The Alderville Cannabis Model

The 2019 Meetings of the Mississauga of Rice Lake Cannabis Association will be held on Sunday at 10am on March 17 and on Saturdays at 10am on June 15, Sept 21, and Dec 21.
The international community of nations has come to a global consensus concerning the rights of Indigenous people through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday, September 13th, 2007. Of particular relevance to this document are the following articles which are consistent with our understanding of our rights and responsibilities as concerning the self-regulation of our economy and medicines.

**Article 18** Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision making institutions.

**Article 19** States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

**Article 20** Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities. Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress.

**Article 23** Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

**Article 24** Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.

More info at [www.ricelakecannabis.org](http://www.ricelakecannabis.org)
Indigenous Access to Cannabis

A message from the Mississauga of Rice Lake Cannabis Association

1. No plant, animal or person is “illegal” under the natural laws governing Indigenous peoples. The concept of one human prohibiting another from accessing a part of creation is foreign to us.

2. We are a free and sovereign people and we are allies to, and not subjects of, the British Crown and its Canadian government.

3. We have a responsibility to look after our land and our people and our generations yet to come.

4. We have an inherent individual and collective right as free and sovereign Indigenous people to consume, cultivate, process, utilize, and trade or exchange any part of creation in our territory for our own sustenance and benefit, as long as we do it in a way that benefits our seven generations and our mother Turtle Island.

5. Because we are a free and sovereign people, we do not pay or collect tax to or for the Canadian government, the British crown, or anyone else.

6. As a free and sovereign people we have the right to self-regulate our own economies and our own communities.

7. The way our system of governance works is that our leaders serve our people, and express the common consensus of the people.

8. Our individual and collective rights are enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and are recognized and affirmed in the Canadian constitution.

9. For all these reasons, we the Mississauga of Rice Lake, declare that cannabis is not “illegal” in our territory. As has long been the case, cannabis is grown, processed, and sold according to the customs and traditions of our people.

10. The recently established medicinal cannabis dispensaries in our territory are regulated through quarterly gatherings of Alderville First Nation members belonging to the Mississauga of Rice Lake Cannabis Association.

More info at www.ricelakecannabis.org
A cannabis oasis in a desert of Canadian regulatory confusion

Even after legalization of Crown-approved cannabis, the Canadian cannabis industry is marred by uncertainty. Not so in Alderville.

With different regulations in place for each province and territory, no one is really sure how well the “legal” cannabis regulations will mesh with reality. Health Canada is allowing Licensed Producers to use 21 different types of pesticides in their growing process, and there are serious concerns about the health ramifications of consuming LP cannabis, especially for medical users.

It is becoming increasingly evident that there will not be enough non-black market cannabis to meet demand. And what will happen to the small scale “black market” producers that are being frozen out of the legalized system but who hold so much of the practical knowledge of the industry?

One place where there is little such uncertainty is in Alderville First Nation. Nestled on the south shore of Rice Lake, about a 30 minute drive from Cobourg, Ontario, this Ojibway community of 1100 is in the forefront of a rapidly growing Indigenous cannabis movement.

Every day, thousands of visitors come to the community to purchase cannabis flower, extracts, oils, edibles, and salves from the seven stores on Hwy 45 that line Alderville’s “Mashkiki [Medicine] Trail”.

Alderville, like nearby Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, is a thriving – and rapidly growing – cannabis oasis in a desert of Canadian regulatory confusion. By acting on its own terms, and developing an actually existing, self-regulated system of Indigenous cannabis distribution that directly involves the people of the community, Alderville is demonstrating how the cannabis industry can benefit both natives and non-natives – without government intervention – in a new era of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

In many ways, the development of Alderville’s cannabis industry followed the contours established by the tobacco industry decades earlier. In the 1990s, the native tobacco industry was booming. In nearby Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, a number of tobacco-processing and manufacturing sites were established, and it wasn’t long before smoke shops opened up in Alderville. In a
context of government neglect and underfunding, native tobacco provided a much-needed alternative means for on-reserve economic development.

