventions should be effective, proportionate, and respectful of fundamental rights.

ARTICLE 14

CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PERSONS

Children and adolescents shall receive particular protection against exploitation, unsafe access, deceptive marketing, and preventable health risks.

Age-appropriate education, product safeguards, and restrictions on unlawful marketing to minors should be established.

Medical decisions involving children shall comply with applicable consent law, professional standards, and safeguarding requirements.

Protection of vulnerable persons shall not justify arbitrary discrimination or the withholding of accurate health information.

ARTICLE 15

PUBLIC SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

No person should undertake driving or safety-critical activities while materially impaired by cannabis.

Public-safety rules should rely on reliable evidence and appropriate methods of risk assessment, distinguishing active impairment from historical use where scientifically and practically possible.

Cannabis-related activities shall respect environmental protection, responsible water use, soil conservation, energy efficiency, biodiversity, and pollution prevention.

The rights of non-users to safety, privacy, and protection against involuntary harmful exposure shall be respected.

CHAPTER V

JUSTICE AND LEGAL REFORM



ARTICLE 16

DECRIMINALIZATION OF PERSONAL POSSESSION AND USE

States are called upon to review and reform laws that impose criminal punishment for personal cannabis possession and use.

The proposed international objective is to end the use of criminal punishment for personal possession and consumption by adults, subject to clearly defined safeguards for public health and the rights of others.

States should consider proportionate civil or administrative approaches and public-health alternatives where appropriate.

No person should be subjected to arbitrary detention, degrading treatment, or disproportionate punishment in connection with cannabis.

This Article expresses a proposed reform standard. It does not claim that universal decriminalization is already required by a specific, universally binding cannabis-rights treaty.

ARTICLE 17

PROPORTIONALITY AND FAIR PROCESS

Cannabis-related laws shall be assessed against principles of legality, equality before the law, due process, necessity, and proportionality.

Persons accused of offences shall enjoy applicable rights to a fair hearing, legal representation, and independent adjudication.

Governments should regularly evaluate whether penalties achieve legitimate objectives and whether less restrictive alternatives are available.

Lawful medical treatment, scientific research, and authorized business activity shall not in themselves be treated as evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

ARTICLE 18

REVIEW OF HISTORICAL INJUSTICE

States should examine the effects of cannabis enforcement on individuals, families, and communities.

Where justified, governments should consider mechanisms for reviewing past convictions, removing or sealing records, reconsidering disproportionate penalties, and addressing unjustified collateral consequences.

Reform processes should be transparent, accessible, and consistent with due process and applicable law.

CHAPTER VI

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

ARTICLE 19

SOVEREIGN EQUALITY AND NATIONAL POLICY

Every nation possesses the right to develop its lawful cannabis policies through its constitutional institutions and democratic processes, subject to its international obligations.

States are encouraged to cooperate toward common human-rights standards and the reform of disproportionate cannabis penalties.

Different national approaches may be adopted according to constitutional, cultural, economic, and public-health circumstances.

No provision of this Declaration shall be interpreted as granting one state an unrestricted right to dictate another state's domestic policy.

ARTICLE 20

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COOPERATION

States should cooperate to facilitate lawful scientific exchange, responsible commerce, product safety, and fair economic opportunities.

International trade shall comply with applicable treaty obligations, national laws, and appropriate safeguards.

Governments should cooperate against exploitation, corruption, unsafe products, illicit trafficking, and other cross-border harms.

This Declaration does not itself authorize importation, exportation, transportation, or sale of cannabis products.

ARTICLE 21

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL COMPATIBILITY

States should review cannabis-related legislation in light of their human-rights obligations and international drug-control commitments.

Governments should pursue reform through lawful treaty interpretation, domestic legislation, international dialogue, and negotiated legal arrangements where necessary.

No provision of this Declaration automatically overrides a binding treaty or changes the legal status of a substance in any jurisdiction.

CHAPTER VII

IMPLEMENTATION AND FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 22

GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Governments are encouraged to:

1. Review cannabis laws for consistency with human rights and proportionality.
2. Establish transparent regulatory systems and accessible remedies.
3. Support independent scientific research and evidence-based public education.
4. Protect patients, consumers, workers, Indigenous peoples, and affected communities.
5. Promote equitable economic participation and responsible environmental practices.
6. Publish appropriate, privacy-protective data concerning public health, enforcement, and economic outcomes.
7. Participate in international cooperation and periodic policy review.

ARTICLE 23

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Cannabis policy development should include meaningful consultation with patients, consumers, non-consumers, healthcare professionals, researchers, workers, businesses, Indigenous peoples, and civil society.

Governments should publish relevant policy objectives, implementation plans, and evaluation findings.

Individuals should have access to lawful remedies when their rights are violated.

ARTICLE 24

INTERNATIONAL MONITORING AND REVIEW

A future international framework may establish periodic reporting, independent research, comparative indicators, and recommendations concerning cannabis policy.

Monitoring should assess human rights, health, safety, access to medicine, criminal-justice outcomes, economic fairness, and environmental impacts.

Any monitoring mechanism shall respect national sovereignty, privacy, and applicable law.

ARTICLE 25

INTERPRETATION AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

This Declaration shall be interpreted to advance human dignity, equality, personal autonomy, public health, justice, and international cooperation.

Nothing herein shall diminish more protective rights already recognized under applicable law.

The Declaration may be supplemented or amended through transparent public consultation and an appropriate process of adoption.

ARTICLE 26

LEGAL STATUS AND ADOPTION

This Declaration is proposed as an international instrument for public consultation, advocacy, and consideration by governments and international institutions.

It does not become binding international law solely through publication, public endorsement, or adoption as a non-binding declaration.

Binding obligations may arise through an appropriate treaty or other legally effective instrument in accordance with applicable international law.

States, international organizations, civil society, and all interested persons are invited to consider, discuss, refine, and support the principles expressed herein.

FINAL PROCLAMATION

We affirm the inherent dignity and equal worth of every human being.

We affirm the right of every person to freedom from arbitrary discrimination and disproportionate punishment, and we call for recognition of adult personal autonomy concerning cannabis within a framework of proportionate safeguards.

We affirm the importance of medical access, scientific freedom, cultural respect, responsible commerce, environmental protection, and the rights of those who choose not to consume cannabis.

We call upon nations to review and reform disproportionate criminal penalties, pursue evidence-based alternatives, and cooperate toward a more just international framework.

We respect the sovereignty of nations while recognizing that sovereignty and human dignity are complementary foundations of international peace and cooperation.

We invite governments, institutions, communities, and individuals to advance these principles through peaceful advocacy, democratic reform, scientific inquiry, and lawful international cooperation.

FOR HUMAN DIGNITY.

FOR PERSONAL FREEDOM.

FOR MEDICAL ACCESS.

FOR SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE.

FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF NATIONS.

FOR THE RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING OF ALL HUMANITY.

Proposed for international consultation and consideration.



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF CANNABIS

VERSION 3.0 · OCTOBER 2026



STATUS	Proposed for international public consultation. Not binding international law (see Article 26).
PREPARED BY	Marie Seshat Landry, CEO & Founder, Landry Industries Inc.
ORCID	0009-0008-5027-3337
PUBLISHED BY	LandryIndustries.ca · MarieLandrySpyShop.com
PLACE	Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada