Overview
National Drugs Policy
Key players

Drug Legislations
- Possession / Trafficking
- Drug Use

Compulsory centres for drug users (CCDUs) vs voluntary treatment centres (VTCs or Cure and Care Centres in Malaysia).
- Recent Development
Malaysia National Drugs Policy

- Prevention
- Enforcement
- Rehabilitation
- International Cooperation

BASIS OF THE DRUG POLICY

- Supply Reduction
- Demand Reduction
- Harm Reduction
  (reduce harm caused by DU to the society)
Key players

Ministry of Home Affairs
- Enforcement Agencies (Royal Police of Malaysia, Custom ...)
- National Anti Drugs Agency (NADA)

- Ministry of Health

- Law Minister
- Attorney General’s Chambers + Judiciary
Harm Reduction Services – (initiated by Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) and Partner Organization)

• Establishment of the National Harm Reduction Working Group (HRWG) in early 2004 followed by Harm Reduction Task Force (Chaired by DG MOH)

• Methadone maintenance therapy – Clinic Cure & Care (NADA and Health Ministry) — Provided by MOH at local health clinic. Only few NADA Cure&Care Centres

• Needle syringe exchange program (NSEP)
Harm Reduction

- Started from 2006 onwards
- OST, NSEP, condom distribution, CBT, BCC material, referrals and other services
- Regular stakeholders meeting (Police, NADA and MOH)
- Task Force Meeting of Harm Reduction in Malaysia*
- National stakeholders meeting (yearly)
- Case Management Approach – Global Fund
- On-going advocacy on harm reduction
- On-going campaign (Support Don’t Punish)

Drug Legislations

Act 234 Dangerous Drugs Act 1952

Act 283 Drug Dependants (Treatment And Rehabilitation) Act 1983

Act 316 Dangerous Drugs (Special Preventive Measures) Act 1985

Act 340 Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture Of Property) Act 1988

Act 638 National Anti-drugs Agency Act 2004
THE DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG CRIMES IN ASIA

Death penalty in Asia:
- Retentionist
- Abolitionist
- De-facto abolitionist (No executions for at least 10 years)
- Drug crimes punishable by death
People held in compulsory centres relapsed within 31 days compared with 352 days for half of those in voluntary centres -- a 10 fold increase.

“No, we have to maintain a cold turkey approach (in Puspen detention centres) because this is our policy. Substituting drugs only favours drug companies,” he said.
The cabinet agreed to amend the colonial-era Dangerous Drugs Act of 1952 to give courts a choice in sentencing.

Azalina Othman, de facto law minister
New Drugs Policy on the way

National Anti-Drugs Agency (AADK) will draw up a strategic plan for the National Drugs Policy (NDP) to address drug related issues in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

Cabinet on March 10 agreed that the NDP be the source of reference and main guide to combat the scourge at all levels of implementation nationwide.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed / Malaysian Drug Prevention Association (Pemadam)
The National Anti-Drugs Agency (AADK), along with various organizations will be formulating a new national drug policy that will focus on treatment and harm reduction for drug offenders.

hopes that all relevant agencies, including the police and the Health Ministry, have a common language on drug rehabilitation.
Challenges

- National Drug Policy
- **Law enforcement (imprisonment) vs harm reduction**
- Leadership in NADA changes frequently
- Limited coverage to Harm Reduction services
- **Changing Trend of Drug Use (Choice of drugs)**
- Supply vs. Demand
Moving forward

• Review National Drug Policy
• Evidence based advocacy
• Adopting best practices in treatment modality to local context
• Case Management Approach – Linking PWIDs to health care service
Thank You
Dutch Cannabis Policy
Less to tolerate?

Wendy Opperman
Ministry of Security and Justice
The Netherlands

• 40 coffeeshops
• International visitors
• On route to Belgium and France
Dutch Cannabis Policy

• Harm reduction & health:
• Production and selling prohibited by law
• Selling is not prosecuted (tolerated) if requirements are met:
  • In coffeeshop (no alcohol allowed)
  • No advertising
  • ≥ 18 years
  • ≤ 5 grams per transaction
  • Residents only
  • No hard drugs
Dutch coalition agreement

“Experiments with regulated and quality controlled marijuana production”
• Open borders within Europe
• EU law & international treaties
• Transnational organized crime and drug trafficking
Challenges the Dutch government is facing

Decriminalizing the production of cannabis for the internal market:

➢ Without increasing illegal export;
➢ Without nuisance for neighbouring countries;
➢ Meeting EU obligations en UN drug treaties.
DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY
MARIJUANA MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM 2017

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DENVER MARIJUANA MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM
MAXIMUS
BIOTRACKTHC
An Overview of the Government of Canada’s Approach to Legalize, Regulate and Restrict Access to Cannabis
I’m here today to provide...

1. Context for the Government of Canada’s plan to legalize, regulate and restrict access to cannabis

2. An overview of the proposed Cannabis Act

3. Information on Government of Canada activities in support of this initiative
Past year cannabis use, by age group, 2013-2015

Cannabis is the most used illicit substance in Canada…
Current Context (cont.)

... and cannabis use outpaces tobacco use among young adults

Cigarette smoking prevalence*, by age group
2013-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<td>15-19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>20-24</td>
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<td>25+</td>
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*Prevalence refers to the percentage of “current smokers” in a specified group, and includes daily and occasional smokers.
... and Canadian youth use cannabis more than their peers in most developed countries.

Current Context (cont.)