The OPP and RCMP attempted to shut down the tobacco trade in Alderville, but despite their raids, the industry grew and became an accepted staple of reserve life. Twenty years later, when the Indigenous cannabis dispensary movement surfaced, it built upon many of the same trade networks of the tobacco industry.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the growth of Alderville’s cannabis industry is that it has occurred without any involvement from Federal, Provincial, or Band Council authorities. Although Band Council has been kept in the loop as the industry has grown and developed, the Band Council has been resolute in refusing to take a role in approving, critiquing, or regulating the industry. In this context, it has been left up to individual band members to exercise their sovereign rights, something they have not been shy about doing.

With the lack of direction from Band Council, store owners have had to look elsewhere for regulatory systems to safeguard their industry. As Medicine Wheel owner Rob Stevenson put it, “we needed some kind of framework that is responsive to the people in our community and which can protect the industry and the interests of our people.” With Canadian politicians and police forces rolling out regulatory systems at the Federal, Provincial and Municipal level, the issue of cannabis regulation on Indian reserves has been ignored, despite the pleas of Indian Act leaders to be consulted.

As soon as it opened, Medicine Wheel took the path of transparent self-regulation to ensure that it would operate with standards and procedures beyond those being proposed in Canadian and US jurisdictions. Lab equipment was bought and installed in a glass-walled room, in full view of customers, so that the store’s quality-control processes could be evident to all. Childproof packaging was made mandatory for all products leaving the store, and customers have been extensively informed about cannabis safety and best practices.

As more stores opened up in Alderville, it became clear that having no system in place could leave the industry open to the imposition of outside oversight. Consequently, a group of Alderville First Nation members involved in the cannabis industry created their own system to regulate the industry. Named the Mississauga of Rice Lake Cannabis Association, the Association is open to all members of Alderville First Nation who consume, grow, or sell cannabis. The Association has created its own bylaws and community standards to regulate the growth and sale of cannabis on reserve and has chosen an executive.

The Association meets on a quarterly basis at the Alderville Community Centre to decide through a consensus decision-making process how best to regulate their industry on their territory.

To date, the main efforts of the association have been focused on launching a survey to measure community opinions concerning cannabis, and to get a sense from community members as to how they think the industry should give back to the community. The survey was carried out from September 15th to October 15th, and the results have now been published.

The survey was made available through a mail-out to all homes on the reserve, shared on social media, and could be filled out online. The responses represent about half of the on-reserve membership of the band and have been strongly pro-cannabis and pro-sovereign governance of the industry.

As Canada proceeds with its own labyrinthine legalization of cannabis, the future is bright in Alderville this harvest season. The community is booming, and the foundations are being set for long term benefit.

The Mississauga of Rice Lake Cannabis Association will hold its next meeting on March 16th, 2019. For more information please visit www.ricelakecannabis.org.
Results of the Alderville medical cannabis survey

167 people filled out the Mississauga of Rice Lake Cannabis Association’s survey asking Alderville First Nations members their views on the cannabis plant and its regulation in their community.

The results of the survey were a strong endorsement of Alderville’s cannabis industry. 90.9% of respondents stated that they consider cannabis a medicine, and 90.9% also said that they believe that the people of Alderville have a “sovereign right” to make their own rules “to determine their own path and choices” regarding the plant.

These very high numbers were comparable to the numbers returned by the Six Nations Cannabis Survey undertaken by the Green Health for 6 dispensary in Six Nations in December of 2017. Six Nations is the largest reserve by population in Canada, and there the 731 respondents declared by 95.1% that cannabis was a medicine and by 96.5% that Six Nations had a sovereign right to establish and run its own cannabis industry.

On the question of whether cannabis is a medicine compatible with Indigenous medicine, 12.7% of respondents said they were unsure. But that still left a resounding majority of 80% who said they considered cannabis compatible with Indigenous medicine. Survey respondents were very familiar with cannabis, with 90.3% indicating that they had tried cannabis at one point or another in their lives.

About half of respondents consume cannabis products on a daily basis. 16.6% consume weekly, 9.8% monthly, 10.4% yearly, and 13.5% don’t consume cannabis at all.

Respondents selected many different reasons for their use of cannabis. The top four reasons for using cannabis medicinally were for pain relief (72.5%), stress (64.5%), and insomnia (50.7%) and depression (45.7%).

Respondents to the survey indicated that they were generally quite happy with the direction that the cannabis industry was taking in Alderville. 86% stated that they thought “the growth and development of the Indigenous cannabis industry to have been a good thing for Alderville” while 11.6% said that they were unsure.

