

SHORTT, MOORE & ARSENAULT
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

Morley D. Shortt, Q.C.* Shona A. Moore, Q.C.* Theodore C. Arsenault* Donald W. Bobert*
Megan T. Higgins Anita K. Olson Patricia A. Dumaresq David M. Aaron Debra L. Burton Audrey G. Lieberman

Daniel J. Rogers, Associate Counsel

March 1, 2005

The Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh
Minister's Office - Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Bldg., Tunney's Pasture
P.O. 0906C
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1A 0K9

Dear Mr. Dosanjh:

Re: Prairie Plant Systems Inc.

We are legal counsel for Canadians for Safe Access ("CSA"), a consumer rights organization advocating on behalf of medical cannabis patients.

In response to its expression of concern over the safety and quality of government-issued cannabis, our client has been threatened with a defamation suit by Prairie Plant Systems Inc, the federal government's sole supplier of cannabis.

This threat of litigation comes by way of correspondence from counsel for Prairie Plant Systems dated February 10, 2005, and pertains to CSA's publication last January of a document entitled "Open Letter of Concern for the Health and Safety of Canada's Medicinal Cannabis Community". Copies of these documents are enclosed for your reference.

The veracity of CSA's statements regarding the safety and quality of government-issued cannabis rests on the results of independent laboratory tests as well as the results of Health Canada's own tests, obtained by CSA through an access to information request.

Contested facts have been the subject of correspondence between Prairie Plant Systems and CSA dated February 8, 2005, and February 28, 2005, respectively. These documents, copies of which are enclosed for your reference, demonstrate the factual foundation upon which CSA's criticisms rest.

Suite 1210, 1140 West Pender Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4G1 • Tel: 604-669-4447 • Fax: 604-669-4737

*denotes Law Corporation

Public debate over the safety and quality of government-issued cannabis is a form of political expression protected under Section 2(b) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Given the exclusive relationship between the federal government and Prairie Plant Systems with respect to the supply of such cannabis, we hold the government accountable for actions taken by Prairie Plant Systems to silence criticism of the government-issued product.

So as to avoid becoming implicated in a restriction of public debate over government policy and its impact on consumers, we urge the federal government not to acquiesce to Prairie Plant Systems' attempt to intimidate and silence our client. In particular, we request that your Ministry demand that Prairie Plant Systems issue a retraction of its February 10th correspondence. Kindly provide us with your reply in relation to this request.

By rendering Prairie Plant Systems the exclusive supplier of its cannabis, the federal government has created monopolistic conditions where, in the absence of competition, the safety and quality of government-issued cannabis is severely compromised. At issue is not only the product distributed by Health Canada, but also the very policy by which the federal government purports to discharge its obligation to facilitate safe access to exempted patients.

Given that Canadian medical marijuana policy is in its infancy, it is critical that free expression on behalf of those affected by such policy be protected. The health of Canadians is at stake, as is the health of Canadian democracy.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

SHORTT, MOORE & ARSENAULT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.M. Aaron', written over a horizontal line.

DAVID M. AARON
DMA:sem

cc: Libby Davies, M.P.
Prairie Plant Systems Inc. c/o William Hood
Canadians for Safe Access

encl.