

Medical Cannabis Club of Guelph

July 29 2010

For Immediate Release:

Prosecution Withdraws Charges Against MCCG Founder's Fiancée, Founder Alleges Harassment

The MCCG is happy to announce that the prosecution has withdrawn all charges associated with the raid of the MCCG against the MCCG founder's, Rade Kovacevic's, fiancée.

On May 6, 2010, the Guelph Police Service (GPS) raided Mr. Kovacevic's home in conjunction with their raid of the MCCG. During the raid of Mr. Kovacevic's home his fiancée was arrested for Possession of Marihuana for the Purpose of Trafficking. Mr. Kovacevic's fiancée was not an employee of the Medical Cannabis Club of Guelph Inc., a shareholder, or a director. She had nothing to do with the MCCG, other than being engaged to Mr. Kovacevic.

"My fiancée was arrested before the police even entered our home" said Mr. Kovacevic. "The only reason they knew I had medical cannabis in the home is because they were well aware that I had a prescription for medical cannabis from my doctor. Moreover, I find it extremely disconcerting that they would seize my medical cannabis; given that they were aware that I had a prescription and that my Health Canada license would be valid only 3 hours following the raid, after an unreasonable 6 month delay. I have found this timing suspicious, and at the least outside the spirit of the law."

The MCCG strongly believes that the arrest of Mr. Kovacevic's fiancée was without reason or cause. The MCCG believes that the point of the arrest was to harass Mr. Kovacevic's family and pressure him to close the MCCG. "I find it extremely disconcerting to see the police using my medical condition to criminalize myself and my family. The MCCG is an incorporated business that pays all employees in cheque form, registered with Revenue Canada. The police cannot pretend that the arrest of my fiancée was a mistake or misunderstanding of who worked at the MCCG. The police also cannot pretend that they had reasonable grounds to arrest her, given that all charges were dropped within 3 months". The choice to arrest Mr. Kovacevic's fiancée, seize money for the couple's wedding, as well as personal items such as birthday cards, has left Mr. Kovacevic "seeing the GPS as unprofessional, utilizing bully tactics".

The MCCG continues to state that its operations were lawful and of great benefit to both the local and wider south-western Ontario community. "I strongly believe that these charges will be concluded in our favour", said Mr. Kovacevic "and I think it is important that the citizens of Guelph are aware which police officers, prosecutors, and politicians were involved in the raid of the MCCG. Many people within the GPS, court employees, and politicians have privately stated their support for the MCCG. We know that this raid was an unpopular decision made by a minority, resulting in grave consequences for our patients." The MCCG believes that those behind the decision to raid the MCCG should be held to public account.

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Medical Cannabis Club of Guelph Inc.

T: 519.341.0700

F: 226.777.0150

www.medicalcannabisclub.ca