In terms of their self-identification, survey respondents selected a variety of options. The most popular was Ojibway/Anishinaabe/Mississauga at 54.5%, Canadian citizen at 52.7%, and Status Indian at 50.3% of respondents. The average age of respondents was 37 years old.

Women were over-represented in the survey, with 61.7% of respondents identifying as female, and 38.3% as male.

The 167 surveys filled out represents a sample of a little more than 50% of the adult members of Alderville First Nation living on reserve. There are another 900 or so members of Alderville First Nation living off-reserve.

Mississauga of Rice Lake Cannabis Association spokesperson Rob Stevenson is pleased with the survey results.

“We gave everyone a chance to be heard,” said Stevenson. “And we succeeded in getting about half of the on-reserve members to fill out the survey, so this is a big success.” Band membership was confirmed by collecting status numbers, information that is being kept under lock and key and which will be destroyed at the conclusion of the survey. The Association executive has decided to keep the survey open until December 15th, 2018 the date of its next quarterly meeting, so as to give Alderville members – especially those living off reserve – a further opportunity to make their voices heard about cannabis in Alderville.

Alderville First Nation members who have not yet filled out the survey can do so at www.ricelakecannabis.org/survey until December 15th, 2018.
And the survey says...

### Sex
167 responses
- Female: 38.3%
- Male: 61.7%
- Prefer not to say: 0%

### How often do you use cannabis?
163 responses
- Daily: 9.9%
- Weekly: 16.6%
- Monthly: 13.5%
- Yearly: 49.7%
- I don't use cannabis at all: 3.4%

### How do you identify yourself? (Check all that apply)
167 responses
- Ojibway / Anishinaabe: 84 (50.3%)
- Mississauga: 4 (2.4%)
- Status Indian: 89 (54.5%)
- Canadian citizen: 88 (52.7%)
- Non-native: 16 (9.6%)
- Latina and Refugee Residents: 1 (0.6%)
- Grew up on AFN: 1 (0.6%)
- North American Indian: 1 (0.6%)
- Ancestral: 1 (0.6%)
- not specified: 0%

### Do you think that the people of Alderville First Nation have the sovereign right to determine their own path and choices regarding cannabis?
164 responses
- Yes: 90.8%
- No: 0%
- Maybe: 9.2%

### Have you ever consumed cannabis?
165 responses
- Yes: 90.3%
- No: 1.2%
- Prefer not to say: 8.5%

### Do you consider cannabis to be a medicine?
165 responses
- Yes: 90.9%
- No: 1.2%
- Maybe: 8.9%

### As you may know, the Mississaugas of Rice Lake Cannabis Association has been created. One of its mandates is to create a community contribution fund to give back to the community. What are your priorities?
160 responses
- Language and Culture: 84 (52.5%)
- Youth and sports programs: 80 (50%)
- Elder care and support: 108 (66.9%)
- Personal hardship fund: 56 (35%)
- Assistance with home building and repairs: 56 (35%)

### Do you consider cannabis to be a plant compatible with indigenous medicine?
165 responses
- Yes: 80%
- No: 20%
- Maybe: 0%

### Do you consider the growth and development of the Indigenous Cannabis Industry to have been a good thing for Alderville?
164 responses
- Yes: 86%
- No: 11.6%
- Maybe: 2.4%

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If you have used cannabis as a medicine, what condition(s) have you used it for? Check all that apply.
130 responses
- Neurological conditions: 33 (25.5%)
- Loss of appetite: 37 (28.5%)
- Chronic conditions: 37 (28.5%)
- Pain relief: 33 (25.5%)
- Menstrual cramps: 34 (26.2%)
- Sleep: 0 (0.0%)
- Sexual dysfunction: 17 (12.9%)
- Depression: 62 (45.7%)
- Fatigue: 62 (45.7%)
- Digestive / bowel problems: 22 (15.9%)
- Anxiety: 70 (53.7%)
- Diabetes: 2 (1.5%)
- PMS: 1 (0.7%)
- Recreational: 1 (0.7%)
Ian Campeau on cannabis & Indigenous value systems

Ian Campeau is a founding member of the renown Indigenous music group A Tribe Called Red. Ian was on hand to play some tunes at a MRLCA social event in Alderville on September 14, 2018. Here are some of the remarks from a speech he gave.

