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Canada

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Most Canadians support taxing pot, poll finds

CTV.ca News Staff

Hot on the heels of a national report that the number of Canadians who smoke pot has doubled in a decade, marijuana advocates say their own

polls shows strong support for taxing the drug.

Results of a poll released by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) on Thursday, show significant support for regulating the illicit weed.

According to the poll results, 53 per cent of Canadians said they support government regulation, compared to 37 per cent who are opposed.

Citing the billions of dollars Ottawa could generate by taxing sales of the drug, NORML says most Canadians consider police enforcement of pot laws a waste of money.

When asked about the \$400 million Canada dedicates to marijuana enforcement each year, 55 per cent of respondents said that was a poor use of funds.

Only 22 per cent said it was a good use of policing resources.

And on the question of whether possession of small amounts of pot warrants a criminal record, almost three out of every five Canadians said no. Less than one in ten said criminal charges are warranted.

"The results show Canadians feel the government is going in the wrong direction," NORML Canada's Executive Director Jody Pressman said in a statement.

"The people are way ahead of government on this issue because they understand prohibition isn't working now and it never will."

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Parliament is currently studying a bill to decriminalize marijuana.

Conducted by SES Research between Oct. 26 and Nov. 1, the poll results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,000 Canadians. It is said to be accurate to within 3.1 percentage points 19 times out of 20.

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