**Social Studies 30**

Legalization of Marijuana

*Studying controversial issues is important in preparing students to participate responsibly in a democratic and pluralistic society. Such study provides opportunities to develop the ability to think clearly, to reason logically, to open mindedly and respectfully examine different points of view and to make sound judgments*. (Program of Studies)

**Marijuana legalization is just a week away. It is nothing if not controversial: reasonable people may disagree on the concept of legalization or on the fine details of it. No matter your political stripe, everyone has a view on this, and Canadians are stakeholders in the issue**.

3.5 analyze the extent to which the practices of political and economic systems reflect principles of liberalism

3.8 evaluate the extent to which governments should promote individual and collective rights

3.9 evaluate the extent to which the principles of liberalism are viable in the context of contemporary issues

4.6 analyze perspectives on the rights, roles and responsibilities of the individual in a democratic society

4.9 develop strategies to address local, national and global issues that demonstrate individual and collective leadership

Task:

You are to create an issue summary on the legalization of marijuana. Your summary report must include the following components with citations in Chicago/Turabian style:

1. History of the prohibition of marijuana in Canada and the attempts made by Canadians to legalize the drug. Include the eight most significant events and justify their inclusion.
2. A detailed description of the process of marijuana legalization in Canada, beginning with the governing party’s election platform (2015) and concluding with Royal Assent. Each step of a bill becoming law needs to be addressed.
3. Identify which values and beliefs are most at odds with respect to marijuana legalization. In other words: what loyalties are contending? Why is this a controversial issue? This section should be brief.
4. Elements of legalization that remain controversial need to be detailed – a minimum of three – and can include a range of topics such as:
   1. Road side testing
   2. Effects on youth (age is 18/19)
   3. Banning of substance use by employers (Army), landlords, etc
   4. Impact on underground economy/black market (if any)
   5. Where the tax revenue should go (health? Addictions treatment? General revenue?)
   6. Power/potency of the drug compared to the past
   7. Giving **clemency** to those with past convictions
   8. Gateway effect – will this lead to other drug addictions?
   9. Public vs private stores
   10. Border crossing and relationship with the United States
5. Prepare a pros/cons list of legal marijuana. Consider your opinion, media information, information provided by the Government of Canada, and beyond. You will be preparing to answer the following resolution based on a randomly assigned stance in debate format on October 17:

Be it resolved that marijuana should be legal in Canada.

1. Write a letter to your MP, The Honourable Kevin Sorenson, outlining your personal stance on the legalization of marijuana and providing relevant facts. Mailing address:

4945 - 50th Street

Camrose, Alberta

T4V 1P9

The letter will be submitted to me for persuasive communication skills evaluation and then sent to the MP. Letters to MPs do not require postage.