“One thing that I’ve been learning about Indigenous value systems, is that we used to measure our wealth differently from how settlers measure wealth. We used to measure our wealth based on how much we could afford to give away. We need to re-indigenize our idea of wealth. We need to figure out how to give away everything that is excessive. We need to find a way to help other people to show how wealthy we are as Indigenous people.

Since leaving Tribe, I live on a farm and I’m trying to do this myself. I try to grow and give away as much food as I can, to as many people as I can as a way to show this Indigenous wealth. We’ve got to switch from a colonial measure of wealth which is about how much you can hoard and accumulate.

The shift from resources to currency is what really messed up our way of life, because we knew the true value of life. We understood resources in a different way. The idea of land “ownership” is a colonial idea. Land was seen by us as the same thing as air, as a resource that we all need, and that we should all have access to.

When Settlers showed up and they were like “Yo, we want to have that much land”, it was the same to us as saying, that they wanted this much air to breathe. The negotiations kind of worked out where we said “you can say you own it, but can we still breathe that air?” and they said, “yeah you can still breathe it as much as you want.” So we said, ok, “you can say that you ‘own’ it then.” We’ve got to understand the history with what happened in the disruption of our way of life.

A way to alleviate a lot of this poverty is to create the wealth ourselves. I don’t know if you guys understand what you’re doing on this “Green Mile” right now. As Anishinaabe people we can invent our own money. We can straight up just call it a “Jounia”, which is the Anishabnek word for money, and have it in all of our “money dispensaries” so that when Jagannab [White] people come by and want to buy our Mashkiki, they have to invest in our Jounia.

And that’s just creating wealth, that’s just creating our own currency that can help us. If we start working so that we’re making our own medicine, and then processing the fibrous material into housing – I can’t even tell you how excited I am by all of this! We’ve got a lot of power here, we just need to realize it.”

Ian Campeau preparing to play some tunes in Alderville First Nation.

Ian Campeau.  

MRLCA www.ricelakecannabis.org
Mission Statement

The Mississauga of Rice Lake Cannabis Association (MRLCA) shall:

1. Advocate for the interests of the members of the Alderville First Nation who grow, sell, and consume cannabis products.

2. Implement a process of self-regulation of the cannabis industry on the territory of the Alderville First Nation through the application of Indigenous political and economic principles that will: uphold Indigenous self-determination, protect minors, combat addiction, keep out organized crime, provide for quality control and safe handling and consistency of product, educate consumers, regulate prices, ensure fair standards of wages and benefits to workers, and otherwise promote the public health and social wellbeing of the people of Alderville First Nation.

3. Advocate and promote the rights of all members of the Alderville First Nation to access cannabis and to build an “above ground” self-regulated industry to grow, process, transport, retail, and trade cannabis on a nation to nation basis. This advocacy may be done through means including, but not limited to, workshops, publications, advertisements, and public relations campaigns.

4. Encourage the diversification of the Alderville cannabis industry into a broader “green economy” using hemp and cannabis byproducts to produce building materials, paper, clothing, health foods, etc. in such a manner as to bring health and prosperity to the people of Alderville First Nation.

5. Promote Alderville First Nation as a cannabis tourist hub, allowing us to share our culture and traditions.

6. Defend and build political and legal support for any members of the MRLCA who face criminalization or state sanctioned targeting for participating in the Indigenous cannabis industry.

7. The MRLCA shall create a mechanism whereby a portion of the revenue made through the cannabis industry will be apportioned to economic, social and cultural programs that improve the lives and support the identity and values of the people of Alderville First Nation.
1.0 MEMBERSHIP

1.1 The Alderville Cannabis Association is an organization comprised of members of the Alderville First Nation who are involved in the growing, processing, transporting, sale, and consumption of cannabis products.

1.2 Any member of the Alderville First Nation who grows, sells or consumes cannabis products, who agrees to uphold the mission statement, bylaws, and Community Standards of the MRLCA, and who pays the yearly $25 MRLCA membership fee will be accepted as a member of the association.