- Public health and safety concerns
  - Health risks from early and heavy use
  - No control on product safety, potency and quality
  - Drug-impaired driving

- Broad, entrenched illicit market

- Burden on justice system, and associated social impacts

- Laws not well understood, inconsistently applied
Government of Canada Objectives

A new control framework for cannabis that will:

• restrict youth access to cannabis
• protect young people from enticements to use cannabis
• provide for a legal cannabis market capable of displacing the illegal market
• deter criminal activity by imposing serious criminal penalties for those breaking the law
• protect public health through strict product safety and quality requirements
• reduce the burden on the criminal justice system
• allow adults to possess and access regulated, quality controlled cannabis
Lessons Learned

Canada has experience regulating access to alcohol, tobacco, pharmaceuticals and medical cannabis.

One other country (Uruguay) and 8 U.S. states and the District of Columbia have taken steps to legalize and regulate cannabis.

Key Takeaways:
✓ Complex, multi-year initiative
✓ Adaptability and flexibility
✓ Public education
✓ Consultation and collaboration
✓ Enforcement
✓ Monitoring and ongoing system refinement
The Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation

June 30, 2016 - Task Force created to advise on new system for cannabis.

The final report includes more than 80 recommendations.

Guiding Principles

*Precautionary approach* - start restrictive; monitor and adapt

*Public health* - reduce harms and risks of use

*Public safety* - focus on serious offences, enforceability
On April 13, 2017, Bill C-45 (the Cannabis Act) was introduced in the House of Commons by the Minister of Justice.

The Act would use federal criminal law power to create a strict framework to control and regulate the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis. The Cannabis Act proposes:

- many rules that would protect youth from accessing cannabis
- offences targeting those acting outside the legal framework

Penalties would be proportional to the seriousness of the offence and would range from warnings and tickets for minor offences to criminal prosecution and imprisonment for more serious offences.
Federal, provincial and territorial governments would all have roles under the new system.

The federal government would:

- license and set strict requirements for producers who **grow and manufacture** cannabis
- set industry-wide **rules and standards**, such as:
  - types of cannabis products that will be allowed for sale
  - prohibiting the use of certain ingredients
  - restrictions on promotional activities
The provinces and territories would license and set strict requirements for the **distribution and sale** of cannabis, subject to federal conditions.

They could also:

- increase the minimum age in their province or territory (but not lower it)
- lower the personal possession limit
- create additional rules for growing cannabis at home, such as lowering the number of plants per residence
- restrict where adults can consume cannabis, such as in public or in vehicles
Proposed Legislation – Bill C-45 (cont.)

Protecting Youth

Two **new criminal offences** with maximum penalties of 14 years in jail for:
- giving or selling cannabis to any person **under the age of 18**, and
- using a youth to commit a cannabis-related offence

The Act would also **prohibit**:
- selling products that are appealing to youth
- packaging or labelling cannabis in a way that makes it appealing to youth
- selling cannabis through self-service displays or vending machines
- promoting cannabis, except in narrow circumstances where the promotion is factual and could not be seen by a young person
Other features

Access to cannabis for medical purposes would be maintained.

It would be illegal to import or export except for:

- medical and scientific purposes
- industrial hemp

Industrial hemp would be subject to the new Act.

- hemp industry would continue to be subject to similar rules
Subject to approval by Parliament, the Act would come into force no later than July 2018.

At that time, adults who are 18 years or older would be able to legally:

- **purchase** cannabis and cannabis oil from a provincially-licensed retailer

Other products, such as edibles, would be legal to sell once appropriate rules for their production and sale are developed.

In those provinces that do not have a regulated retail framework, individuals would be able to purchase cannabis online from a federally-licensed producer.
Should the Cannabis Act become law, adults who are 18 years or older would be able to legally:

- **possess** up to 30 grams of legal dried cannabis, or an equivalent amount
- **share** up to 30 grams of legal dried cannabis, or an equivalent amount with other adults
- **grow** up to 4 cannabis plants per residence for personal use from legal seeds or seedlings
- **make** cannabis products, such as food and drinks, at home provided that organic solvents are not used
Data and Monitoring: Measuring the Impact

Proactive data collection, monitoring, surveillance and analysis prior and after legalization will be valuable for policy development and monitoring the health and safety impacts.

Canada is engaged in a number of surveillance and research activities:

- Development and implementation of a core and expanded set of baseline data indicators
- Canadian Cannabis Survey
- Canadian Surveillance System for Poison Information
- Development of a National Drugs Observatory
- Development of a National Research Agenda on cannabis for non-medical purposes

Budget 2017 committed $9.6 million to public awareness campaign to inform Canadians, especially youth, of the health and safety risks of cannabis consumption, and to surveillance activities.
Public Education and Awareness Activities

Work has begun, with social media activities delivering **credible, consistent, evidence-informed messages** to:

- raise awareness of health and safety risks, especially for youth
- provide advice to parents for talking with their teens
- inform the public of the dangers of drug impaired driving
- convey what is legal and what is not (and when)
The design, implementation and evaluation of the new framework requires engagement and collaboration with a diverse and informed community.
Indigenous Perspectives

The Government of Canada has placed a particular focus on the importance of its relationship with Indigenous Peoples:

• The Government is committed to **nation-to-nation engagement** with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership.
• Will reflect distinct interests of First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

With respect to cannabis legalization, Canada will engage closely with Indigenous communities and representative organizations on issues of particular concern, including:

**Public health** (approximately one-third (32.3%) of First Nations adults used cannabis in the past year)*

**Economic perspectives**, with interest in participating in cannabis market

**Public education**, with interest in a culturally appropriate approach.
Next steps

• Over the coming months, Bill C-45 (the Cannabis Act) and Bill C-46 (on drug- and alcohol-impaired driving) will be debated in both the House of Commons and the Senate, and studied by Parliamentary committees.

• Work on regulations to support the proposed Cannabis Act.

• The results of the Canadian Cannabis Survey will be released in fall 2017.

• Public education and awareness activities will continue.
Thank You

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