



MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

By

Deputy Premier and Minister of National Security,
The Honourable Michael H. Dunkley, JP, MP

CANNABIS REFORM COLLABORATIVE REPORT

“AN ANALYSIS OF CANNABIS REFORM IN BERMUDA”

May 9th, 2014

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members will recall the November 2013 Speech from the Throne promise to engage in public consultation regarding cannabis/marijuana policy reform. Shortly after, Mr. Stratton Hatfield and Mr. Khomeini Talib-Din approached me individually to express their interest in facilitating and participating in the promised public

consultation. I put the two men together and advised them to recruit additional members, with like interest, to form the Cannabis Reform Collaborative (the “CRC”). The group began meeting on 5th December and had as its mandate to produce an advisory document on cannabis policy reform that identifies the benefits and consequences of reclassifying, legalizing, or decriminalizing Cannabis; and to investigate its medicinal uses.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the Chair Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Talib-Din, the CRC comprised Lamar Caines, Jules Van Belen, Cordell Reily, Dr. Ernest Peets, Robyn Swan, Kyle Bridgewater, Alex Jones, Harry Masters and Joleesa

Simons. Together, the CRC has experience and varying levels of expertise in activism, policy, law, addictions treatment and drug education. The CRC worked diligently to engage the public in discussions about Bermuda's current cannabis policies and to canvass the public's views on reform through town hall style meetings, focus groups and electronic surveys.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset of the CRC's work and again when the document was delivered to me on April 17th, I indicated that I would table the report in the House for the information of Honourable Members. As such, I am pleased to table the Final Advisory Document and a Motion inviting this House to take note of its contents.

Mr. Speaker, the team at the Ministry of National Security is currently reviewing the contents of the report and the resulting recommendations. It must be noted however that cannabis policy in Bermuda is far reaching, affecting our social, health and economic climate and therefore requires a holistic approach to reform. Where it is found that reform is in fact warranted, changes will only be made in a measured fashion with careful consideration of the Bermudian context.

Mr. Speaker, please allow me to conclude by thanking the Chairman and the Members of the CRC for their hard work. The group members all volunteered their expertise

and the many hours needed for the production of this comprehensive document.

Thank you, **Mr. Speaker.**