1.3 A membership card will be issued to each member of the MRLCA with their name, and proof of membership listed on it.

1.4 Members of the MRLCA are entitled to a 10% discount on purchases at participating businesses on Alderville First Nation.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP GROUPS

2.1 Members of the MRLCA join one of three bodies based upon their involvement in the cannabis industry. These three groups are: growers (anyone involved in any stage of the growing or manufacturing of cannabis) retailers (anyone involved in sale of the product) and consumers (members of Alderville First Nation who consume cannabis products.)

3.0 GENERAL COUNCIL

3.1 The highest decision making body of the MRLCA is its General Council, which is a meeting of all members.

3.2 General Council meetings of the MRLCA occur quarterly, on the Saturday morning before the winter and summer solstice, and the Saturday morning before the spring and fall equinox.

3.3 Meetings shall begin at 10am on Saturday morning.

3.4 After welcoming and introductions, the General Council shall divide into its three component parts (growers, retailers, and consumers).
3.5 Each group will meet by itself to discuss its concerns and issues.

3.6 Once it has met and discussed within its group, each group will pick spokespersons to reflect the general positions and perspectives held by each of the three groups.

3.7 When the General Council reunites, each of the three groups shall sit together so they may council together to see if they have consensus on proposals made by the other groups.

4.0 MAKING DECISIONS

4.1 Business is advanced by one of the three sides coming to an internal agreement to make a specific resolution – ie: “the MRLCA should pass such and such a resolution or carry out such and such an action” – and passing it across to one of the other groups to have them discuss. The second group seeks to arrive at a consensus to either reject, accept or modify the proposal and lets the group which proposed the initiative know whether they accept, reject, or have modified the proposal.

4.2 If both the first and the second group have come to agreement on the proposal, the second group shall pass on the motion to the third group which may either ratify the decision, or send it back to the other two with further modifications.

4.3 If the same matter is passed back and forth between two groups and no consensus is reached, then the matter shall be referred to the next meeting. If a matter has been brought up at three consecutive meetings and has not been resolved, then the matter shall be deemed closed and shall not be discussed again.

4.4 Motions that are agreed upon with the consensus of all three groups are written down and recorded as official decisions of the MRLCA by the MRLCA secretary and shall be published on the MRLCA’s website.

5.0 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5.1 At its founding meeting on June 16, 2018, the MRLCA shall choose an executive committee made up of a spokesperson, a treasurer, a secretary as well as one representative from each membership group (a total of 6 members).

5.2 The terms of the executive members is for a one year period.

5.3 The MRLCA as a whole must come to consensus on who will be chosen as spokesperson, treasurer, and secretary. The group representatives to the executive are chosen by the consensus of each group (retailers, growers, and consumers) and ratified by the other two groups.

5.4 The role of the executive is to operate the affairs of the association in between MRLCA quarterly meetings.

5.5 The spokesperson speaks on behalf of the association publicly and is responsible for external communications.

5.6 The treasurer is responsible for the group’s finances.

5.7 The secretary is responsible for keeping minutes of executive and general assembly meetings, keeping track of membership, and handling internal communications amongst the membership.

5.8 The other three executive members represent the groups that selected them and may assist the spokesperson, treasurer, and secretary as necessary, or take on other areas of responsibility.

5.9 Executive members are recallable by the members of the group that placed them on the executive. They may be removed from their position and replaced by the group that chose them at any of the quarterly meetings of the MRLCA.

5.10 The executive committee shall produce a proposed agenda, and provide a written report of the executive’s activities on behalf of the MRLCA no less than three weeks before each quarterly meeting.

5.11 The executive is collectively responsible for organizing the quarterly general assembly meetings and communicating the decisions made to the membership.

6.0 COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

6.1 The MRLCA may create commissions and committees as necessary to fulfill its mandate. These bodies may include:

6.1.1 A trustee body to oversee the finances of the Community Contribution Fund;

6.1.2 An Advisory Board made up of grandmothers from Alderville First Nation;

6.1.3 An Education and Skills development committee to build capacity within and outside the MRLCA.

6.1.4 An arms length compliance body / Ombudsperson to handle and investigate complaints. The Ombudsperson shall serve as a non-decision making member of the executive and shall be the person to whom all complaints concerning MRLCA members shall referred to.

