



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR  
THE REFORM OF MARIJUANA LAWS IN CANADA  
[www.norml.ca](http://www.norml.ca)

November 25, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **POLL: GOVERNMENT OUT OF TOUCH WITH CANADIANS ON POT LAWS**

OTTAWA--The Liberal government's policies on marijuana use are out of touch with Canadian public opinion according to the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws in Canada (NORML Canada). NORML Canada's Executive Director Jody Pressman today released results of a new national opinion poll and they show the government's proposed marijuana legislation is far behind the curve:

Here are some highlights:

- Almost six in ten Canadians say adult Canadians who possess small quantities of marijuana for personal use should be left alone.
- There is significant support in Canada for taxing and regulating marijuana. A majority of Canadians say it should be treated the same way as wine, beer or spirits.
- A majority of Canadians say spending hundreds of millions of dollars a year to enforce marijuana laws is a poor or very poor use of police resources.

The poll was conducted on behalf of NORML Canada by SES Research between October 26<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>. It is based on a random national telephone survey of 1,000 Canadians. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.1%, and is considered accurate 19 times out of 20.

"The results show Canadians feel the government is going in the wrong direction" said Pressman. "The people are way ahead of government on this issue because they understand prohibition isn't working now and it never will. Taxing and regulating cannabis would generate billions of dollars in new revenue for social programs and finally remove the criminal element from the sale and distribution of marijuana," says Pressman.

NORML Canada calls on the Opposition parties to ensure the government's legislation is either amended to provide a bill more in line with the views of the voting public or defeated altogether.

Pressman says the government should follow the main recommendations of the Senate Committee Report on Marijuana chaired by Senator Pierre-Claude Nolin. "It is one of the most exhaustive, persuasive and well researched study on the subject ever conducted in Canada. The government is pretending it doesn't exist because it can't deny the science or the substance of the Nolin Committee Report."

The full details on the polling will be available at 11am this Thursday on line at [www.norml.ca](http://www.norml.ca) or at [www.sesresearch.com](http://www.sesresearch.com)

For further information, please contact:

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Marc-Boris St-Maurice, President, NORML Québec (514) 808-8682

Nik Nanos, President and CEO, SES Research Inc. at (613) 234-4666



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# “Hands-Off” Marijuana Laws Wanted

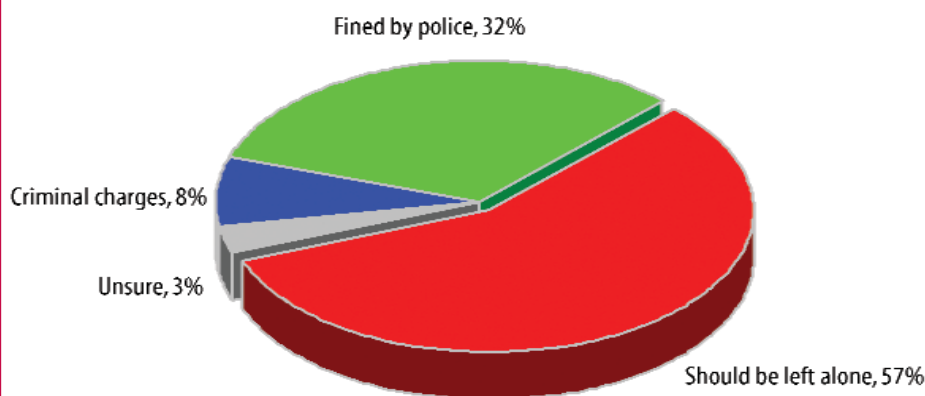
## SES NationState 2004Q4

### Commentary

"A clear majority of Canadians believe that individuals who possess small quantities of marijuana for personal use should be left alone. Support for a 'hands-off' marijuana policy is highest in Quebec at 68%."

- Nikita James Nanos, President  
SES Research

As you may know, in 2002, three million Canadians reported using marijuana at least once over a 12 month period. If an adult possesses small quantities of marijuana for personal use, do you think they should... Be charged with a criminal offense and spend time in jail... That they should be fined by police officers... or That they should be left alone?



