Conference of the
Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the Rights of the Child (IRLRC)
Tuesday, March 27, 2018
8:30 am to 3:30 pm
Desmarais Hall, 55 Laurier Avenue East, Room 12102 (12th Floor)
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

“Child Rights Implications of the Legalization of Cannabis”

PROGRAM

Presentations are delivered in English (E) or in French (F).
There is no simultaneous interpretation.

8:30 Welcome and registration.

9:00 Welcome and introductory presentations.

Welcome on behalf of the Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the
Rights of the Child (IRLRC):
Christine Gervais, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences,
Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa and IRLRC member

Overview of Bill C-45:
Salim Fakirani, Senior Counsel - Team Leader
Youth Justice and Strategic Initiatives, Department of Justice,
Government of Canada (E)

Introduction to children’s rights:
Kathy Vandergrift, Consultant and Child Rights Advocate – Chair and
President, Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children
Title - All Rights Matter: The Convention as an Asset for Effective
Marijuana Laws (E)
9:45  Expert Panel 1: Law and Policy

Eugene Oscapella, Part-time Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa
Title – La prohibition des drogues: mauvais pour des parents, pire pour des enfants (F)

Mary Birdsell, Executive Director and Lawyer, Justice for Children and Youth
Title - New Cannabis Legislation – Is it consistent with a rights respecting approach to young people? (E)

Marino Francispillai, Program Manager, School & Community Mental Health and Wellness, Ottawa Public Health (E)
Title – to be announced

HEALTH BREAK: 10:45 – 11:00

11:00  Expert Panel 2: Health and Education

Andra Smith, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Psychology, University of Ottawa
Title - Cannabis and the Developing Brain: What We Do and Don’t Know (E)

Petra Duschner, Manager, Mental Health, Ottawa Carleton District School Board
Title - Preparing for the Legalization of Cannabis: The school board perspective (E)

Jean-Sébastien Fallu, Associate Professor, Faculté des arts et des sciences, École de psychoéducation, Université de Montréal
Title - Légalisation du cannabis: quels impacts sur les adolescents et sur l’éducation et la santé? (F)

LUNCH: 12:00 - 13:00

13:00  Youth Panel
Facilitated jointly by Heather D’Alessio, Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CSSDP) and Valerie Steeves, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa
With the participation of Kira, Zohra, Bianca, Andie and Gabriel.
14:00 Discussion with young people, experts and audience

With contributions from:
- Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CSSDP)
- Line Beauchesne, Full Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa
- Diane Riley, Policy Analyst, Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy (written comments)

15:30 End of the Conference

The Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the Rights of the Child (IRLRC) wishes to thank the Human Rights Research and Education Centre for its support for this event.

Conference Organizing Committee:
Christine Gervais, Mona Paré, Elisa Romano, Valerie Steeves

Coordination:
Line C. Bissonnette