7.0 REMOVAL FROM ASSOCIATION

7.1 The following are grounds for removal from the association:

7.1.1 Involvement within the cannabis industry on the territory of the Alderville First Nation in violation of the MRLCA approved document “MRLCA Community Standards;”

7.2 The executive of the association has the right to suspend a member of the association for violation of the Community Standards document. That suspension may be dismissed, altered or confirmed into a removal from the Association at the following General Council quarterly meeting.

8.0 MODIFICATION OF BYLAWS AND PRINCIPLES

8.1 The bylaws and statement of principles of the MRLCA may be modified with the consensus agreement of all three bodies of the MRLCA as long as the notice of such change is provided to the membership with a two weeks notice before the quarterly meeting.
MRLCA Community Standards for the Cannabis Industry of Alderville First Nation

1.0 GENERAL
1.1 These community standards on the safe operation of cannabis dispensaries have been adopted by the members of the MRLCA to protect the people of our nation and our visitors.
1.2 The community standards document is a “living document” that may be altered through the decision making process of the MRLCA at one of its quarterly meetings.

2.0 YOUTH PROTECTION
2.1 Cannabis Dispensaries on the territory of the Alderville First Nation who belong to the MRLCA undertake to accept the following regulations concerning youth access to cannabis.
2.1.1 Don’t sell to those under 19.
2.1.2 ID people looking under 25.
2.1.3 Don’t market product to a youth market.

3.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY
3.1 All product sold by members of the MRLCA on the Territory of the Alderville First Nation must be
3.1.1 Tested for its potency.
3.1.2 Visually inspected to ensure it is not moldy.
3.1.3 Packaged in childproof containers.
3.1.4 When handling cannabis products, all employees should wear gloves and take steps not to mix different cannabis products together.

4.0 CUSTOMER INFO
4.1 All retailers belonging to the MRLCA must prominently display a MRLCA made sign in their business indicating that they belong to the association and follow its Community Standards.
4.2 All retailers must hold their customer data in a secure place.

5.0 COMPLAINTS
5.1 Any and all complaints about the conduct of a member of the MRLCA shall be referred to the MRLCA executive or the MRLCA Ombudsperson where the matter shall be addressed.

6.0 LABELLING OF PRODUCT.
6.1 Wherever possible, cannabis products should be labeled as to how they were grown, ie.
6.1.1 Hydroponics
6.1.2 Indoor
6.1.3 Outdoor
6.1.4 Organic

7.0 SECURITY
7.1 Shops undertake to keep their premises safe, and the community as a whole.

Proposed Community Contribution Fund
Proposed at June 15, 2018 meeting, for discussion and decision at March 16 MRLCA Meeting.

1.0 The MRLCA shall create a Community Contribution Fund to ensure that the cannabis industry of the Alderville First Nation contributes to the needs of the people.
2.0 The Community Contribution Fund shall be managed by three trustees selected by the MRLCA at one of its General Councils. Each of the three trustees shall be chosen from a different group (retailers, growers, consumers) and together they are responsible for the operation of the fund.
3.0 The fund shall receive payment in the following ways.
3.1 A surcharge of $__ will be added to each test carried out by MedSol Medicate Solutions and will be contributed to the community fund.
3.2 A common childproof “exit bag” bearing the logo of the MRLCA and information concerning the safe use of medicinal cannabis shall be utilized by all retail outlets that are members of the MRLCA.
3.2.1 All customers at retail outlets belonging to the MRLCA are required to purchase an exit bag in order to take their purchased products home.
3.2.2 Each store shall purchase the bags in bulk from the MRLCA at their cost of production of $__
3.2.3 Each exit bag shall be sold to customers at a cost $__
3.2.4 The profit made on the sales of exit bags to customers shall be donated to the community contribution fund.
3.2.5 Customers need only buy one exit bag as long as they re-use it and bring it back to the store. If they forget or lose their bag, they must purchase a new bag along with their product.
4.0 The fund will also accept voluntary donations from other sources as they are made.
5.0 The trustees of the Community Contribution Fund shall make a quarterly report of all expenditures to the meetings of the MRLCA which shall be published on the MRLCA website to ensure accountability.
Proposal for MRLCA adopting Red Feather Certification

Be it resolved that, the MRLCA hereby undertakes to support and participate within the Red Feather Certification protocol, a system of cannabis testing and certification adopted by three cannabis dispensaries in Alderville with testing labs – Medicine Wheel, Healing House, and the Totem Pole.