Weighted Cases**	Canada (994) (%)	Atlantic (94)* (%)	Quebec (248) (%)	Ontario (303) (%)	West (348) (%)
Criminal charges	8	4	4	12	10
Fined by police	32	36	25	29	38
Should be left alone	57	59	68	55	50
Unsure	3	1	3	4	2

\* small sample – readers should exercise caution

\*\* due to rounding percentages may not add up to 100, likewise Canadians who refused to answer were removed

### Methodology

To follow is a review of the latest SES NationState poll of 1,000 Canadians completed between October 26th and November 1st, 2004. The random telephone survey of Canadians 18 and over is accurate to within 3.1 percentage points, plus or minus, 19 times out of 20. The margin of accuracy will be wider for sub samples. Results may not add up to 100% due to rounding. The research was registered with the Canadian Survey Research Council of which SES is a member.

### About SES

Established in 1987, SES Canada Research Inc. is a full service public opinion research and management consulting firm. SES is regularly called upon by corporate, government and para-public clients in Canada and the United States to conduct research and provide strategic advice. To subscribe to the SES NationState Quarterly Report or purchase a question on our omnibus survey please visit [www.sesresearch.com](http://www.sesresearch.com) or contact: Mr. Nikita Nanos at (613) 234-4666 ext.237 or [nnanos@sesresearch.com](mailto:nnanos@sesresearch.com)





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# One of Two Supports Marijuana Regulation

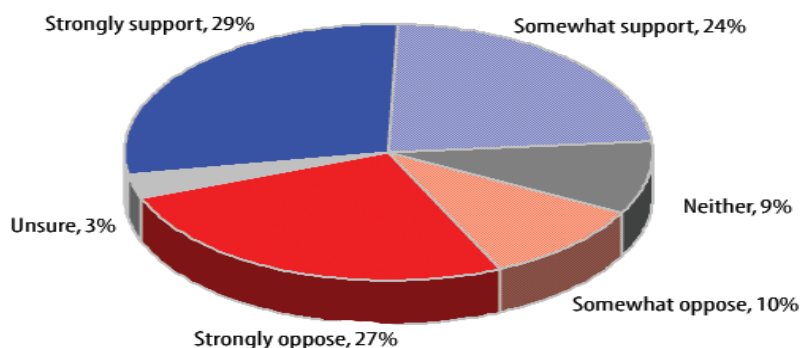
## SES NationState 2004Q4

### Commentary

"More than one out of every two Canadians supports regulating and taxing marijuana."

- Nikita James Nanos, President  
SES Research

Do you strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the government regulating and taxing marijuana as it does beer, wine and spirits?



Weighted Cases**	Canada (992) (%)	Atlantic (96)* (%)	Quebec (248) (%)	Ontario (301) (%)	West (346) (%)
Strongly support	29	28	23	30	32
Somewhat support	24	30	24	23	22
Neither	9	4	11	9	8
Somewhat oppose	10	12	10	9	11
Strongly oppose	27	24	30	26	25
Unsure	3	2	2	3	3

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# Opinions on Law Enforcement Resources

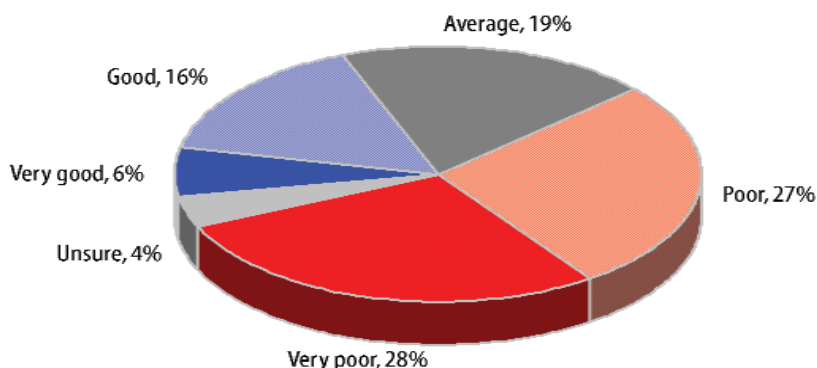
## SES NationState 2004Q4

### Commentary

“One out of every two Canadians believe that the government spending \$400 million annually to enforce Canada’s current marijuana laws is a poor use of law enforcement dollars.”

- Nikita James Nanos, President  
SES Research

The government spends approximately \$400 million annually to enforce Canada’s current marijuana laws. Do you think this is a very good, good, average, poor or very poor use of law enforcement resources?



Weighted Cases**	Canada (995) (%)	Atlantic (96)* (%)	Quebec (248) (%)	Ontario (301) (%)	West (346) (%)
Very good	6	6	5	7	5
Good	16	18	17	13	16
Average	19	16	31	13	18
Poor	27	25	23	27	30
Very poor	28	30	21	34	28
Unsure	4	5	4	6	3

\* small sample – readers should exercise caution

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