Be it further resolved that the following section on Red Feather Certification be added to the MRLCA bylaws:

Red Feather Certification

1. The MRLCA undertakes to support and participate within the Red Feather Alliance in order to implement Red Feather Certification protocol, a system of cannabis testing and certification developed by three cannabis dispensaries in Alderville with testing facilities – Medicine Wheel, Healing House, and the Totem Pole.

2. Red Feather Alliance
   1. The Red Feather Alliance is the body that issues Red Feather Certification and upholds health and safety standards in the Alderville cannabis industry.
   2. The Red Feather Alliance makes its decisions by the consensus of its decision makers.
   3. The Red Feather Alliance is made up of the following decision making representatives:
      1. One representative from each dispensary in Alderville with a testing facility.
      2. Three representatives of the people of Alderville First Nation as appointed through the quarterly meetings of the MRLCA.
      3. A decision making seat reserved for Chief and Council to appoint a representative.
      4. A decision making seat reserved for a local Alderville First Nation health organization to appoint a representative.
   4. The Red Feather Alliance meets on a monthly basis to process, assess, and issue certifications.

3. Red Feather Certification identifies a product as being not only made by Indigenous people with the right and freedom to make such products, but as being quality controlled to the highest of health and safety protocols. The Red Feather Certification is a standard that identifies a particular cannabis product as meeting Indigenous requirements for medicine. Products bearing the Red Feather seal must:

4. Red Feather Certified products are an independent third party way to identify that a particular product was made in accordance with local Indigenous law and custom to the protocol and standards of the people in the community of Alderville. Red Feather Certified products can thus be used for tax free nation-to-nation trading and for provision to people who are specifically seeking a certified Indigenous medicine for their health needs. (Non-native medical patients are increasingly seeking Indigenous cannabis because they know that Health Canada allows for the use of up to 21 different pesticides in the growing of cannabis, while Red Feather certified products allow for none.)

5. Parties seeking Red Feather Certification shall fill out an online form hosted on the MRLCA website www.ricelakecannabis.org, and then have a face to face meeting with a representative of the Red Feather Alliance. The application fee for certification is used to cover the labour costs of certification and the testing costs. The members of the Alliance may also use their monthly meeting as a space to share knowledge and technique, and may bring in experts to provide sessions for training and skills development.

6. As a way to maintain accountability and ensure transparency, the Red Feather Alliance shall provide the quarterly meetings of the MRLCA and Alderville Chief and Council with regular reports of its certification results and processes.
Proposal for Ombudsperson Position in the MRLCA

Proposed at Jan 27th meeting, for discussion and decision at March 16 MRLCA Meeting.

Proposal: That the following text describing the position of Ombudsperson be added to the bylaws of the Mississauga of Rice Lake Cannabis Association for the purposes of enhancing the safety and security of the Alderville cannabis industry. Note: this position shall be chosen and the text of this proposal finalized at the March 16th, 2019 meeting of the MRLCA.

I. Role and duties of the MRLCA Ombudsperson
   A. The MRLCA Ombudsperson provides an independent, impartial and confidential process through which Alderville FN members and the general public may find assistance and advice in the just, fair and equitable resolution of concerns related to the Alderville cannabis industry.
   B. The role of the Ombudsperson is to represent the interests of the Alderville community and the general public by investigating and addressing complaints regarding public safety, maladministration, or the violation of rights within the Alderville cannabis industry.
   C. The duties of the Ombudsperson are to investigate complaints and attempt to resolve them, usually through recommendations or mediation between the affected parties.
   D. The Ombudsperson is accountable to and appointed by the quarterly meetings of the MRLCA.
   E. The Ombudsperson may also make recommendations when trends, patterns, policies or procedures of the MRLCA generate concerns or conflicts, and promotes discussion on community wide concerns.
   F. The Ombudsperson shall carry out the responsibilities of the office independently of the executive and administrative bodies of the MRLCA.

II. The contact information (email, phone number and website) of the MRLCA Ombudsperson shall be announced and made public on the website and public materials produced by the MRLCA.

III. Any complaints about the Alderville cannabis industry by either Alderville First Nation members or members of the general Canadian public shall be directed to the MRLCA Ombudsperson.
   A. The method for recording a complaint shall be to fill out a form on the MRLCA website at www.ricelakecannabis.org/ombuds identifying the nature of the complaint, a suggestions for how the complaint could be resolved, and their contact information.
   B. Once the Ombudsperson is notified of the complaint, the Ombudsperson shall consider the complaint and make an initial investigation to determine if the complaint is of a serious nature.
   C. If the Ombudsperson considers the complaint to be of a serious enough nature as to require further investigation, then the Ombudsperson shall interview the complainant and the respondents to the complaint, and produce a report detailing their findings and recommendation for solutions to the complaint.
   D. A copy of this report (with the identity of the complainant redacted) shall be forwarded to the MRLCA Executive who may take action to address it.
   E. Any member of the Executive who is a party to the complaint shall declare a conflict of interest and not take part in the discussion as to how to proceed.
   F. The Executive may choose to refer the problem and its solution to another body such as for example: Chief and Council, an outside police force, or another Alderville organization or institution.
   G. Before each Quarterly meeting, the Ombudsperson shall produce an incident report outlining all of the complaints they have received over the last quarter, as well as a report of all investigations carried out by the Ombudsperson.

IV. Services provided by the Ombudsperson are founded on a number of general principles including independence, impartiality, confidentiality, informality, and accessibility. Fairness in decisions shall be the special concern of the Ombudsperson. Among other things, that means that the Ombudsperson shall make decisions and recommendations:
   A. with reasonable promptness;
   B. in accordance with applicable policies and procedures;
   C. taking into account all relevant information.

V. Jurisdiction
   A. The Office of the Ombudsperson is not meant to replace established channels of assistance but may be used if an individual needs assistance in identifying where to go, would prefer to discuss a problem with a neutral party, or has already gone through established channels without satisfaction.
   B. The Ombudsperson shall have no actual authority to impose remedies or sanctions, or to enforce any policy, rule or procedure. They may, however, make recommendations for resolving concerns or improving policies, rules or procedures which may be implemented by the various bodies of the MRLCA.
   C. The Office of the Ombudsperson shall not deal with concerns from any individuals who do not present that concern personally. Third parties attempting to initiate action on behalf of another individual shall be informed of this policy and instructed to persuade the injured party to contact the Ombudsperson directly.
   D. The Ombudsperson acts solely in an advisory or intermediary role and does not make or alter MRLCA policy.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OJIBWAY</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mshkiki gizeebeegnigaan</td>
<td>Bath Bombs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mashkiki</td>
<td>Cannabis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mishkiki zawow mide</td>
<td>Cannabutter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noojmiwin waabo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mishkiki opchi meshkwaak</td>
<td>Concentrate</td>
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<td>Flower</td>
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<td>Grinder</td>
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<td>Grow Op</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Hash</td>
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<td>Rolling machine / device</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zhee gnigewin mizinigun</td>
<td>Rolling Paper</td>
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<td>Vapourizer</td>
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<td>Zongchigchesun</td>
<td>Wax / dabs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mishkoohns</td>
<td>Weed (slang)</td>
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Gathering to discuss Anishinaabe self-regulation of the cannabis industry

Saturday, March 9th, 2019

On Saturday, March 9th, 2019 the Mississauga of Rice Lake Cannabis Association will be hosting a day long meeting in Alderville to bring together Anishinaabe cannabis growers and dispensary owners to discuss, improve, and possibly adopt a common framework of self-regulation and community governance that puts the regulation and economic benefit of the cannabis industry firmly in our own people's hands.

We believe that if we are able to articulate a common framework within our industry across our various communities, we will have a much greater level of success in gaining the support and backing of our community members and political leaderships for a self-regulated industry.

We are planning to hold this meeting from 10:00am to 5pm on Saturday, March 9th, 2019 in Alderville.

This meeting is open to all Anishinaabe people currently participating in the cannabis industry. We ask all interested in attending to register online at www.ricelakecannabis.org/conference so we can get a sense of the number of people attending.

Food will be provided for the event, and the registration will cost $75.

Do let us know if you would be interested in co-sponsoring and attending this event, and if you'd be interested in participating in the planning and structuring of the event.